

21st CENTURY TRUTHS

Volume 1

Issue 1

Dear Reader,

As we are journey through the second decade of the 21st millennium, let us look in retrospect to the previous one thousand years. My how things have changed! It's hard to imagine how things truly were that long ago. Most can only vaguely recall parts of the 20th century. Not long ago, all media were covering the "stories of the century." These stories centered on events, discoveries, and changes that had taken place in the 20th century. Now, I am asking you to consider changes in perceived "truth" occurring over the past several centuries. What was once considered to be truth was later found to be wrong when the actual truth was discovered. A good example of this is how people of yesteryear knew the "truth" that the world was flat & one could fall off of its edges. However, mankind realized such was only knowledge was wrong when it was discovered that, in real truth, the world is round.

I believe most people would agree that the 20th century and first two decades of the 21st century have brought about more changes than probably any other single period in history. We have seen advancements in travel, exploration of space, and numerous lifestyle conveniences ie.: televisions, microwave ovens, wireless communications, computers/internet, etc. Today's society continually strives for faster devices to save time and make life better. But, are these improvements coming about by sacrificing family ties, morals, ethics, and our spiritual health? It appears that our society has continued to lessen its standard regarding such things. Has our fast paced lifestyles actually made life better or have we simply lost sight of what is truly important? The recent history which has brought us the conveniences listed above has also given us political correctness, situation ethics, re-defining terms, and a general reliance upon an individuals determination of what is right and wrong. It seems "truth" is very fluid in today's society.

For the sake of our eternal salvation, we must consider is, "Has truth really changed?" Morals & beliefs may have changed, **BUT HAS TRUTH CHANGED?** The answer to this question is to be found in the TRUTH that was brought to fulfillment and completion in the 1st century, being recorded for all time in Gods holy Word. Only therein shall we find what is truly the truth and how God's unchanging truth still applies in the 21st century. Therefore, we look forward to endeavoring into the study of 21st Century Truths.

Sincerely,

Randy M. Meyer, Editor

1st Century Truths for the 21st Century

Why 1st Century Truth?

In our daily lives, if we wish to determine the length of an item, we use a ruler or tape measure. In finding the weight of an object, a scale is used. We understand in order to be accurate in such occasions, we must use a predetermined set standard. For example, if you are on a diet, you will use a scale to determine if you have lost weight. But, many people weigh themselves to find that they haven't lost as much weight as they desired and therefore determine that "the scale must be off." Is the scale, which has been set to a predetermined standard, wrong or does the error arise when the individual's perception of truth becomes their standard? We understand in this example that the scale is the standard and not a person's personal belief, opinion, or desire.

Why is it then, when we consider religion, it seems there is no set standard? Society's actions indicate that the standard is set by each individual's personal feelings and ideas. Is this real truth or is there a set standard for truth which is pleasing to God? The answer to this is found in the words of our Lord and the inspired writers of the 1st century which was recorded for us in the Bible. We are told in II Timothy 3:16 that the word is given by the inspiration of God. This is restated in II Peter 1:20-21 where we are advised "*that no prophecy of the scripture is of private interpretation...but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*" In Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35 and I Peter 1:25, we have been assured by God that His word will endure the test of time and stand

"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

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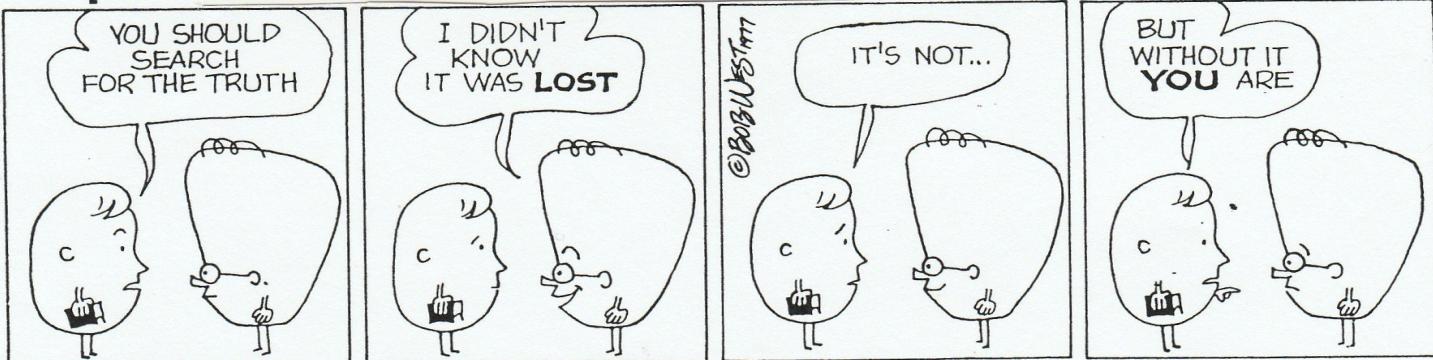
forever. It is becoming apparent that there **is** a standard for religious truth, but let us continue to see if any other indications are given about such standard of truth.

In John 17:1-26, John, by the inspiration of God, records a prayer between the Jesus and God the Father. Christ defined the standard of truth in that "Thy (God's) word is truth." We are also told by Christ himself in John 14:6 that "I am the way, **the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**" Christ explains his authority for such a statement in verses 9-11. Those that follow after the truth are given an assurance. The Lord states in John 8:31-32 "**If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" Will each individual's feeling of truth set them free or is it the truth that God has given?

God gave the "yardstick", "scale", and predetermined standard of truth by which the people of the 1st century were to judge their philosophies. Is this not the same standard by which we must examine our doctrines today? Has Truth changed? Not according to Hebrews 13:8. God revealed his word once for all mankind and in a way that everyone that is searching after Him can find His truth. The Word alone is sufficient "*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (II Timothy 3:17). As we have seen, His unchanging Word is TRUTH. Therefore, we must each strive to set our standard to the predetermined standard that God has set.

Randy M. Meyer

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The church meets at its *new* location 1/2 mile east of intersection of Gordon Drive and Stone Avenue (across from Western Iowa Tech.) at 4800 Stone Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa. You are invited to visit any of our Bible Studies or worship assemblies. For information, you may write the address listed, email, or call (712) 274-1000.

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