

John 302 “What Is Truth” Part 2 John 18:38-39

Ironically in our Lord’s forth trial, we’re seeing that as His appointed judge, Pontius Pilate is weakening fast, Jesus is growing ever stronger!

Strangely enough, we have one individual sitting on a high throne of authority as sovereign ruler of Judea, a position granted him by the head of the Roman Republic, Tiberius Caesar himself, wearing his custom fine linen official robe and before him, physically beneath him, we have Jesus of Nazareth with matted hair stuck to His face with sweat and coagulated blood from His encounter with the angry Jewish leaders with a body odor that must be apparent and as we observe these two men, we see Pilate is looking fresh and rested and Jesus is a mere shadow of His former self physically and yet, Jesus Christ is the one who’s in control!

Notice what Pilate did not say by asking his question: “What is truth?”

Pilate did not respond properly to Jesus by asking “What is the truth?” instead he omitted the definite article.

Many people today as well as many in every generation from Pilate’s day until now, look for truth but they will not accept THE truth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Without the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, man cannot respond to nor certainly agree upon an answer to Pilate’s age-old question.

There are people just like Pilate in the world today who find no fault in Jesus but at the same time, are not willing to accept Him for Who He is and what He has claimed.

But if Jesus is not God as He claimed, He cannot be good; you can’t have it both ways.

People need to be careful that they accept Jesus Christ, not simply as a good man but as God!

Pontius Pilate is faced with the choices that all people are faced with concerning Jesus’ claims!

THE CHOICES FOR ALL PEOPLE REGARDING PILATE’S QUESTION OF ‘WHAT IS TRUTH?’ ARE:

1. Reject the claims of Jesus Christ and if you do, you’re either saying: He’s a liar, a deceiver, a hypocrite or a fool because He died for a lie and He knew it all the time.
2. Or if you don’t think He lied but through His mental illness He believed it all to be true, you are concluding that He was insane.
3. Believe the claims of Jesus Christ and accept that He is the God-man as He said He was and be saved.

Spiritually dead man tends to trust in himself and his behavior for his redemption but as narrow as it may seem to many, Jesus Christ is the only way, the only truth and the only source of life; i.e. the only Gate to Heaven for He Himself bore all our sins which would have kept us out of Heaven, in one excruciatingly long afternoon!

When we entered God’s only Gate to eternal life, He locked it behind us in the same manner that He closed and sealed the Ark behind Noah and his family.

We can never compromise our choices with hatred or any other mental attitude sin.

And Pilate did not have the moral courage to resist the mental attitude sin of hatred.

Pilate tried to remove himself from the dilemma of executing an innocent man in three ways:

1. Pass the responsibility to King Herod
2. Offer to whip and then release Jesus
3. Offer just to release Jesus in clemency

All people have the same powerful evidence proving that God exists; evidence in His creation that is clearly seen by everyone; Romans 1:20.

God’s non-verbal witness of His existence, His creation is universal, combined with man’s internal conscience gives man no valid excuse before Him.

We may not know exactly where the primitive unbeliever is but God certainly does.

So, God in His wisdom used the negative reaction of these Jewish leaders to bring His Son, Jesus to the Cross!

The unbeliever remains on earth until every opportunity for salvation is exhausted.

Strong leadership operates from absolute facts and not relative speculations.

In the life of Jesus the man, we see the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the fact that outward circumstances do not have to lead to internal disintegration.

Neither brilliant Judas Iscariot nor brave Pontius Pilate had a sense of responsibility when the crisis came.

Appeal to the masses means loss of leadership and control.

Under Roman Law, punishment followed quickly for those found guilty.