

Truth Under Assault

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Pontius Pilate asked our Lord, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). Perhaps we will never know whether Pilate was sincere or sarcastic. However, there is no excuse for anyone who has read the New Testament to have any doubt whatsoever that Jesus recognized the existence of absolute, objective, immutable spiritual Truth. Neither is there any doubt about its identity: "Thy word is truth," Jesus clearly stated in His immortal prayer" (17:17).

The prevalent human philosophies have for some time denied the existence of objective truth in any realm (including religion). By their dictum all things are relative (except, we assume, their dictum that all things are relative, of course!). Lovers of Truth are greatly concerned when those claiming to be brethren become infected with such atheistic philosophies and begin spewing their doubts upon trusting brethren from pen and pulpit. The following excerpts from an article by one who probably thinks he is a Gospel preacher provide a case in point. Although the author's name has become separated from his words, I deemed the quote so illustrative of the widespread "mental illness" characterized by the relativism, subjectivism, liberalism, and postmodernism among so many pulpiteers as to be worthy of printing, even without the author's name. Seldom will one see a greater number of egregious errors in a shorter space:

Truth is resilient.... Truth does not confine. Truth does not call us to violate our hearts. Truth does not crush spirits.... Most of all, truth never holds up a "stop sign" to inquiry.... Truth gives birth to new ideas.... Innovation is the child of truth....

Is God's Word "resilient" (i.e., pliable, flexible, alterable, elastic, etc.)? This fellow believes we can make of the Truth whatever we want it to be, but the Holy Spirit consistently warns us against any alteration (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11; Rev. 22:18-19; et al.). Contrary to the liberal's foregoing statement, Truth **does** confine. We are not Jesus' disciples if we are not confined by His Word, the Truth (John 8:31-32; cf. 1 Pet. 1:22).

To say that "truth does not call us to violate our hearts" is blatant subjectivism and abject emotionalism (a trademark of Pentecostalism). Truth does sometimes "crush," as the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, Ananias, Sapphira, Elymas the sorcerer, and a host of others involved in evil and false doctrine could testify. The people on Pentecost were "crushed" by the Truth, causing them to ask what to do to be saved (Acts 2:37).

The aim of these false statements about Truth is to make an opening for "new ideas" and "innovation," the singular lust of the change agents and the denominationalizers who still want to parade themselves as stalwart saints and Bible scholars. By the view of Truth expressed above we can change, augment, diminish, alter the Word of God at will because it is so "resilient." This fellow

belongs on a state university philosophy faculty rather than in a pulpit, masquerading as a Gospel preacher.

[**Note:** I wrote this article, and it originally appeared in the July April 2002 issue of *The Gospel Journal*, a 36-page monthly of which I was editor at the time.]

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