

## What is Truth?

John 18: 28-40

In this passage we find some of the last words spoken of the Lord prior to His crucifixion. Calvary was just a few short hours away. He had walked among men bringing hope and life to all who believed, and yet the vast majority that knew Him denied the truth of Jesus the Messiah. Pilate is among those who denied the truth of Jesus. The question that he asked: [What is truth?](#) reflects the mindset of many today. Pilate refused Jesus as the Truth.

There seems to be sarcasm within the question. Pilate was literally asking if real truth could be known. The “intelligent” minds of our day also question the existence of absolute truth. In America, 67% of adults agree that there is no such thing as absolute truth; 52% of Christians believe that truth is relative, what is truth for me may or may not be truth for you. This may be popular philosophy, but it certainly isn't biblical! I would like to address Pilate's question as it relates to man. Let's consider the [implications](#) of the question as we think on: [What is Truth?](#)

**I. The Truth Concerning our Situation** (28-32) – Jesus has been brought before Pilate after being questioned of Caiaphas, the high priest. These were men who knew the Scriptures; their lives revolved around the law and teachings of the Bible. Their attitudes and actions reveal the true nature of their hearts. The events and characters of that day are far removed in time, but men still share the same behavior. The truth is, those apart from Christ are lost in sin. [John.3:18 – He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.](#) Consider the truth of their lives.

**A. Man's Dependence** (28) – [Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.](#) These men had accused Jesus and desired Him to be put away, but they wouldn't follow Jesus into the judgment hall to bear their case. This was a place of gentiles and they feared becoming defiled so as not to be able to participate in the Passover feast. They had consented to and demanded the death of Christ, Savior of the world, and yet desired to participate in the Passover celebration in remembrance of God's deliverance.

- Men may never realize it, but they are dependent on the Lord. Whatever blessings you enjoy have come from God. [Col.1:17 – And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.](#) Acts 17:28 – [For in him we live, and move, and have our being.](#) The truth is man cannot live without God. He is the source of our very existence!

**B. Man's Deception (29-30)** – Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? [30] They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. When questioned of Pilate in regard to their accusations, the Jews took offence, V.30. Jesus was considered nothing more than a common criminal. He wasn't accepted as the Son of God. He was denied the place of preeminence that He deserved. They were angered by the very mention of His name.

- The sad truth is Jesus is little regarded in our day. He isn't viewed as the precious Son of God who came to redeem men from sin. Satan has blinded the eyes of men from seeing Jesus as their Redeemer. The world won't tolerate the name of Jesus being spoken in public. Many are pressured into silence when it comes to Jesus.
- All men must decide what to do with Jesus. He isn't an issue that we can be neutral about. He is either accepted as the Savior or rejected as little more than a mortal man. What you do with Jesus will determine where you spend eternity!

**C. Man's Determination (31)** – Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: The Jews had one thing in mind, getting rid of the Man who confronted their way of life. They were tired of hearing the claims of this Man. They had heard enough of the message of repentance. Their desire was to live as they pleased without being interrupted or challenged, even if it meant the death of an innocent man. They were not interested in Jesus.

- Many today want no part of Jesus. They want to live as they please without being accountable to anyone. They have no desire or reverence for the message of truth. Just as the Jews wanted rid of Jesus, man wants rid of any hindrance to satisfying the flesh. He desires a carefree life without obligation or commitment. The truth is man wants pleasure more than anything! He will see to it that his flesh is satisfied!

## **I. The Truth Concerning our Situation (28-32)**

**II. The Truth Concerning our Savior (33-37)** – There are many who doubt and deny the truth of Jesus Christ, but there is no question of who He is. The world may not believe, but the Bible is clear regarding the Lord.

**A. His Deity** (33) – Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, *Art thou the King of the Jews?* Pilate asked because he didn't know this King. His own people had brought accusation against Him and delivered Him to be crucified.

- Jesus came as God in the flesh, fully God and fully man. He was despised and rejected, but that doesn't change who He is! Jesus is right now seated at the right hand of God. He has a name above every name. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

- He wasn't accepted as the Messiah and the world doesn't accept Him today, but He is Lord! Man didn't give Jesus His eternal position and man can't take it away. They crucified Him the first time, but all will bow in submission when He comes again to rule in power!

**B. His Discernment** (34-35) – *Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?* [35] *Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?* Jesus knew the heart of Pilate. He knew men had rejected Him as Lord. Pilate and the multitude were filled with unbelief.

- Jesus knows those who belong to Him. He is aware of those who have trusted Him in salvation. *John 10:14 – I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.* Jesus knows your heart today. He knows whether you've been saved or not. I can only look on the outside, observing your testimony, but Jesus discerns the heart.

- If you're saved you are known of Him. Are you here today because of a personal relationship with Jesus or because of the desire of others? The truth is Jesus knows our hearts better than we know them ourselves!

**C. His Dominion** (36) – *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.* The Jews had accused Jesus of blasphemy, stirring up sedition among the people, and challenging Roman law. Jesus tells Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world.

- Pilate couldn't understand this claim and the world doesn't either. Jesus hadn't come to free Jerusalem from the bondage and oppression of Rome, but to free all men from the bondage of sin. The kingdom of Christ has its throne in heaven and its borders reach all of mankind. He had not come for the political freedom of Jerusalem, but that men might be saved.

- I'm glad that His kingdom includes whosoever will! We wouldn't have the opportunity of salvation had Jesus not come to save the world. The governments of the world may reject Jesus, but His kingdom will stand for all eternity, never to be conquered!

**D. His Destiny** (37) – Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Once again Pilate had to reflect upon his heart. Jesus revealed this is why He came. He hadn't come to rule the world, although He will, He had come to die upon the cross. It wasn't the Jews or Pilate that secured His death upon the cross. This was the divine will of God and our precious Lord submitted to that will giving His life a ransom for sin. He was a Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

- God knew that man would sin and need a Savior. He had Calvary in view before the creation of man. Jesus didn't die because Pilate ordered it; He died to redeem man from sin! He was born to die for you and me.

### **I. The Truth Concerning our Situation** (28-32)

### **II. The Truth Concerning our Savior** (33-37)

**III. The Truth Concerning our Salvation** (38-40) – The Bible teaches that without the shedding of blood there is no remission. For hundreds of years men had offered sacrifices to atone for sin. These were what God demanded, but they never fully atoned for sin. This would require a perfect sacrifice and Jesus alone was worthy to be that sacrifice. Notice:

**A. A Sinless Savior** (38) – Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. After careful examination, Jesus was declared to be free of all guilt. He was holy, sinless, and free of any blemish. Jesus never committed sin of any kind. His sacrifice wouldn't have been sufficient had He sinned. He came as God in the flesh and couldn't sin. He lived a sinless life, but bore the sin of the world at Calvary. [2 Cor.5:21](#) – For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**B. A Submissive Substitute** (39-40) – But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? [40] Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber. Barabbas was guilty, but he was set free. Jesus took the punishment that Barabbas had deserved and He did it willingly.

- He didn't just take what Barabbas deserved, but what we all deserved. Jesus stood in our stead as He bore the punishment and death of the cross. God judged our sin in His Son on Calvary. He became the substitute for every soul!

**C. A Sufficient Sacrifice** (19:30) – When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. All the blood of bulls and goats had never satisfied the debt of sin, but here Jesus cried, “**It is finished.**” There would never be a need for another sacrifice. The holiness of God had been satisfied with the death of His Son. We can have forgiveness and eternal life through the sacrifice of Jesus!

The absolute truth is that all men are sinners. We all need the Lord in our lives. Jesus came to die for your sin. You can have salvation today because of Jesus. The truth is salvation is available for you today!