



bits from bob....

The Truth about Truth

July 6, 2020

One of my mission priorities for July is to finish a video recording project that will make the evangelistic lessons, “En Pos de la Verdad” (In Search of the Truth), available throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Christians will have a new tool for sharing the gospel with their family, friends, and neighbors.

In our conflicted world, the truth must be stated again and again. Christians must understand truth – the truth about truth. Truth is “telling it like it is.” Truth is “that which corresponds to its object” or “that which describes a reality – an actual state of affairs.” Contrary to what is taught today in many public places, truth is not relative; it is absolute. If something is true, it is true for all people, at all times, in all places. All truth claims are absolute, narrow, and exclusive.

Here are some truths about truth.

- Some things are true by definition. A circle is round (and cannot not be round) by definition.
- A hypothesis may be accepted as true until the evidence proves it is false (not true). That it is accepted as true does guarantee that it is true.
- Truth is discovered, not invented. Truth exists independent of knowledge of it. (Gravity existed prior to Newton.)
- Truth is objective, not subjective. Objective truth exists, even if no one recognizes it.
- That objective truth exists means that it is impossible for two people to accept conflicting truth claims -- “true for you but not for me.”
- Truth is transcultural; if something is true, it is true for all people, in all places, at all times.
- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change. (When people began to believe the earth was round instead of flat, the truth about the earth did not change.)
- Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely those beliefs are held. (Someone can sincerely believe the world is flat, but that only makes that person sincerely mistaken.)
- Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it. (An arrogant person does not make the truth he professes false. A humble person does not make the error he professes true.)
- All truths are absolute truths.
- Contrary beliefs are possible but contrary truths are not possible.

One purpose of Bible study is to seek truth. Claiming the Bible is truth requires that we be ready to establish other objective truths.

- Objective proof of the truth that God exists (or that God’s existence is the best hypothesis and should be accepted as true until denied)
- Objective proof that the Bible is God’s inspired word (or that such is the best explanation or hypothesis for the existence of the Bible at present)
- Objective proof that Jesus lived, died by crucifixion, and was resurrected.

These truths empower our search of Scripture as the source of God’s truth. When someone speaks for God, that person should be prepared to verify and validate of that truth claim. Our preaching and teaching must proclaim truth, and support that truth. Truth proclaimed and verified eliminates all competing beliefs.

For further study: <http://www.bobyongresources.com/studies/the-truth-about-truth.pdf>