

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Treasuring Truth

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 23:23

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2242

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) In America, there are those calling for pluralism, where there is room for everybody.
- b) But the same people talking about pluralism don't really mean pluralism.
 - i) For example, leaders of different faiths may be asked to pray at a public gathering.
 - (1) But a Christian is often not allowed to pray in Jesus' name.
 - (a) In true pluralism, a rabbi would be allowed to pray as a rabbi normally prays, a Muslim can pray as he normally prays, a Catholic priest can pray as he normally prays, and a Christian would be allowed to pray as a Christian prays.
 - ii) Not everyone will agree with everybody else, but in pluralism, we are allowed to express our differing beliefs.
- c) The world doesn't really believe in pluralism.
 - i) What they really want is syncretism.
 - (1) This means to just mush everything up, where no one really believes any particular thing.
- d) We have a generation today that talks so much about values.
 - i) Many people prate about family values.
 - ii) The truth is that everybody has values.
 - (1) Even the mafia has values.
 - iii) What we need today is not values but virtues.
 - (1) There is a difference between values and virtues.
- e) Values come from autonomous individuals who decide what they want to believe.
 - i) For someone who believes in a woman's right to abort her baby, that is his or her value.
 - (1) But it's not a virtue.
- f) What we have done is we have come from pluralism to syncretism, from virtues to values, and from truth to facts.
- g) We have a generation today who doesn't know the difference between truth and facts.
 - i) Facts deal with knowledge.
 - ii) Knowledge may double, but truth never does.
 - (1) If it's new, it's not true.
 - iii) Truth is settled in eternity.
- h) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) The casualty today is that truth has been sacrificed on the altar of pragmatism.
 - i) We think if our pockets are full, then everything is fine.
 - (1) But that is not necessarily so.
- j) We have substituted facts for truth.
 - i) Facts in themselves are not wrong, but there is a difference in acquiring facts and learning truth.

- ii) We're learning more and more facts, and knowledge has increased as the Bible prophesied.
 - (1) Daniel 12:4
 - iii) But truth has not changed.
 - k) We have a generation that is devouring facts and crucifying truth.
 - i) And we are seeing more crime, more suicide, more mental illness, more broken homes, and more addiction than ever before.
 - l) Facts are like a recipe, and truth is the meal.
 - i) When we digest truth, it will change our lives.
 - (1) This is why Satan's chief tool is a lie.
 - (2) John 8:44
 - (a) In this passage, Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees of His day.
 - (b) Satan's motive is murder, and his method is the lie.
 - m) Today's message will focus on three specific things about truth.
- 2) PRIZE THE TRUTH
- a) We must treasure truth.
 - b) Truth is indispensable.
 - i) The Bible calls itself the Word of truth.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - ii) The Holy Spirit is called in the Bible the Spirit of truth.
 - (1) John 16:13
 - iii) Our Lord and Savior, the Messiah, is the way, the truth and the life.
 - (1) John 14:6
 - iv) The Bible calls the church the pillar and the ground of truth.
 - (1) 1 Timothy 3:15
 - v) The Apostle John said that he had no greater joy than to know that his children walk in truth.
 - (1) 3 John 1:4
 - c) Truth is absolute.
 - i) In mathematics, truth is absolute.
 - (1) Two plus two is always four.
 - ii) In mechanics, truth is absolute.
 - iii) In medicine, truth is absolute.
 - iv) In faith and morals, truth is absolute.
 - v) We're living in a day and time where the idea of absolute truth is being jettisoned.
 - (1) Society today calls itself "post-modern."
 - (a) Modernists argued about what truth is.
 - (b) Post-modernists tell us to forget truth.
 - (i) What's true for you may not be true for me.
 - (ii) You have your truth, and I'll have my truth.
 - (2) There is a strong humanist movement today.
 - (a) Humanism is more than a philosophy; it is also an organization.

- (b) The *Humanist Manifesto* states, “Moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational.”
 - (i) That is, you make up the rules as you play the game.
 - d) Truth is attainable.
 - i) Proverbs 23:23
 - (1) “Buy the truth.”
 - ii) The Bible has the precepts of truth.
 - (1) John 17:17
 - (a) Jesus is praying for us in this passage.
 - (b) God’s Word is true.
 - (2) The God of truth could not inspire error.
 - iii) Jesus is the person of truth.
 - (1) John 14:6
 - (2) Jesus is the truth that makes any other truth true.
 - iv) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.
 - (1) John 16:13
 - (2) Truth is attainable, but not apart from the Holy Spirit.
 - v) We can know truth if we will take the Bible (the Word of truth), which presents Jesus (the Man of truth), and let the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of truth) open our understanding.
 - e) It’s not enough to just know the truth.
 - i) Truth without power is deadening and depressing.
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 3:6
 - (1) If all you have is the letter of the law without the Spirit, then you have the words but no music.
 - (a) This is deadening truth.
 - iii) Knowledge without transformation avails nothing.
 - (1) All it does is just increase your judgment.
 - (a) 2 Peter 2:21
 - (2) It would be better to not hear the truth than to hear the truth, learn the truth, but not act on the truth.
- 3) PURCHASE THE TRUTH (PROVERBS 23:23)
 - a) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) “Buy the truth.”
 - ii) Salvation is free, but we pay a price to have truth.
 - iii) Truth is costly.
 - b) John 8:31-32
 - i) Portions of this Scripture are quoted often, but if we take a Scripture out of context, then we miss the whole thing.
 - (1) Part of the truth without all of the truth is an untruth.
 - ii) Truth alone does not make us free.
 - (1) First, we must believe the truth.
 - (a) We must believe on the Lord Jesus.

- (2) Then, we must continue in His Word.
- (3) We then become a disciple.
 - (a) The word “disciple” means “learner.”
 - (b) Many people are disciples in name only.
 - (c) This Scripture says to be a “disciple indeed.”
- iii) When we believe in Jesus, continue in the Word, and become a disciple, then we will know the truth and become liberated.
- iv) There many people who are saved and on their way to Heaven, but they’re not liberated because they have never really absorbed the truth.
 - (1) They’ve never taken the time to purchase the truth.
 - (a) A word akin to “disciple” is “discipline.”
 - (2) They see discipline as too restricting.
- v) Buy the truth, and be liberated by the truth.
 - (1) Discipleship is costly, but ignorance is far more costly.
- c) How do you purchase the truth?
 - i) It will cost you time.
 - (1) You cannot get it by osmosis.
 - (2) Time is precious, but it’s not as precious as truth.
 - (a) Hurry is the death knell of prayer and Bible study.
 - (3) Most people won’t pay the simple price of time.
 - ii) It will cost you discipline.
 - (1) Proverbs 23:23
 - (a) The Hebrew word for “instruction” literally means “self-discipline.”
 - (b) You can pray for wisdom, but you have to study for instruction.
 - (2) Many people are not serious in their Bible study.
 - (a) It’s no wonder they’re so easily led astray.
 - (3) 2 Timothy 4:13
 - (a) Paul wrote this passage during his second imprisonment.
 - (b) In the cold, damp prison, he asked for two things:
 - (i) His cloak
 - 1. Don’t fail to take care of your body.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - (ii) The parchments (His Bible)
 - 1. Paul wanted to study.
 - a. This is the same man who had been to Heaven and back in a vision.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 12:2
 - b. He had met the Lord Jesus on the Damascus Road.
 - c. He had written much of the New Testament, and yet, he still wanted to study and to learn.
 - i. At the end of his journey, he wanted to learn.
 - (4) We never get beyond the place where we need to study, learn and grow.
 - (5) There are specific reasons why we ought to read:

- (a) For enlightenment.
 - (i) Read to get hold of the truth.
 - 1. Truth is to our spirit what food is to our body.
 - (ii) Read to get truth, not just facts.
 - (iii) To know truth is to know God, for God is truth.
 - (iv) The Apostle Paul read widely, in addition to the Bible.
 - 1. Acts 17:28
 - a. In this verse, Paul was preaching in Athens, and he quotes one of the Greek poets.
 - (v) As a Bible student, measure everything you read and test everything you read by the Word of God.
 - 1. All genuine truth intersects because all real truth is of God.
 - (vi) God did not intend for us to be reservoirs of facts but channels of truth.
 - 1. Growing in knowledge without growing in grace is dangerous.
- (b) For enjoyment.
 - (i) Don't punish children by making them read.
 - 1. Instead, bless children by letting them read.
 - (ii) When we read, we get to meet people we always wanted to meet, visit periods of history that have gone before us, and visit faraway places that we've never been to.
 - (iii) When we learn about God and about the world, we can be a blessing to others.
- (c) For enrichment.
 - (i) Ignorance costs a lot more than books cost.
 - (ii) Read devotional readings for the heart.
 - (iii) Sharpen your mind.
 - (iv) If you want to know whether or not you're really purchasing the truth, ask yourself these questions:
 - 1. Am I getting excited about truth?
 - 2. Am I experiencing freedom?
 - a. John 8:32
 - b. Real truth sets you free from prejudice, the party line, from lies, from fear, from pressure.
 - 3. Am I learning humility?
 - a. The more a person learns, the more he knows that he doesn't know.
 - 4. Am I learning balance?
 - a. Not just all worship and no evangelism.
 - b. Not just all prophecy and no devotion.
 - c. Not just all program and no theology.
- (d) For enablement.

- (i) We need to read in order to do our jobs better and to continue to learn.
 - iii) It will cost you obedience.
 - (1) It is dangerous to not obey the truth.
 - (a) Impression without expression leads to depression.
 - (2) James 1:21-22
 - (3) The person who attends a worship service and goes home raving about the music and the message but doesn't change his life is like a fool, according to the Lord Jesus.
 - (a) Matthew 7:26
- 4) PRESERVE THE TRUTH (PROVERBS 23:23)
 - a) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) Sell not the truth.
 - b) Titus 1:9
 - c) Jude 1:3
 - d) There's an open war on the Word of God today.
 - i) We have to guard against those who would deny the Bible.
 - ii) We have to guard against those who would distort the truth.
 - (1) There are those who claim to be getting extra-Biblical revelation.
 - (a) Extra-Biblical revelation is only a half-step away from anti-Biblical revelation.
 - iii) There are those who would dilute the truth.
 - (1) For example, many people in an effort to appear intellectual jettison the book of Genesis and the creation account and substitute it with evolution.
 - (a) Genesis 1:1
 - (2) Don't change the message to please the congregation.
 - (a) It's not the pastor's job to fill the auditorium but to fill the pulpit.
 - iv) There are those who would defile the truth.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 2:17
 - e) When the child of God looks into the Word of God and sees the Son of God and is changed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for the glory of God, then he's learned the truth of God.
- 5) PROCLAIM THE TRUTH
 - a) All truth comes to one great focal point: John 3:16.
 - i) That is the Gospel truth.
- 6) CONCLUSION
 - a) If today you will open your heart and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, then God will forgive every sin and bury it in the grave of His forgetfulness.

- i) God will fill you with His Spirit and give you peace and power that you've never known.
- ii) God will set you on a journey of discipleship where you can be a disciple indeed and learn the truth.
 - (1) And that truth will make you free.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16