

Who's telling the Truth - Lesson 5

The Galatian churches were established by Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 13-14**. The book of Galatians is one of the earliest New Testament letters written around **A.D. 53**.

A.D. 33 Pentecost: The first gospel message preached; when 3000 people obeyed the Gospel and were baptized for the remission of sins, and the **LORD added** to their number.

That's right —Just 20 years from Pentecost, and the Gospel message is being compromised, twisted to another Gospel.

The first "good news" was delivered in **Genesis 3:15**, a.k.a., the seed promise. "...I will put enmity (strife) between you (the serpent) and the woman **EVE** --and between your (the serpent's seed, **the serpent's offspring**) and her **Eve's offspring**, - **the seed Promise** - Christ) —He shall bruise the serpent's head (with a mortal wound), and you the serpent shall bruise **His** (the seed promise) heel."

Living in a postmodern world, a world that devalues truth, believing that all truth is relative, in a broken and sinful **world** filled with competing truth claims.

Almost daily, we hear that this is true or this is right, and that something else is false or wrong!

The Wheels Start to Fall off —Living in a **postmodern world** that believes that truth is relative...in a world filled with competing truth claims.

But the question arises: --what is the truth, what is the "**right**" way, and how would I know if I am on the right road, on the right bus, heading in the right direction, doing the right thing?

If there are no standards --no truth, no right or wrong, there can be no charge of **arbitrariness** (the quality of truth) of being "determined by chance, whim, or impulse, rather than being planned, or based on necessity, of reason

Judges 21:25 "When there is no king [no standard of right and wrong], **everyone** did what was right in his own eyes."

The problem we face today --is that feelings and a nonjudgmental attitude have replaced truth standards, where today it's popular to say that all choices, beliefs, churches, and religions are equally valid so long as the person making the choice "feels good" about it.

Much like the lyrics of the popular song, "it can't be wrong, if it feels so right."

When in fact --the very opposite is true, that it can be wrong even if it "feels" so right.

Today, things have decidedly grown from bad to worse --in this quagmire, where what once was considered right is now wrong, and what was once wrong is now right. "...

A **world** best described by **Isiah 5:20** "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; those who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

Far too many Christians --have developed a passiveness to the point of becoming spiritually numb, while the false teachers of today are no longer being challenged.

The answer to all this nonsense --is a radical 180-degree return to the Bible, back to sound doctrine, **2nd Timothy 4:3-4**, "For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires, so they will turn their ears away from the **TRUTH** and turn aside to fables."

Why-- Because the only thing postmodernists cannot tolerate-- is intolerance. How ironic, by saying there is no absolute TRUTH, – Just became an absolute.

The Symptoms -Are that people create their own "truth" and that **ALL** "truths" are equally valid, and the result of all these equally valid "truths" is **known as pluralism**.

While 85% --of those attending an evangelical church might say the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God, while at the same time, **53%** believe there's no such thing as absolute truth.

PLURALISM - the belief that truth is relative to its usefulness –there are many Bibles, many churches (many religions) and many ways to God, (aka **Orphrey Whinfrey, and Jole Osteen**, "Jesus can't be the only way to **GOD** – and when Joel Osteen was interviewed, by Orphrey --he said I believe that Jesus is the only way to God, **but** I believe there are **many paths** to **GOD**, I am not in the excluding business. **Matthew 7:13-14** ⁻¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide** *is* the gate **and broad** *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are **MANY** who go in by it, v14 Because **narrow** *is* the gate and **difficult** *is* the way which leads to life, and there are **FEW** who find it.

PRAGMATISM -- Is the belief that truth is relative to its usefulness. If it works, it must be right; if it's popular, it must be right. If it draws a crowd, it must be the truth.

On page 241, "The Purpose Driven Church," America's popular Pastor Rick Warren says that "More people are won to Christ by '**feeling God's presence**' than by all our apologetic arguments combined."

Warren says --that the salvation of the 3,000 souls at Pentecost happened because they felt God's presence, which is **heresy**, because feelings, and goose bumps, do not affirm truth, only the Gospel

The dangers of Pragmatism - The evidence is in, and there is no argument with these facts: today's church displays a growing lack of spiritual discernment.

- If so many people believe it's right, then it must be right."
- We would never say, "Because Millions of people are atheists, they must be right."

But we will turn around --and use the same logic and reasoning to jump on board with the latest Christian fad, or the person who supposedly died and went to heaven, returned to earth, saying they saw Jesus.

While the Church today continues to drift further and further away from God,

You might say, "Well, that's to be expected from unbelievers, for they cannot understand spiritual truths". You would be "absolutely correct", so they have an excuse.

RELATIVISM is one of the most dangerous and deadly belief systems; it maintains that one religion can be true for one person or culture but not for another. No religion, therefore, is universally or exclusively true---Our concepts of truth and moral values are not absolute, but relative to the persons or groups holding them.

The overwhelming evidence submitted in this brief study reveals that we are living in an upside-down world. **"The time will come" has become the time that is now**, "when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the **TRUTH**, and be turned aside to fables

Living in a **WORLD** --that is spiraling out of control without a source or **standard**, much like a ship sailing without a compass.

When there is no king [no truth, or moral standard, no compass, you have a world that is not only lost, but spiraling downward, out of touch, and out of control.