



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week

The Good News of Truth

What is truth? Great question and there are probably a lot of people (philosophers particularly!) who believe they know the answer – and they will disagree. So, I'll have my say.

In our country, our judicial system uses juries to try to divine the truth of a situation in a criminal case or lawsuit. We assume that everyone sees things a little differently, so we listen, take notes and try to put all the facts together and find “truth”. That is the truth of a physical situation.

Scientists try to find the truth of, sometimes, minuscule things but which in the long run seems to help our maneuvering in this world. NASA has helped us get personal cell phones and a lot of other electronic stuff. We don't fly into space, but we still reap the benefits.

Then there is religious truth. How do we come to that? We have more “churches”, “religious” groups, spiritual centers, and cult groups which grow out of major and minor religious groups than can be counted. Each of them, and us, say we have the “truth” of God in our beliefs. Do we just grow into it or do we feel that there is the “truth” in what we believe?

It's a both and. Yes, I'm probably a Lutheran because of where I grew up. My cousins also grew up in those parishes but now attend other churches. Does that mean they have denied the “truth”? I tell them they have, but they know I'm kidding. On the other hand, they have become comfortable with the new liturgies and the new approaches. But, from my point of view I am not as comfortable “outside” the Lutheran church as others seem to be. But we are all Christians and, I think, we all have a proper relationship with God.

So, where is the truth? Can we do as scientists do and put our lives and God under a microscope? Can we measure how many “contacts” we have with God? How have we come, today, to believe we have the truth?

Each of us arrives at this point in our own way. We hear the good news, the gospel, read each week. But, on the other hand, we know the gospel, the good news, as we interact with other Christians, as we see them work in the world and as we work in the world. We find that truth as we move in the world and see things happen in “miraculous” ways – in manners that we could not have done. We feel blessed as we do certain things, and we know guilt when we move in other ways. We know right from wrong, not because our Sunday School teachers told us so, but because God has embedded those strong points in our hearts, we act and re-act as God would have us do.

How do we know the truth of our faith? We know it because we find the love of God in this place and in our families. We know because God comes to us in our times of need and in our times of joy. We find fulfillment in our lives when we move on God’s path and we find frustration when we go on our own.

The gospel is the good news of God’s coming to us in his way. I believe this is the truth.

TMK

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