

Truth 3: Characteristics of Truth



Truth is Objectively Determined

- # Our feelings, thoughts, or beliefs do not determine the truth.
 - Many are championing the idea that truth is simply what you want it to be.
 - Truth cannot be determined that way—it exists outside our thoughts/feelings
 - Ex: Scientific truth exists outside of our feelings—gravity
- # Biblical truth exists as truth, no matter what I may think/feel about it.
 - God's word is truth – Jn. 17:17
 - Bible truth exists outside of us...in the Bible
 - We may not like it, want to reject it or change it, but it is still the truth!
 - God's truth can only be known by reading and accepting the Bible's words

Truth Can Be Offensive

- # This is what has turned our world away from God's truth.
 - # Spiritual truth can be offensive
 - Disciples were offended at Jesus' teaching about being the food leading to eternal life – Jn. 6:53ff.
 - The Pharisees were offended at Jesus' doctrine because it contradicted theirs – Matt. 15:11-14
 - # People continue to be offended at the teaching of Christ for the same reasons today
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Truth is Not Determined by *Who* Believes it

- # That certain people or powers hold to something doesn't make it true.
 - Catholic Church enforced as divine truth that the earth was the center of the universe
 - The Catholic Church was wrong!
 - # Bible truth is not determined by who believes it.
 - The spiritual leaders of the Jews rejected Jesus – Jn. 7:45-49
 - The wise and influential of this world reject Jesus – 1 Cor. 1:25-31
 - # We cannot base our faith on *who* believes what – 2 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 17:11
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Truth is Not Determined by How Many Believe it

- # When Christopher Columbus set sail, most believed the world was flat.
 - # Spiritual truth is not determined by how many believe it
 - Only eight souls were saved by believing the truth in Noah's day – 2 Pet. 2:5
 - Jesus said most people will reject the truth – Matt. 7:13-14
 - # Just because the religious majority might...
 - Reject baptism doesn't mean it isn't essential – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
 - Accept instrumental music doesn't mean it is acceptable – Eph. 5:19
 - Use recreation and social activities to draw the world doesn't mean this is what Christ desires – Mark 16:15-16; 1 Cor. 1:21-24; 2:1-2; 2 Cor. 10:3-5
 - # We must stay within the revealed truth – Rev. 22:18-19
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