



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

The Word of Truth

One of the fundamental and pernicious evils of this present age is the stated axiom, "There is no truth." Because most people would recognize the inaccuracy of the blatant statement — one instantly detected corollary would be that there are no lies, which people would know that to be false for the simple reason that they don't like people lying to them — the precept has to be propounded more delicately as "All things are relative." In other words, each individual may have what he perceives to be truth, but another person may perceive a different truth. Hence it is that Christianity is somehow supposed to "coexist" with Islam, Hinduism, and whatever other alien philosophy is the latest craze. The Bible, however, operates off the sound premises that there is truth and there are lies, that there is righteousness and there is lawlessness, that there is light and there is darkness. Satan, the penultimate liar, naturally has to attack these premises in order to impose his rebellious philosophy upon the world.

- ▼ **The gospel** — The apostle Paul was grateful to learn of the faith that the saints in Colossae possessed, of the love that they had for the brethren and thus their ability to work together, and "because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel, which has come to you" (Colossians 1:5,6). The gospel of Christ, as the thinking individual would expect, is perfectly designed. It can take a totally lost Gentile, trapped in an unbelieving pagan or atheistic belief system, and bring him to faith in Christ. It can define what love is, communicate the love that God has for the individual, and turn around and produce that same love in him. As it describes the earthly sojourn of the Son of God, it paints a picture of One who experienced death but also who was resurrected and ascended to glory; and through an individual's participation in the gospel in immersion and faithful living, it gives him the assurance of his own positive resurrection on the last day. What a message — the *evangel*, the good news!

- ▼ **Truth** — The Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, calls the gospel "the word of truth." All other systems, whether it is the mythology of evolution parading as science, the supposed enlightenment of Buddhism, the worship of Mary as co-regent and co-redeemer, or a myriad of other substitutes, are packs of lies. God, however, through the Bible as a whole and the gospel in particular, appeals to man to approach the subject of the Christ reasonably. "Come now, and let us reason together," is His call as stated by the prophet Isaiah, "though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18). Through a combination of deductive and inductive reasoning, it is possible to establish that the Bible is indeed the word of truth, that the 66 books of the Bible that are in the canon are the correct ones, and that Jesus is who the Bible says He is. "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world," Peter commented, "but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God" (1 Peter 1:20,21). The result is that the person who obeyed the gospel of Christ knows "that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18,19).

Those of us to whom the word of truth has come, those of us upon whom the ends of the ages have come, are certainly the most blessed of all that have ever lived! May we rejoice in that, and may we excited spread that good news wherever we go, for the glory of Christ!!

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JAY WILSON