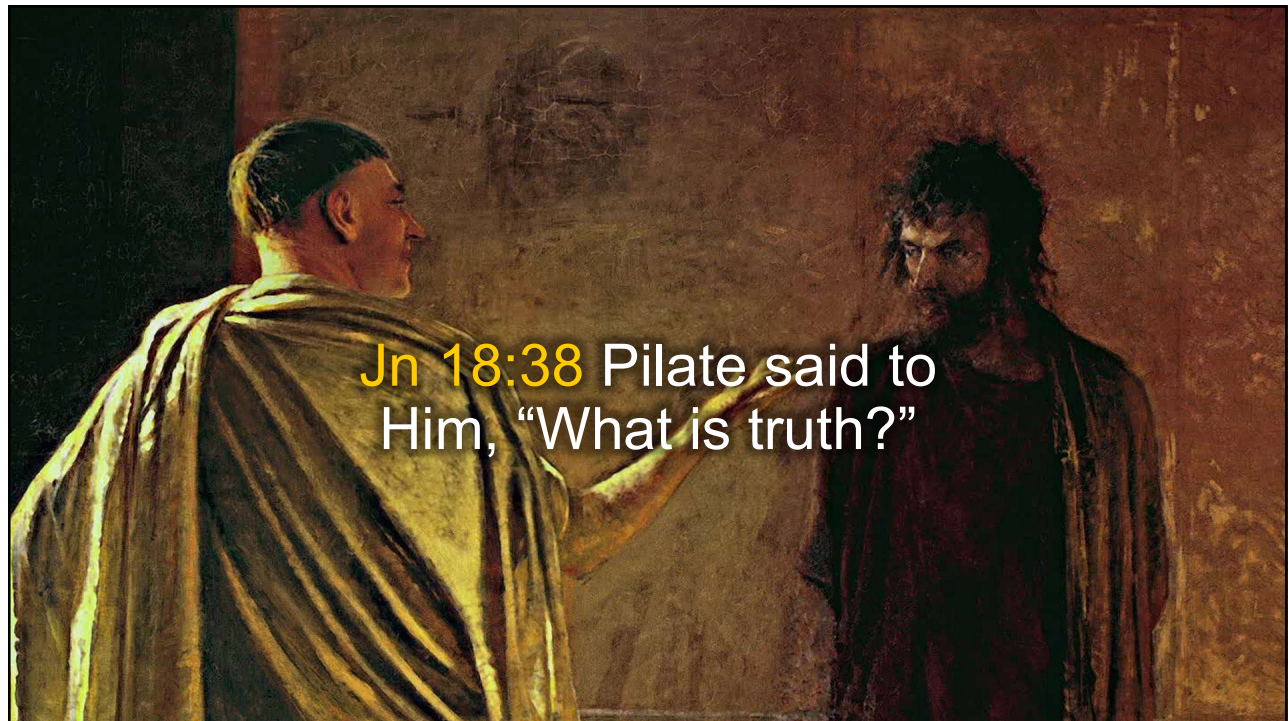


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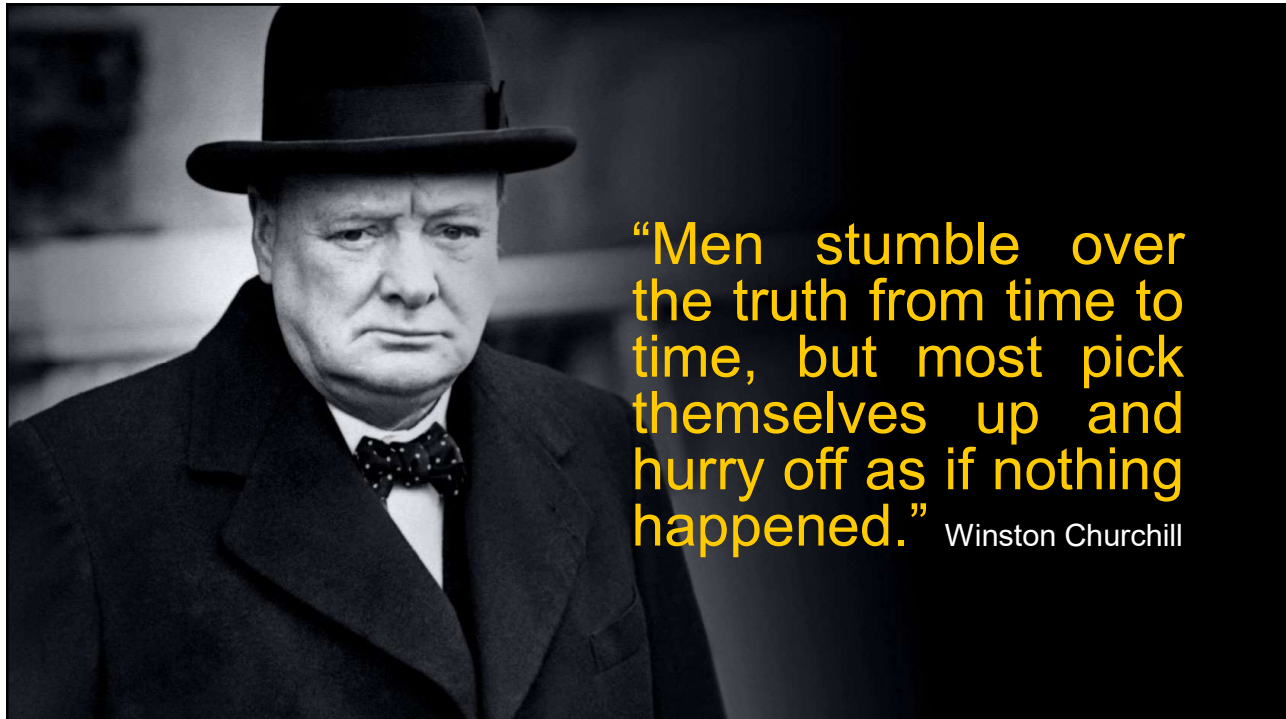


2

“We love the truth when it enlightens us, but we hate it when it convicts us.”

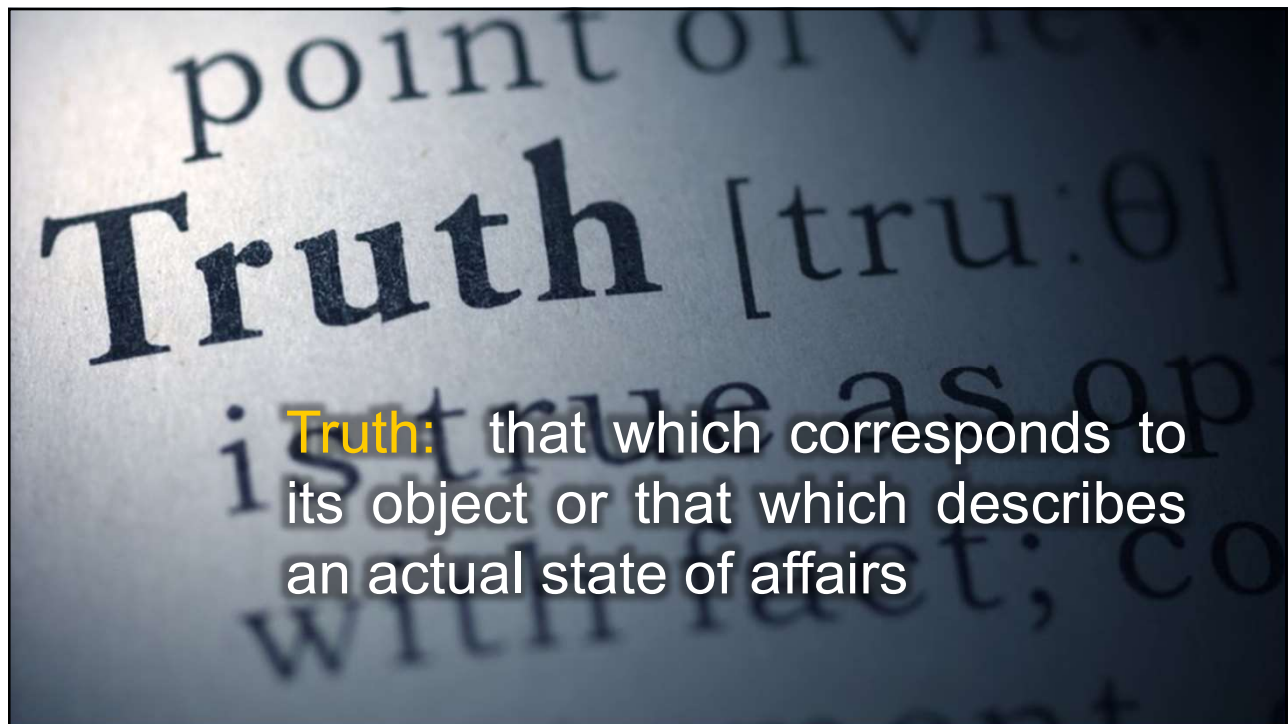
St. Augustine

3



“Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.” Winston Churchill

4



5

1. Jesus and the truth

6

- He is full of grace & truth

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- He brought grace & truth

Jn 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

7

- He is the truth

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

- He called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth

Jn 15:26; 16:13 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ... However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;

8

- He said God's Word is truth

Jn 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- He said the truth will make us free

Jn 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

9

2. Man and the truth

10

- We should rejoice in the truth

1 Cor 13:6 love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

- We should speak the truth

Eph 4:15,21 but, speaking the truth in love, ... if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

- We should be defenders of the truth

2 Cor 13:8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

11

3. The wicked and the truth

12

- The wicked do not love the truth

2 Thess 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

- The ungodly suppress the truth & exchange the truth for a lie

Rom 1:18,25 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ... who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

13

- False spiritual teachers blaspheme the truth

2 Pet 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

14

4. Some truths about truth

15

- All truth claims are absolute, narrow, and exclusive & therefore exclude their opposites
- Truth is discovered, not invented
- Truth is transcultural
- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change
- Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held
- Truth is unaffected by the attitude of the one professing it
- Truths that appear to be relative are really absolute

16

5. Contrary beliefs are possible but contrary truths are not possible.

17

- While most religions have some beliefs that are true, not all religious beliefs can be true because they are mutually exclusive.
- A self-defeating statement is one that fails to meet its own standard.

18

6. We can believe everything is true, but we cannot make everything true.

19

7. Ideas have consequences

20

- False ideas about truth lead to false ideas about life
- If Christianity is true, then it's dangerous to your eternal destiny not to be a Christian
- The same is true if Islam is true

21

8. Can truth and tolerance co-exist?

22

- **Tolerance** (historically): recognition and respect for views, beliefs, practices, etc. different from one's own
- **Tolerance** (modern): acceptance of every belief as true

23

9. What is intellectual/religious pluralism?

24

- A belief that contrasting beliefs about truth are both true
- Pluralists think all non-pluralist beliefs are wrong. So pluralists are just as dogmatic & closed-minded as those who believe in absolute truth
- Are pluralists ready to accept the religious beliefs of extreme Muslim terrorists?
- The Bible commands Christians to question religious beliefs.

25

Deut 13:1-5 not everyone who claims to be a prophet is, they must be 100% accurate

2 Cor 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

1 Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

26