

R12.2 August-September 2026 Blog

Discerning Truth

“Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’ Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’ After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, ‘I find no guilt in him.’” - John 18:37-38 (ESV).

Hypothesis: Discerning truth in a fallen world is no more challenging today than it was when Jesus walked with the apostles.

If you struggle with that statement, you are not alone. Granted, the volume and speed at which information comes to us can be overwhelming, especially with the advent of A.I., a 24X7 news cycle, and the addictive nature of social media. However, and this is paramount, the source and content of all truth have not changed. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb 13:8)

Therefore, because Jesus-followers have God’s Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit, they have the only trustworthy filter through which to discern whether something is true. This is countercultural and the natural mind cannot comprehend it – it is foolishness to those who are perishing (recall I Cor 1:18). The whole of the Bible, all of Scripture is available, knowable and applicable. The Canon is complete. “I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.” (Isa 45:19) Further, in 2 Timothy 3:16 we are instructed, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

So now what? Practically, how do we discern truth from error?

First, we need to understand the truth about the state of the environment in which we live as well as grasp the nature of the one who is temporarily the chief influencer. Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians (6:12), “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” And John identifies the ringleader in his gospel (John 8:44), “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” Now, consider the stark and indisputable contrast with the Lord Jesus. Read and embrace these verses from John’s Gospel:

- “And the Word [Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Jhn 1:14)
- “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (Jhn 14:6)

Next, lay hold of the truth about how God has so graciously equipped those who truly love and follow the Son:

- “If you love me [Jesus], you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (Jhn 14:15-17)
- “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (Jhn 16:13)

Folks, this is the reality of the world in which we live. Unless a person is anchored to *the* truth, he or she will be “tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful scheme.” (Eph 4:14). Practically, we are living in a world consisting of two groups of people, those who are saved and those who are not, and we cannot always accurately identify to which group an individual belongs. However, and always, we are to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15).

Back to our fundamental question and the subject of this blog, discerning truth, we must surround ourselves with other followers of Jesus who are devoted to maturing in the faith. We should read and study God’s Word together and with the help of the Holy Spirit, endeavor to see the world through the grid of the scriptures. We must pray for one another. We should worship God together and individually and remind ourselves that our true family are sons and daughters of Christ. Together and under the headship of Jesus Christ we can discern truth and bring glory to God in this fallen (and temporary) world.

I will close with these three verses; the first is included above but bears repeating:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” (2 Cor 10:5)

Know your Bible. There are no shortcuts to learning and applying God's Word. Remember, it is the only book where the Author is present whenever it is read. Oh, what joy there is in living for Him!