

TIMELESS TRUTHS FOR TURBULENT TIMES

“To suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4: 3 and 4

Indeed, the times in which we live are turbulent in a variety of ways. Initially one is aware of international turmoil due to the fact that communication today has made it possible for us to see first hand war and strife that occur half way around the world. It is not as if the world has not suffered such difficulties in recorded and unrecorded history, rather it is that we are now aware of the fact that what happens in one small corner of the world effects the rest of the world in some way. Instantaneous information has its advantages because we can now pray about matters that would otherwise have taken months or years for us to discover.

With the reality of a vast world that has been reduced to a “global village” by virtue of this technology, we now find ourselves receiving vast amounts of information that cannot always be processed. Somewhat like “fast food” restaurants we want to be served quickly and we no longer give ourselves time to savor that which we have ingested.

For centuries truth was seen in an objective way, that is, truth, for Christians was seen in

terms of Jesus Christ who is “the way, the truth, and the life,” and through Divine Revelation, the Church has transmitted those truths. The Word of God was seen as that body of revealed truth that conveyed to each generation a **timelessness** that was not conditioned by an ever-changing culture or subculture. Moreover the culture was held up against the divinely inspired Word of God, so that correction of the culture could occur.

Each generation, however, sees itself as superior to previous generations, and evaluating that reality from a technological perspective one could conclude that this is correct. Thus, this perspective is used in evaluating all “truths” and the conclusion that is all too often reached is that if we are superior in terms of one reality by consequence we must be superior in all realities. Thus, the word of humankind is held up as the standard against which all truth is measured. Moreover in an advanced technologically sophisticated society that exists within a democratic style of government, the conclusion can be reached that all truth is a matter of majority rule vote. Thus the concept of a Theocracy with certain objective truths is alien to the culture. Unfortunately since the culture has already deemed human reason aided by technology to be the highest form of the determination of reality, a progressive view of truth becomes a bi-product. Therefore, logically speaking, the culture believes that as technology changes, so will truth.

St. Paul lived in a sophisticated society where conflict between the Hebraic expectation of signs and wonders was in conflict with the Greek principle of the superiority of knowledge. Nonetheless in this dialectic, St. Paul was able to tell us that the generation was eager to learn but that there were sophisticated teachers who stood ready to teach them a personal experiential truth, not based on divine revelation nor truth based on foundational reasoning that employed the principles of debate, but “truth” that would make them happy. Perhaps it could be said that St. Paul warned them about a “truth” that reinforced their personal perspective. Ultimately in undisciplined reasoning people choose only the opinions of those who will articulate only their point of view.

The danger, it would appear, is that from the time of St. Paul throughout the ages, until today, there has been a conflict between the culture and the Church. Either the Church will succumb to the unsophisticated principles of “if it feels good it must be okay,” “my experience is the truth,” and “as long as they love each other everything else is alright” or it will discover that in every societal storm there must be a bell weather, a mark that we keep our eyes on as the storm takes us further out to sea. We have lost our mooring and we have defined the storm as the reality and ourselves as the true experts on how to still the storm. This generation has reversed the Creation Story as we attempt to create God in our own image.

To discover God is to discover Truth. In turbulent times eternal truths must be articulated, and in an age when there are many itching ears, it is imperative that we reiterate timeless truths of the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is the fervent desire of DoveTracts, Inc. to provide for you succinct articulations of truth that will be thought provoking, instructive, and positive. Today we can often determine what people are against, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a positive Gospel, and it will be our task to convey these timeless truths in a positive way.

May God's blessings be ever upon you.

The Rt. Rev. K.L. Ackerman



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