

TRUTH IN AN AGE OF CONFUSION

ARE YOU SURE?

If you are, how sure are you? In today's world, we are bombarded with information everywhere we turn. With the advent of the internet and smartphones, everyone is constantly subjected to a flow of information from social media, news outlets, and entertainment. This information explosion has had some benefits with instant access to information, but it has also come with negative consequences. Many people are feeling overwhelmed, they get easily distracted, they have trouble making decisions, but most of all it has become very difficult to determine **which information is true or false**.

Trusting bad information can have devastating consequences. Bad information can affect your job, important decisions, and even your life itself.

With all this in mind, you need to ask yourself one very important question:

What if you could be trusting bad information about your spiritual destiny?

In many areas of life people must conform to an **objective standard** when solving problems or making decisions. Most of the world, except for the United States, relies on the metric system as the official standard for measurement. This system is the SAME in every country. A centimeter in China is the same as a centimeter in Russia. This objective standard for measurement cannot be changed depending on the country. Russia cannot say a centimeter is five feet long. This would interfere with many international industries causing confusion and chaos. The same is true when it comes to **spiritual truth**. If someone does not have **an absolute standard for truth**, they are then left to trust opinions, feelings, and traditions which very often contradict each other. There really is no way to trust with complete certainty that what you believe is true if you have **no absolute standard for truth**.

I am happy to tell you that an absolute standard for truth does exist:

The Holy Bible (the King James Bible)

*"[19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye **take heed**, as unto a **light that shineth in a dark place**, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:" - II Peter 1:19*

"Pffft, it was written by men." you may say. Well, let's let the absolute standard for truth speak for itself,

*"For the prophecy **came not in old time by the will of man**: but holy men of God spake **as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**." - II Peter 1:21*

God wrote the Bible through men(40 different men over 1500 years with one message) and

guided their hands to write His word. Since man is a being of **limited intelligence**, he needs a revelation from a being of **infinite intelligence** in order to determine **absolute truth**. That is why God gave us the scriptures. The Bible is different than any other book on planet earth. It is the only book of any religion that has 100% accurate fulfilled prophecy in it, over 5,000 manuscripts supporting it, over 24,000 archaeological digs confirming it's historical accuracy, advanced scientific revelation, and it is brutally honest about it's heroes of the faith, including all their faults and failures, which is further proof of it's divine origin.

"There are many interpretations and denominations, how can you know yours is true?!"

Good question, let's let the word speak, "*...no prophecy of the scripture is of **any private interpretation**.*" - II Peter 1:20

There is no private interpretation, which means: if someone's interpretation of the Bible is based on what they FEEL is right, church tradition, education, etc. **and** contradicts the rest of the Bible **or** it is taken out of context **or** it goes against what Jesus and the apostles taught, **it is a private interpretation**, in other words **a false interpretation!** A person who comes up with their own interpretation of Scripture only does so because they don't like what Scripture actually says.

In addition to this fact, the truth of the scripture is not revealed to man by man. It is God the Holy Spirit who guides people into all truth: "*...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...*" John 16:13

God shows the truth to the person who **humbles themselves**.

The Holy Spirit will not show the whole truth to all men. All men are given a chance to know the truth, but those who are **proud** will remain ignorant, "*...God **resisteth the proud**, but giveth grace unto the humble.*" - James 4:6

Another requirement for the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of scripture is **hunger for the truth**, "*Blessed are they which do **hunger** and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*" - Matthew 5:6

If you are content to trust traditions of men, your friends, family, school, church, etc. and have no real hunger for the truth and for God, **then you will not be shown the truth**. You will be deceived and will be walking on the wide road which leads to destruction, "*There is a way which **seemeth right** unto a man, but **the end** thereof are the ways of **death**.*" - Proverbs 14:12

Urgently consider the strong rebuke and warning Jesus gave to those who trusted and practiced **tradition** over **the word of God**:

Jesus said, "[6] *He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

[7] *Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines **the commandments of men**.*

[8] For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men...

[9]...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

[13] Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition..." - Mark 7:6-13

Jesus was saying that if a religious tradition, doctrine, belief, or practice contradicted the word of God, it should be thrown out and not believed or practiced.

I urge you to compare any beliefs, traditions, or doctrines you hold to the word of God and if what you believe contradicts the scriptures: **reject it!**

You can only rely on the holy scriptures, not even **your own heart** will guide you to the truth:

"[9] The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" - Jeremiah 17:9

"[26] He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..." - Proverbs 28:26

Your heart is more evil than you think. You see how the Bible says you can't trust your heart because it will deceive you, but it also said your heart is wicked. Read what Jesus said about the heart:

"[21] For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

[22] Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

[23] All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." - Mark 7:21-23

Your heart only wants to sin and please itself and will even deceive your mind to make you sin. You may **think** you are a good person, but deep down you are a **sinner**. In the time of Jesus, people tried to put on a show to make it seem like they were good religious people. The only problem was that Jesus could see their hearts! He could see right through their religious show:

Jesus said, *"...for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

[28] Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." - Matthew 23:27,28

Jesus gave further evidence as to the seriousness of the plague of the heart when He said that when someone sins in their heart, it is the same thing as if they had committed the sinful act:

Jesus said, *"...I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." - Matthew 5:28*

You don't have to be married to commit the sin of lust and so you can surely apply this to pornography.

Who can honestly say they have never committed this sin? And yet that does not make it any less sinful or less offensive to God. God says that **no one is a good person** and no one is justified in His sight by **trying to keep the law**:

*"[10]...There is **none righteous**, no, not one:" - Romans 3:10*

*"...**no man is justified by the law** in the sight of God..." - Galatians 3:11*

What is the point of the law then?

To show man **what sin is**:

"[20]... for by the law is the knowledge of sin." - Rom. 3:20

"...for sin is the transgression of the law." - I John 3:4

To stop everyone from trying to justify themselves before God by their own works and saying they are a good person:

*"...that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God.**" - Romans 3:19*

When you look at God's law, it shows you that you are guilty and condemned:

"[3] Thou shalt have no other gods before me."(This can be anything you love more than God i.e. money)

[4] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image"(When you make a god up in your own mind that is not the God of the Bible or bowing before idols and statues)

"[7] Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;"(Using God's name to curse or to say you are a Christian, but live a sinful life)" - Exodus 20:3,4,7

"[9] Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators(Any sex outside of: marriage between one man and one woman), *nor effeminate*(Acting and dressing like the opposite sex), *nor abusers of themselves with mankind*(Homosexuals - LGBTQ),

[10] Nor thieves(Stealing anything regardless of value), *nor covetous*(You desire things you do not have because you think it will make you happy), *nor drunkards*(This includes drinking on the weekends and all drugs), *nor revilers*(To mock and talk down to other people with contempt), *nor extortioners*(To gain anything by force through violence or abuse of authority), *shall inherit the kingdom of God."* - I Corinthians 6:9,10

It should be clear now that you have sinned. This makes you a sinner and guilty before God. Will God actually judge you one day? Let's read:

*"[27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but **after this the judgment:**" - Hebrews 9:27*

You die once and then you will stand before God to be judged. There is no reincarnation.

*"[31] Because he hath appointed a day, in the which **he will judge the world in righteousness...**" - Acts 17:31*

What happens to those who are guilty on judgment day?

"[8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." - Revelation 21:8

The lake of fire is eternal punishment for all sinners and there is no escaping it.

On judgment day what will you say?

Can you cover your sin by doing good deeds?

*"[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**: it is the gift of God: [9] **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**" - Ephesians 2:8,9*

Your good works cannot cover your sin. Imagine if you were standing before a judge guilty of murder and you said, "*but your honor, I have given a lot of money to charity.*" Would that work? Absolutely not. Justice still must be satisfied and it works the same way with God. There is no balance in heaven to weigh your good works on one side and your bad works on the other side and if the good outweighs the bad, then you can enter heaven. That is not how God will judge.

What plea do you have left when you stand before God?

I'm a good person? I've tried to keep your law God the best I could? I have done many good works in my life?

We have already read what God thinks about that. Now if you are feeling convicted at all right now, you feel like you have no hope, and that you deserve to go to hell; you are exactly where you should be. The other purpose of God's law you can read here:

*"[24] Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**" - Galatians 3:24*

If you see yourself as a lost sinner on your way to hell, you are ready to hear about the good news about Jesus Christ!

God is holy and just which means He must punish sin or He would be a corrupt judge and people like Hitler would be in heaven. **God is also love** and His love is beyond our comprehension. The question is: **how could God forgive man who is a wicked sinner and still remain holy and just?**

The answer is Jesus Christ had to die in man's place as a sinless substitute to satisfy the divine justice of God.

God loved the world so much He sent Jesus Christ down from heaven to be born of a virgin, live a sinless life, and then die for the sins of mankind on the cross. He then rose from the dead three days later and is now sitting in heaven.

Jesus Christ took **the wrath from God that you deserve**. He died in your place:

*"...he was wounded for **our transgressions**...*

*...the LORD hath laid on him **the iniquity of us all.**" - Isaiah 53:5,6*

What God requires of you is that you **repent and believe on Jesus Christ** alone for salvation.

*"God... now commandeth **all men every where to repent:**" - Acts 17:30*

*"[16] For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" - John 3:16*

Repent means to admit you are a sinner and have sinned against God. You are sorry for your sin, hate that sin, and don't want sin to control your life anymore. Repent means to turn from a life of sin unto God.

Repentance is tied together with **faith**. Faith in what? Faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone to be saved. Believe and confess to God that Jesus died for your sins and put your complete trust in Him alone.

*"[9] That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved.**"*

*[10] For with the **heart** man believeth unto righteousness; and with the **mouth** confession is made unto salvation.*

*[13] **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" - Romans 10:9,10,13*

If you repent and believe the Gospel, God promises to save you from sin and the lake of fire and you will be born again. Jesus said, "*Ye must be born again*". You will be a new creature being supernaturally changed into a new person. The Holy Spirit will come dwell inside you to comfort, guide, and teach you. You will evidence a change in your life by the Holy Spirit producing good fruit for others to see. This good fruit will be a hunger to read the Bible, a desire to pray, a hatred of sin, a distaste for the things of the world, a desire for fellowship with other believers, and a passion to tell everyone about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is true Biblical salvation and not religious traditions.

Repent and put your faith in the atoning blood of Jesus today.

*"[14] In whom we have redemption **through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**" - Colossians 1:14*

*"...**the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**" - I John 1:7*

