

Dear friends and family,

In 2016, blogger Sven Erik Scheie posted an entry entitled, “*Nobody really knows the truth*”.

He asserts, like all philosophers who make this claim, that truth is relative to upbringing, dependent on where in the world one is born, and under which religious tenants one is trained. He goes on to assert that this becomes the basis for each person’s personal truth, which he refers to as “your truth”.

He supports this claim by citing a number of inventions that were decried as implausible when first conceived, yet have now found their way into daily life. For proof, he points to this statement from 1977, issued by Kenneth Olsen, president and founder of Digital Equipment Corp. “There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in their home.”

The blogger closes his article by stating, “I include the above examples to show you that **no one really knows the answers**, especially to existential questions like what happens when we are born and die or how life started on this planet.”

Full blog post here: <https://sveinerikscheie.com/2016/10/17/nobody-really-knows-the-truth/>

Pastor’s Point of View

Consider the BIG question of the week: **What is our basis for truth?**

*All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.
Isaiah 53:6*

Is truth relative?

How do you know?

If all people of faith hold earnestly to their beliefs, and our beliefs contradict, which is true?

This coming Sunday at First Baptist, I will bring a message based on the Biblical command to *worship God in spirit and in truth*. As we head into this week and prepare for Sunday worship, let us seek to understand, evaluate, and appreciate the ONE source of truth.

The problem the blogger struggles against is the same issue that has plagued humanity throughout history. Since no ‘person’ can know the future, or even accurately describe the exact details of what has happened in the past, it is assumed that truth cannot be known. However, this fact highlights the important point that our source of truth must come from *outside* of humanity.

This, then, leads to the next dilemma.

Which religious system is right?

Especially if they **all** claim some deity outside of humanity as their source?

Reflect for a moment on Isaiah 53, the *Suffering Servant* passage. Remember that ONLY Biblical Christianity identifies that “all of us like sheep have gone astray”. It may hold true that if one is raised in a particular culture, there may be a natural inclination toward those teachings. However, each one of us, at some point in our lives, will choose to follow something. But at the end of it all, we will each be called to give an account and answer the question God asks us so openly, “Who do you say I am?”

Day 1

READ – Psalm 119:153-160

The 119th Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is divided into 22 sections, each containing 8 verses, and corresponding to the letters in the Hebrew alphabet. This is known as an acrostic. Each of the 8 verses in a particular section begin with the letter of the alphabet associated with that section.

Verses 153-160 correspond to the letter (*R*)esh and the first word of each verse begins with this letter: *rə-’êh-, rî-bāh, rā-ḥō-wq, ra-ḥā-me-kā, rab-bîm, rā-’î-tî, rə-’êh, rōš-*. Of course this doesn’t translate into English but it’s a fascinating piece of Biblical knowledge and know you know it!

The entire Psalter, or ‘the book of the Psalms’, was written to praise and glorify God. It is the one book of the Bible written in an upward facing trajectory. The rest of scripture is inspired by God and written to us. The Psalms are inspired by God written to God. It is, simply put, our handbook for true worship. It is the ONLY source of divinely inspired worship. Throughout scripture God reveals Himself to us. Through the Psalms He reveals how we should truly worship.

1. What does it mean that the sum of your word is truth?
2. In these 8 verses how often does the Psalmist refer to God’s word?
3. Do you LOVE God’s precepts? His word? Why is this important?

REFLECT: Understanding that God’s righteous ordinances are everlasting should give us a firm foundation for discovering the source of truth.

Day 2

READ – Psalm 119:1-8

1. What does it mean that God has ordained His precepts?
2. How do you need to be keeping those precepts diligently today?
3. Pray that your way may be established and that God would help you seek Him with ALL of your heart.
4. Look at the promise in verse 6 and stand on this promise! Even in light of the culture that surrounds us today, a culture that hates the truth of God’s word, I will not be ashamed!

Day 3

READ – Psalm 119:9-16

1. How **can** a young man keep his way pure? It is so vitally important that we teach our children the truth of scripture. There is no other source of truth! Satan, the ruler of this world, will try to blind them to that source if possible (Ephesians 6:12).
2. Again, the Psalmist says, “with all my heart.” Recall our memory verse from this past Sunday (Matthew 22:37).
3. We are called to hide and to treasure God’s word in our heart. Memorizing scripture should not be a task we seek to accomplish but a deep and intense longing. **The Bible is a treasure map that leads to God Himself.** Hiding it in our hearts is not about keeping it to ourselves, but about giving it its proper place of value in our life.

Day 4

READ – Psalm 119: 33-40

1. Teach me, O Lord...I shall observe it to the end! Oh that my life may be one marked by diligence toward God’s word and steadfastness in His great love.
2. Have you ever felt as though you didn’t understand God’s word? Pray for understanding. Allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate it to you.
3. Establish Your word to Your servant as that which produces FEAR for You. God’s word reveals who He is, as we know Him better, we must bow down in fear and awe of His holiness.

The truth is, we do know the truth. We know the truth because it has been revealed to us by an all knowing, ever present God. A God who lacks no power or holiness but has in His infinite love given to us a means of grace; His only begotten Son. This truth is not man made nor was it devised by an angel or a demon. No one would ever make up so great a salvation at so great of a price. There is no doubt whatsoever that there is One true and living God who is the source of all truth and has revealed that truth to us in His holy word.

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

*For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end
Hebrews 3:12-14*

In love and truth,

-Pastor Matt

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