

"WHAT IS TRUTH?"**Introduction**

1. Strange meeting: Christ and Pilate!
2. Pilate less guilty than Pharisees
3. This question of Pilate is very modern.

1. THE WORLDLY MAN DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TRUTH IS

- 1) Pilate here speaks for all worldly people:
 - (i) they do not stop to think about "truth"
 - (ii) for them one theory is as good as another / one religion as good as another / one way to life
 - (iii) he is a born sceptic: nothing is certain
- 2) Sadder still, he does not want to know:
 - (i) Pilate did not say: "Please tell me"
 - (ii) This is culpable ignorance, because:
 - a. man has intelligence
 - b. and evidence
 - (iii) The world is a revelation of the truth, if only people would listen to it
 - (iv) So: Psalm 19 and Romans 1
- 3) When people seek the truth, they find it:
ILLUSTRATION: Testimony of an African (Whitelaw p.21)
APPLICATION: God expects men to seek the truth

2. THIS IGNORANCE OF TRUTH IS A DEADLY MISTAKE

- 1) The worldly man cannot understand his own existence: the 3 vital Questions
OBSERVE: So his life has no purpose – he lives for the moment's passing pleasures: games – gambling – drink – amusements.
 "...where a few immortal souls while away their leisure hours knocking little balls in holes"
Q. Why do they? Because they are like Pilate: "What is truth?"

- 2) This is what has happened to our country:
 - (i) Victorian times: Bible / catechism...
 - (ii) Today: Evolution / Scepticism...
- 3) The sceptic has no understanding of
 - (i) why he exists
 - (ii) what he ought to do
 - (iii) how he ought to be preparing now for the future
COMPARE: **Illustration** W. Carey; D. Livingstone
- 4) God is robbed of His glory: as Creator – as Provider – as Redeemer – as Judge
ILLUSTRATION: The Father who sowed seeds
- 5) **OBJECTION**: "Evolution is believed by the scientists"
ANSWER: "Biblical teaching is not inconsistent with definitely ascertained facts [i.e. of science]
 (Sir Ambrose Fleming – highly placed scientist)

3. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CAME TO GIVE MANKIND THE TRUTH

- 1) The Creed - Creation – Fall – Coming Judgement
- 2) The supreme Question: "How can I be saved?"
- 3) This is what our Lord means here: "Every one that is of the truth," i.e. believes
- 4) Believers know the truth:
 - (i) the character of God
 - (ii) the way to live
 - (iii) the way to die**APPLICATION**: This truth is in the Bible

CONCLUSION

See how Christ changes a person's life:

ILLUSTRATION: George Müller

PSALM
19: 1 – 8
8: 3 – 9
119: 33 - 37