

## CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

Morgan County Correctional Complex Chapel, April 26, 2014

A young man once asked Jesus, “what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”

And Jesus, after perceiving that the obvious answer wasn’t going to surface, explained that the young man’s wealth was a hindrance to his overcoming.

He said, “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. (22) But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” Matthew 19:16-22

This young man could not handle the truth.

Richard Whately, a 19th century theologian and educator said “Everyone wishes to have truth on his side, but not everyone wishes to be on the side of truth.”

Pause

The truth is not always pleasant, it’s not always easy. Sometimes we’re tempted to ignore it or reject it rather than accept what it reveals about us or the tough changes that it demands of us.

We find ways to excuse it, or dismiss it – we’ve talked about confirmation bias in this service, how human nature seeks out information that confirms what we already believe, rather than accept truth that God reveals to us in His word.

When we stumble across something that doesn’t seem to conform to what our friends believe, what the world accepts, then we seek out the sources to reassure us that we were right all along.

It is the hardest thing for any man to admit that he is wrong, but it’s the only path to humility.

Today we’re going to look at some records of people who couldn’t handle the truth, and what they did when confronted with it. And along the way we’re going to examine some Biblical truth that seems to have gotten lost somewhere in time.

We're going to look at three accounts: A Roman governor confronted by an Apostle, a Jewish king confronted by a Prophet, and this one, in the book of Genesis – right after the fall – one of the first human confronted by God Himself. We going look at the very beginning of man's first society, the society that eventually became so corrupt that God destroyed it in a global flood.

It began, simply put, because one couple couldn't follow directions and their offspring could handle the truth.

Please turn over to Genesis, chapter 4.

Genesis 4:1 ¶And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Vine's renders this last phrase, "I have created a man-child with the help of the Lord." Cain's name is a play on the Hebrew word for "create." His name in Hebrew is /kah'-yin/, and basically means "to acquire."

I feel like Cain was a "mama's boy." Imagine not only being the first born of your family, but being the first born **ever**. Now this is just hunch, but I can imagine Cain being very close to his mother and very spoiled. His attitude as we go on would seem to support that idea.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

It's speculated that these brothers were possibly twins, because the scripture says that she conceived once, but bare twice.

Abel's name also has meaning, Strong's says it means "transitory" and equates it with the Hebrew word for vanity or breath. Another source says it means "mankind," which, according to Revelation, is also a temporary state of being.

1 Corinthians 15, "the resurrection chapter" talks about those who overcome ... how this "Mortality must put on immortality" and "what's sown in corruption must be raised in incorruption" ... That is, of course, if you follow the instructions in your Bible ... (overcoming)

3 ¶And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

The phrase “in the process of time,” in Hebrew is “at the end of days,” according to the *King James Translator’s Notes*, *Young’s Literal Translation* of the Bible, the *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, the *Illustrated Bible Dictionary* and every other reference I’ve found on this text.

It refers to the end of the week, the seventh day that God had sanctified two chapters earlier. The day He set aside for worship at creation, the Sabbath day – today.

Some groups refer to it as “the seventh-day sabbath,” but there is only one sabbath. The Bible nowhere gives that honor to any other day. None of the other days even have names in scriptures – just numbers. (explain)

If you look on your calendar (not your TV schedule or your food menu, but an *actual* calendar) the week ends today.

Jesus, “as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read,” (Luke 4:16). The book of Acts talks about Paul and Barnabas, in chapter 13, reasoning with the Jews and then later with the gentiles in Antioch every sabbath, and finally in verse 44 it says “And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”

Chapter 17 says in Thessalonica, Paul is up to it again, “as his manner was, (he) went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.”

It’s not a fluke that these accounts, so long after the crucifixion, are in your Bible. The first century church worshiped on the Sabbath day, just as apparently, Cain and Able did – that’s just the truth.

Back to verse 3: So at the end of days, or on the Sabbath ... Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

These two brothers showed different talents, one a gardener and the other a shepherd. So naturally (and when I say “naturally,” I don’t mean that as a good thing. Because the

carnal mind [the natural mind] is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, [God's instructions] neither indeed can be [Romans 8:7 ].)

So they brought to God what they had produced through their labor. The problem was that what God required of them, wasn't what Cain had to offer. And Cain's attitude wasn't right.

Hebrews tells us that "almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." (9:22)

God had given the example when the boy's parents messed up and death entered the garden. Chapter 3, verse 21 says "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." He covered their sin ... where do you think He got the skins ... it came from the death of an animal – the shedding of blood.

It says that Able was "a keeper of sheep," and that God "had respect unto Abel and his offering," He followed God's instruction, His example. Abel had a complaint spirit, a humble spirit, an attitude of doing what was pleasing to God.

Somehow we believe in this day and age that we can worship God however we want, we've adopted pagan observances into our worship and believe that God is okay with it because we mean well (He knows what's in my heart, etc.) but God has a reason for giving us specific instructions. And if our attitude is to please God, then whatever He requires will not be a burden to us. What He finds pleasing, we will find pleasing, and nothing else will do.

This past Monday wrapped up the feast of Unleavened Bread, the seven-day period the Jews today simply refer to as "Passover." In it they celebrate their deliverance from Egypt, when God "passed over" their dwellings, in an act of mercy and deliverance from slavery.

But the people had a part to play in what God did. He delivered only those who followed His very specific instructions to sacrifice a lamb and to smear its blood over the door posts of their homes. And He had a specific reason for doing that.

It was a foreshadow of the ultimate sacrifice, that would deliver all people from the slavery of sin. Paul told the Corinthians that "even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." Put a mark in your Bible here and turn over to 1 Corinthians 5:7, and let's see if we can get a handle on this truth. ... 1 Corinthians 5:7

Pause

Charles Stanley said, "Freedom comes from knowing the truth; bondage comes from missing it."

Let's try not to miss anything here.

Israel was instructed concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread that they would "eat no leavened bread ... seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread ... even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life."

This was the symbolism the One we know as Christ gave the physical nation concerning the bread of affliction, that they would remember their physical delivery from Egypt, how they were thrust out of that worldly system, out of bondage.

The Church is given the analogy in the New Testament, of comparing leavening to sin. Christ said to "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matthew 16:6) and Paul takes up this same theme in Galatians 5:9, and here in 1 Corinthians 5:6

6 Your **glorying** is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

7 ¶ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, (this is a spiritual statement, where Paul equates their spiritual condition – that of having "old leaven" in them, the sin of "glorying," or "pride," that needed to be removed – to their physical condition, he says) as ye are unleavened (physically, otherwise, it wouldn't make any sense.)

Unless this gentile congregation were observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Paul's statement would be contradictory on its face: You can't purge out leaven if you already are Unleavened. He contrasts here what they were doing physically with the spiritual truth it represented – removing sin, the sin that keeps us in bondage. That glorying in our religion, in our understanding, that pride of always being right.

Pause

Continuing in verse seven: "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, ... (a direct statement)

not with old leaven (pride), neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Again a spiritual comparison to a physical reality ...

Christ is our passover. That first sacrifice in the garden, Abel's offering here, Abraham on Mount Moriah, Noah after the flood, all these foreshadow the gift God gave us at Calvary, before there ever was a Nation of Israel, before there ever was a Jew or an "Old Covenant," or a Church, or a New Covenant, God had a plan – from the foundation of the world – and God doesn't change – the same yesterday, today and forever ...

and even though parts of that plan have been fulfilled, that's been true at every stage of human history, from the garden up till now.

Look around you – look at prophecy, look at human nature, look at the Church – we've got a long, long way to go! But the plan is still the same. And we still have a part to play in that plan.

Those Passover symbols were a memorial for Israel to remember what the Lord did for them in Egypt. The Lord's Supper, the New Testament Passover, is a memorial of what Christ did for us on Calvary. That unleavened bread of affliction becomes the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth – our part in the process, leaving sin behind – coming out of bondage.

God still expects us to be willingly obedient. Faith without works is dead.

These instructions He gave the first-century Church are there for a reason, and He expects those instructions to be followed, and most people can't handle that truth ... but it's right there in your Bible, in black and white, and there is so much more ...

Flip back over to Genesis 4:6, and let's see how Cain handled the truth.

6 ¶And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

God says why are your feelings hurt?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.

Sin is transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), it's refusal to do what God instructs. God was saying, your attitude has to change. It is an either or proposition. God doesn't leave it up to us how we will worship Him – only **if** we will. ...

And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

The Bible in Basic English says, "If you do well, will you not have honour? and if you do wrong, sin is waiting at the door, desiring to have you, but do not let it be your master."

Don't let it rule over you. Don't let it put you in slavery!

8 ¶And Cain talked with Abel his brother:

Here was Cain's chance to get things right – to learn from his little brother what is pleasing to God. He could clearly see that God was pleased with Abel – had respect unto Abel and to his offering, but he just couldn't handle the truth ...

and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And there is the result most of us can expect when we follow the truth.

Clarence Darrow, a famous lawyer in the late 18, early 1900's, said "The truth is always modern, and there never comes a time when it is safe to give it voice."

Jesus said, "if they hated me, they'll hate you ..."

When we restate the forgotten truth of the past, it always seems like it's something new, and if you stand on that truth – people will try to knock you down. But the truth is always the same.

Pause

In verse 25, we find that Adam and Eve had a third child named Seth (*shayth*, in Hebrew) meaning substituted or compensation. In his bloodline it is said, "then began men to call upon the name of the LORD."

And the line of Seth and the line of Cain, and surely Adam and Eve had more children, they populated the planet.

By the time of Noah, who was a decedent of Seth, between 1,600 and 1,700 after mankind was created, there remained only one righteous man on the entire planet. That attitude of Cain had almost completely squeezed out God's truth in that short amount of time.

The Historian Livy, in the *History of Rome*, said, "Truth is often eclipsed but never extinguished." Noah carried the truth to the next generation.

Pause

Now let's take a look at a King of Israel who just couldn't handle the truth. Turn over to 2 Chronicles 18.

To understand this story, it's helpful to have some background context.

Following the death of King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel split into two separate nations, one retaining the name Israel, the other becoming the kingdom of Judah.

The kingdom of Judah was comprised of the Israelite tribes of Judah, Benjamin and probable more than half of Levy. You see, the Levites worked in the temple, but when the nation split into two countries, the new King of Israel basically outlawed worship of the true God. He didn't want his people going back to the temple in Jerusalem, so he set up golden calves and hired a clergy from the common people to administer his pagan religion.

This began the downfall of the separate nation of Israel. They continued with a line of rebellious kings, until they were eventually conquered by Assyria and taken captive, spread throughout the Assyrian kingdom and lost to history as a people. They are often referred to as "the lost ten tribes."

But despite this, many prophecies make a clear distinction between the destiny of Israel and Judah, and some even get more specific as to the fate of the individual tribes themselves. Read chapters 48 and 49 of Genesis, the prophecies concerning "the last days."

Look in the New Testament, in Matthew, where Jesus sends disciples to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." And remember this plain truth, if you can handle it, that Jews are Israelites, but not all Israelites are Jews. It is a key to understanding prophecy. (explain, not salvational ... neither Jew nor Greek, etc.)



In fact, the first place the word “Jews” used in the Bible is over in 2 Kings 16:6, when the Jews were at war with Israel.

The account we’re going to look at today is between a king of Israel and a king of Judah, in a more cooperative time.

One of the most righteous kings of Judah was Jehoshaphat. He lived around the close of the 10th century B.C. into the beginning of the 9th century. Around the same time, a notoriously unrighteous king by the name of Ahab ruled in Israel.

One of Israel's cities, Ramoth Gilead, had fallen into the hands of the king of Syria, and Ahab wanted to take it back from him. So he asked righteous King Jehoshaphat to join him in a military assault to recover the city.

Jehoshaphat was concerned whether this venture would be blessed by God or not, so he asked Ahab to inquire of the Eternal God about it.

2 Chronicles 18:1 ¶ Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

2 And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria.

Jerusalem was the capital of Judah and Samaria was the capital of Israel.

And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.

3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.

4 ¶ And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

Notice the all caps in your Bible. This is the YHVH, the “I AM” who spoke to Moses. The One who Christ claimed to be, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). This is the Eternal God.

5 Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand.

Notice that God here is not in all caps. This is the Hebrew *elohiym* – not the specific God of the Hebrews, but what God is. It's the difference between calling me "man," or calling me "Garry." Man could be any of us, although there is only one mankind.

6 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

7 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

8 And the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla.

Ahab went to his personal (false) prophets, who assured him that the Lord would give them victory (2 Chronicles 18:5). These prophets were not servants of the true God, but instead were worshippers of idols. King Ahab and those prophets had rejected God and His laws.

But Jehoshaphat was not satisfied with the source or answer, so he asked if there was not a prophet of the Eternal God available (verse 6). Ahab reluctantly admitted there was one, but he made it clear that he usually had a great dislike for what this true prophet had to say.

He said that this prophet of the Lord, Micaiah, always prophesied bad things for the king (verse 7). The bigger picture is that, since Ahab was not obedient to God, the king did not receive God's blessings. The prophet only delivered the message; he did not cause what happened to Ahab! But Ahab wanted to blame the messenger.

So Jehoshaphat insisted that they consult with Micaiah, so Ahab's men sought him out, coaching him to say encouraging things to the kings.

Micaiah knew they didn't want to hear the truth; and surprisingly, at first he told them everything would go well in the battle. If you go back and read this story closely, you'll find that even God was content to have Ahab be deceived.

But somehow Ahab knew the prophet wasn't telling them the whole story, so Ahab insisted on Micaiah speaking the truth.

2 Chronicles 18:14 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.

15 And the king said to him, How many times shall I **adjure** thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?

Adjure – to command or charge solemnly, often under an oath or penalty.

16 Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace.

17 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?

So Micaiah told them the truth that God had revealed to him in v. 16: “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, “These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace” (2 Chronicles 18:16).

Micaiah was shown that Israel's army would be scattered and defeated, and its king would die in the battle! King Ahab had insisted he needed the truth. But Ahab couldn't handle the truth!

Instead of asking what he could do to change the outcome of this prophecy – and we find that over and over in scripture, people repent and God relents:

Isaiah to Hezekiah, + 15 years ... Jonah to Nineveh ... **this** is God's **grace** – His mercy which endures forever. It's not a condition under which people live – it's a quality of God's character ... Ahab could have repented ...

But not Ahab, he became angry at the one who had told him the truth. The king literally sent the prophet to prison and put him on a ration of bread and water (2 Chronicles 18:25-26)!

It was the truth, but it was not what Ahab wanted to hear. He couldn't handle the truth and turned against the messenger who brought it.

There is a similar example in the New Testament. Turn over to Acts 24:24.

Some Jews had brought false charges against the apostle Paul, and Paul asked to have those charges resolved before Caesar. While Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea, Felix, the governor of Judea, ordered Paul to appear before him and his wife, Drusilla. Felix had heard of Paul and the Christians, and he wished to learn more about them.

But when Paul got to the heart of the truth, the governor couldn't handle it!

v. 24: "And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you'" (Acts 24:24-25).

Felix and his wife did not want to hear the truth about *righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come*—the heart and core of God's way of life. One reason for Felix's reluctance was the fact that Drusilla was his third wife; and contrary to God's law, he had taken her from her former husband.

Responding to the truths Paul taught would interfere with Felix's way of life; he was in no way ready to change. He could not handle the truth.

Today, many pay lip service to God and refuse to do what He commands. ("Lord, Lord," etc.)

Felix would have little trouble fitting into today's nominal Christian world – where so-called Christians don't fair any better on surveys of morality and ethics than the rest of Western Society.

We take obscure text and turn them into doctrine while ignoring the clear statements of scripture and clear historical facts.

2 Peter 2:1 ¶But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (This is a 1st century quote ...)

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Pernicious – deadly, fatal, wicked

And we find teachers who agree with whatever sin we want to justify: homosexuality in the church, adultery, blasphemy ... And those who truly believe are labeled fanatics or hate mongers by the world and heretics by the very people who claim to live by this book.

But some people, they can handle the truth! And if you accept and act upon the truth, it will change your life. It will set you on the path that leads to an abundant physical life and,

eventually, to eternal life.

kingdom of God ... Jesus spoke of

overcoming – 7 times in Rev 2 & 3

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

This truth will give you hope in difficult times, for there is truly a better time coming.

Most people, sad to say, can't handle the truth. They aren't willing to accept it. They would rather go on believing the things they have heard from others (systematic theology books / seminary / spoon-fed doctrines) things that have been passed on from previous generations, things that do not accurately reflect what the Bible teaches.

When Christ told people in His time that many of their religious beliefs were based on the traditions of men as opposed to the truth of God's Word, they couldn't handle it. "He said to them, all too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition" (Mark 7:9).

His hearers often reacted with such anger that they tried to silence Him by stoning Him to death – that is, they were willing to *kill Him* for telling them the truth. That is the same spirit ancient King Ahab had – slay the one who brings a message you do not like!

Paul spoke of those who "exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator" (Romans 1:25).

Human nature, which has been influenced by the devil, has always been the same. Most would rather believe they do not have to live by the righteous laws of God, so they accept the lie that there is no God. Or they accept the more subtle lie that God does not hold us accountable for our actions. Adam and Eve fell for Satan's reasoning. (Genesis 3:1-6.)

Paul warned that in the last days of man's rule on earth, before Christ returns to set up the Kingdom of God, most will prefer to be entertained by false teachings than hear the truth of God. Watch your TV tomorrow at all the hucksters raking in millions as they vie

for your television time.

Watch the ceremony for the dead in Vatican City, with its 40 corporate sponsors. Religion is big business – no matter what doctrine you're selling.

What happened to the words of the lowly Carpenter, "Free you have received, freely give" ?

Paul told Timothy, "The time will come when people will not listen to sound doctrine, but will follow their own desires. ... They will turn away from listening to the truth" (2 Timothy 4:3-4, *Good News Translation*).

Paul's experience in Antioch / Thessalonica / Berea

Remember how the line of Cain squeezed out God's truth in less 2,000 years? How long has Satan had since the truth was again manifest to mankind so clearly in the first century? When the Word became flesh and God again walked among us.

Cain to flood; flood to Abraham; Abraham to Jesus; Jesus to millennium reign

Pause

Turn over to Jeremiah 16:19.

Another true prophet of God, Jeremiah, spoke of people finally learning that there is no benefit in listening to or following false teachings.

Only following the true teachings of the Holy Bible will bear the fruit of a better life now and, ultimately, eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

In that day people all over the earth will turn to God to find the hope of life based on truth.

"O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, 'Surely our fathers have inherited lies, worthlessness and unprofitable things'" (Jeremiah 16:19).

When we come to understand that all decisions and choices have consequences; when we are willing to look honestly at the wrong decisions we have made and turn our life around, making wise decisions – then we can avoid the pain and difficulties that befall

those who can't handle the truth.

God's laws were given to help mankind enjoy lasting marriages, families and lives. King David came to understand that and prayed, "Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me" (Psalm 40:11).

David understood that the truth could always be found in the Holy Scriptures inspired by God's Spirit working in those servants He used to write the Bible.

1 John 5:6 says, "it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth."

In one of the last prayers Christ prayed before His death, He asked the Father to make His followers different by the teachings of those Holy Scriptures and by the infilling of the Holy Spirit. "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

Pause

Do not let it be said, "You can't handle the truth!" I encourage you read and study God's Word, and when you find those things you don't agree with, or you don't understand, or that step on your toes – don't explain them away, don't harbor resentment, don't allow the Deceiver, or society, confirmation bias or anything else skew the truth of what God says. Put the words of God high above everything else – even your own thoughts! Accept what the Word says and repent, change. The sacrifices of God are a humble spirit ...

The truths you will learn are the pathway to the purpose for which you were born. If you accept and act upon the truth, it will change your life. It will set you on the path that leads to an abundant physical life and, eventually, to a life in that never ends as an eternal child of God.

Christ put it simply, "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

***You can handle the truth.***

Closing prayer

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened. – Sir Winston Churchill

Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to the possibilities; truth isn't. – Mark Twain (1835-1910)

The high-minded man must care more for the truth than for what people think. – Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear. – Herbert Agar

The exact opposite of what is generally believed is often the truth. – La Bruyère, *Les Caracteres*

There is not a truth existing which I fear, or would wish unknown to the whole world. A – Thomas Jefferson

God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Political truth is a libel – religious truth, blasphemy. – William Hazlitt