

May 11, 2020

Good Monday!

When studying the book of Acts, one can't help but notice that the Apostle Paul invested greatly in the lives of those believers that his ministry touched. He was a prolific church planter and a champion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Everywhere he went he developed relationships with all the people whose lives he touched. He had a special knack of raising up leaders and putting them in the position to lead the churches he started when he left. As he was leaving Asia to head back to Jerusalem, he stopped in Miletus and called for the elders of the church in Ephesus so that he could say goodbye to them. You can read what he said to them in Acts 20:13-37.

I find it interesting that Paul was concerned that after he left, there would be people who would come to them with the intent to distort everything that Paul had taught them. He said in verses 29-31: *"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears."*

The truth seems to be so evasive. But is it really? Even during these difficult times we are searching for everything that we can regarding what is true about COVID-19 and what is not. There are so many different messages being sent out there today. One source lists symptoms and another source adds or subtracts from that first list you find. People are conflicted as to why or why they should not wear face masks. Some say it is essential to open up the businesses immediately, others say that it's too soon, or if they open, it's best to do so gradually. There are some who feel that we aren't getting the real story about everything and that someone is holding the real truth from us.

I have found peace in knowing what truth is. In fact, as Jesus was being questioned by Pilate before his crucifixion, he said to Pilate, *"In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."* In response to that, Pilate said, *"What is truth?"* (John 18:37-38)

Earlier, Jesus defined truth. In John 14:6, he said, *"I am the way, **and the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

For me, truth is a Person. It is the Person of Jesus Christ who came to give hope to a world that is in need. Regardless of what I am hearing or what others want me to believe, I will always revert to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as the very Truth that will set me free. I know that I can count on him and his Word. He will not let me down so I can cling to his every word and know that they are true.

I want to encourage you to cling to the Truth. Not what everyone else wants you to believe...but what Jesus says. For his words will not let you down or leave you with questions.

Have a wonderful Truth-filled week.

Pastor Tim