



the lake church

August 2, 2021,

To: The Lake Church Family
From: Pastor Jim (the little shepherd)

Searching for TRUTH

Though the subject of TRUTH is not NEW, it is VITAL to be reminded about it in these days.

Before His crucifixion, while the authorities were questioning Jesus, Herod asked: **"What is truth?"** So, the topic is not NEW. Solomon said it like this in Ecclesiastes – **"there is nothing new under the sun."**

Consider the following statements:

- *"There are no absolutes."*
- *"All truth is relative."*
- *"You have no right to force your idea of right and wrong on anyone else."*

Currently, 62% of adult American's believe ALL of these statements to be true.

For the first time in American history, we are living in a country that rejects the idea of absolute truth. Today, some say (on-air and in print) that claiming *"2+2=4 is racist."* Today, some are saying that *"men CAN have babies"* and a variety of other things. It is astonishing that we can find so many people hiding behind their prejudices and claiming, "This is MY truth" and thus justifying beliefs that are... well, unbelievable!

Webster's dictionary defines TRUTH as: "The body of real things, events, and facts. (Synonym: ACTUALITY)"

Truth is not subjective. There is no such thing as: "your truth" and "my truth." Opinions... yes, TRUTH... no. For instance, either God exists, or he doesn't. Both can't be right, right? Then again, either $2+2=4$ or it doesn't; there is no in-between.

Jesus did not say: You shall know A truth ... but rather "You shall know THE truth." (John 8:32)

If there is no such thing as absolute TRUTH, then Jesus was both a liar and a fool. But Jesus said: ***"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to THE TRUTH."*** (John. 18:37)

Jesus said to the Father: *"Your word is TRUTH."* (John 17:17)

Psalms 100:5 says: ***"His TRUTH endures to all generations."***

Salvation is based on knowing THE TRUTH. Jesus said in John 17, ***"This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*** The assurance of salvation is based on knowing THE TRUTH. John said, ***"These things have I written unto you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you might know that you have eternal life."*** (1 John 5:13)

tlc

Dr. Jim Brown, Pastor

Why is this so important?

Because more people in America than EVER in our 245-year history don't want to have to live according to the Ten Commandments – or any other “rule” that God has set and stated in our Bible. They don't WANT to follow those commandments or to feel guilty if they don't. But I remind you that all of God's “rules” were meant for our GOOD, our BENEFIT, to help make our lives BETTER. Consider: “Thou shall not murder” or “don't commit adultery” or “don't lie” or “don't covet (desire) your neighbor's stuff.” Are we as a society really going to be better off if everyone breaks those commands all the time? Of course not. They are part of what our nation of laws was built on in the first place.

So let me wrap up for now. (I could preach a series on this topic... and maybe I will.) TRUTH is under attack today. And anyone who stands up for the truth, for God, for Jesus, for the Word of God, might be ridiculed today. Gone are the days when even non-Christians in America revered the “man upstairs” and the “good book.”

Finally, keep Ephesians 4:15 in mind: ***“Let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”*** (AMP)

We are to strive to become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ, who always spoke the truth – but did so in love.

Finally, let me add that Debbie and I love you ... and that's the TRUTH!

Coming soon: ... The Lake Church app!

The Covid scare has been a BIG NEGATIVE for our country and the world. But it's had some positive effects too – especially with technology here at the Lake Church.

1. We started doing a written AND audio daily devotional “TruNorth” which now reaches people across the country and even some around the world.
2. We improved our video capability and now have a solid on-line presence (YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, and our website) with our music and messages.
3. We re-started our newsletters which are mailed to your home.

And ALL of these have helped keep our church family together!

NOW – our tech-whiz Amy Pulliam is finishing up an “app” for our smartphones and tablets (apple or android) which will make connecting online even easier!

As Debbie and I will be gone Sundays Aug 1 and 8 on a first time ever whole family vacation to Bass Lake (14 of us... 3 daughters/husbands and six grands – ages 18 down to 8), you'll see Amy running the video camera. While we're gone, she'll be getting a hand-out ready to help lead you through the simple setup process of connecting with **The Lake Church app!**