

Postmodern World

As the Apostle John writes to his readers in 1 John chapter 2, John had many things to say of great importance. And one of the things of great importance that has been greatly overlooked is John's position on truth.

While the term "truth" appears only a few times in the General Epistles, it appears repeatedly throughout John's writing. In fact, John puts a high premium on the word "truth." He says to his readers, "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21).

John did not write because his readers were ignorant of the "truth," but he wrote, rather to confirm them in the truth that they knew, and to remind them "that no lie is of the truth."

That type of mindset is totally rejected by most in a postmodern world, and it is surely out of touch with postmodern thought. People today are taught, as one writer said, "... to glorify contradiction, to embrace that which is absurd, to prefer that which is subjective, and to let feelings (rather than intellect) determine what they believe."

The search for truth is an afterthought for most people. However, as Christians, we know that God cannot lie, and that He is not the author of confusion (Titus 1:2; 1 Corinthians 14:33). Therefore, we can put confidence in His Word to find truth.

The facts set forth in the Bible are reliable; and as being reliable they are true. The science of interpretation (Hermeneutics) teaches us as Christians that "Scripture should be both the starting point and the final test of truth in all our thinking. If Scripture is wholly true, then anything that contradicts Scripture is simply false, even if we're talking about the fundamental beliefs upon which the world's most popular ideologies are based."

One theologian said it much better than I can, he said, "Lest anyone misunderstand, we are not advocating rationalism – the notion that human reason alone, apart from any supernatural revelation, can discover truth. A rationalist imagines that human reason is both the source and the final test of all truth. In effect, rationalists exalt human reason above Scripture.

As Christians we oppose rationalism, but Christianity is by no means hostile to rationality. We believe the truth is logical; it is coherent; it is intelligible. Not only can truth be known rationally; it cannot be known at all if we abandon rationality."

Jerry W. Arnold
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