

Searching for Truth

I have been on the internet ever since it first came into offices in Denver. From the beginning it has been understood that the entire net is fraught with falsehoods promulgated by charlatans seeking money, the forlorn seeking love and the narcissist seeking attention. More than anywhere else or any other time on earth, *the truth is hard to find.* I've had intelligent friends who have been fooled in recent months by supposed prophets that have prophesied everything from apocalyptic war to Trump being sworn in on January 20, 2021 (while national leaders are jailed by the dozen). None of that happened.

Applying the principal of Deuteronomy 18:21, 22, if someone prophesies and the prediction does not come true, the person is a false prophet and we should not fear him. That would apply to a *lot* of people today!

That brings up an obscure word, "epistemology," which is the discipline of studying truth, what it is and how we can find logical truth as opposed to opinion. Epistemology is, "...*the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. Epistemology is the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion.*" Its study was once required in most reputable universities - seldom today. Can we know truth? Positively, "Yes!" Is it common or easy? Seldom.

But Jesus said we *can* know "the truth" and this truth can make us free. The truth of which He speaks is biblical truth. The freedom to which He refers is freedom from sin through forgiveness from His blood (see John 8:32 and Hebrews 10:1-22; I Peter 1:17-19). Many other truths exist in this world in many areas of life, but salvation and how to receive it can absolutely be both known and received from God, but not unless we obey the gospel (II Thess. 1:8; I Peter 4:17).

Be gravely careful. There are well-intentioned people saying things that are false, even though they sincerely believe them. There are charlatans who make a lot of money posting far-fetched ideas on social media. And there are sad and lonely people trying to get attention from unsuspecting, trusting souls who simply don't know any better than to believe them.

Please, please, at every turn, learn to ask yourself, "Who told me that and why did I choose to believe it?" Without strong, healthy skepticism, and true biblical knowledge, any of us can fall prey to the wolves about which Jesus warns us in Matt. 7:15-20, to be wary of false prophets who seem to be harmless!

Peter implores us to, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour," I Peter 5:8. That devouring usually begins when we choose (consciously or unconsciously) to believe things which are false. We can know truth, but it often takes patient wisdom and always takes biblical guidance. See Him, not the world and its falsehoods. As Moses taught, "...seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.

Ray Wallace