Buy the Truth and Sell It Not

My father believed that truth is often hard to find. I agree. Some truths are certainly *easy* to find, God's truth for instance. All we need to do is open the pages of His book, wherein we find what Jesus described as, "Thy word is truth," in John 17:17. Am I out of coffee? To find the truth, look in your cup. Is the maple tree still in the front yard? Look out the window. Thousands of truths are confirmable every day, but many real, genuine, actual truths take far more mental effort. Who was right, Calvin or Arminius? Does the book of James belong in the Bible? Was Jesus really raised from the dead? What must I do to be saved?

Then we face many important, but not necessarily religious questions. Who is telling the truth on my TV? For whom should I vote? What candidate was telling the truth when he took his oath of office? Who can I trust with our national defense, state finances, local issues? Should I buy stocks, bonds, gold or silver? Are we alone in the universe, or are other beings from other places real? You get the picture. It is literally a life-long endeavor, cradle to the grave, to seek truth and confirm it.

I was once at a congregation I visited years ago, when a member there taught, rather emphatically, in a Bible class, "Man cannot know truth." I was stunned. I later reminded Him that Jesus, Himself, said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." WOW! According to Jesus, no truth, no freedom. One the other hand we would say, "Know truth, know freedom!"

It is not merely an academic question. God taught us through Paul's ***pen, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap,*** Galatians 6:7. One might ask, "But how do I know what life path to choose? I read my Bible, but there are so many other important choices in life, "Should I homeschool my children? What translation of the Bible is worth my time? Since God has given us the ability to choose our leaders, for whom should I vote? What vocation should I choose? Which person should I marry?" These are vitally important questions, and the list goes on ad infinitum.

Solomon wrote**, *"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding,"*** Proverbs 23:23. Truth, wisdom, instruction and understanding must be attainable or God would not have commanded us to attain it.

But where shall we look? All over the internet we find self-styled gurus telling us what they all claim is *the genuine truth,* yet many are stating diametrically opposed positions! The answer is deep and multi-dimensional, but let's start in two places. The first is to spend more time actually reading God's word (not merely reading or hearing what another person *says* about God's word. The second is to follow God's wisdom given to Moses when His people were asking the very question, "How shall we know who is telling the truth?" After all, internet is full of wise-sounding gurus!

This answer will certainly not cover all searches for truth, but it will help us pare down options. When a person tells us something that does *not* turn out to be true, that person is *not* worthy of being followed. That person's assessment of the world around him or her, is not true, not wise, not instructive, and certainly not understanding (back o Proverbs 23:23). Don't follow people with a bad track record on important topics!

Be gravely careful whom you decide to follow as an earthly advisor, in any endeavor, religious, political, financial, professional and family matters. ***Indeed, oftentimes, truth is hard to find, but we must find, buy it and sell it not!***

Ray Wallace