

## The Millennial Search for Truth

Jesus had the conversation with Pilate, “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice,” but Pilate merely dismissed the concept saying, “What is truth?” The modern debate about the search for truth is not new. Josh McDowell (the former representative of Campus Crusade for Christ who has spoken to over ten million people in 118 countries) wrote a book on *truth* entitled *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (rated the 13<sup>th</sup> most influential evangelical book since WWII). He also wrote a Christian best seller, *The New Tolerance*, which challenges the notion that humans cannot know real truth. More recently, John MacArthur has written a book *The Truth War* which addresses the same cultural problem of a nation that is coming to believe that humans cannot know truth. (In fact, if you make the statement that humans cannot know truth, how do you know *that* statement is true?)

The founding fathers of our nation realized that truth and knowing truth is vital for freedom and liberty in our physical nation. In a speech to the Virginia Convention in 1775, the fiery preacher/patriot Patrick Henry said:

*"It is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth -- and listen to the song of that siren, till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those, who having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it might cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it."*

Mr. Henry understood an essential truth: the human mind tends to shrink back from unpleasant truths. Why? As he states, some truths create an “anguish of spirit” which can be very uncomfortable.

Early Christians realized from scripture that knowing truth is vital for spiritual freedom from sin. Yet we must remember that Jesus, Himself, said, “*You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*, (John 8:32 NASB).” Free from what? Sin! The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to Timothy, “...*God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,*” (I Timothy 2:3, 4). Later in the same book, we see that God has sent blessings to “...*be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*” We aren’t allowed to create **our own version** of the truth (II Peter 1:20-21). We are simply called to recognize and submit to God’s truth.

I want to know God’s truth so I can be free. How about you?

-Ray Wallace