

TRUTH World Views & God's Ways - Why Jesus did *not* come to condemn

Zechariah 8:1-8; John 8:1-11

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John 8:1-11 is a familiar passage, used by many. But, we need to note that it may not be part of the original text. It is used and accepted by most, however. I will quote from the Greek Amplified translation of the Bible: "*John 7:53 to 8:11 is absent from most of the older manuscripts, and those that have it sometimes place it elsewhere. The story may well be authentic. Indeed, Christ's response of compassion and mercy is so much in keeping with His character, that we accept it as authentic, and feel that to omit it would be most unfortunate.*" Note, that in this passage, Jesus does *not* condemn the woman.

Let's read another passage in **John 3:16-17**. You've probably heard this passage. It is a very familiar passage. Jesus came *not* to condemn the world. Jesus came to save the world. In the world today, we often pick out the passages we like – those passages which fit our belief, or understanding. These verses above focus on the fact that Jesus did *not* come to condemn. Today's culture likes to justify its actions, and behaviors, as o.k. -- even though Christians would call many behaviors deviant and sinful. Today's culture says that Jesus does not condemn adultery, homosexual activity, divorce and remarriage, same-sex marriage, abortion, euthanasia, and so on. In fact, two-thirds of Americans approve of premarital sex today. They say Jesus does not condemn – Jesus loves. The world says the only ones who condemn are Christians, as well as religions like Islam, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witness. They say Jesus only loves.

In one way, the world is correct about Jesus. He did not come to condemn. But, there is a reason why Jesus' purpose was not to condemn, and that reason is found in the very next verse (**vs. 18**). In verse 18, God tells us that we are all condemned *already*. Jesus doesn't need to condemn us, because we are *already* condemned – at birth. We are all already on our way to hell. **Romans 3:10-12, 23** tells us that we are all sinners – therefore, condemned to hell. I am a pastor, but still a sinner. I'm not perfect. **Ephesians 2:1-3** tells us that we enter this world separated from God, dead in our sins. We all know that from the moment we are born, we are on a path toward our death one day. We are all condemned to death. And it is for this reason (because we are all condemned to death, and condemned to eternal separation from God), that Jesus came -- to sacrifice Himself, so that those who will trust in Him will enjoy eternal life in His kingdom. In **Ephesians 2:4-9**, we read that Jesus came to save us, to restore us, to reconcile us back to a relationship with God. Jesus came to offer forgiveness, grace, and mercy. In **John 14:6**, we read where Jesus tells us that only Jesus can save us. Christians are not perfect people. Christians are sinners who have been forgiven by God. As Christians, it is our hope that all will recognize their need for forgiveness, and trust in Jesus.

Why only Jesus? Why trust only in Jesus? Why Christianity? Why follow only the Christian faith? Why not Buddhism? Why not Hinduism? Why not Mormonism? Why not Islam? Why not Jehovah Witness? Why Christianity? What sets Christianity apart?

Maybe some of you are familiar with the story of Jesus in His last week on earth – His trial, and His death. Or, maybe you saw the movie "The Passion of the Christ," which was about His last week on earth. In **John 18:38**, the Roman leader Pilate asked Jesus: "What is truth?" It is very important that each of us understand, that even though many faiths have good intentions, and do good works, and show love—still, only one faith (Christianity), is based upon actual evidence—the resurrection of Jesus from death. Therefore, Christianity has evidence (circumstantial evidence, physical evidence, and actual eyewitness evidence), of Christ's power over death. No other faith has any evidence of power over death.

As many of you already know, I have written many studies on various subjects (including one on truth, titled "Ethics/Morality/Truth"), and I want to share a part of my paper here. Let's take an issue like slavery, and see how truth comes into play.....

'While responding on the issue of slavery, and whether it is right or wrong, Abraham Lincoln said: "*It is unworthy, and ultimately untenable, to have the most basic questions settled, and unsettled, by votes. The nation needs a foundation more durable than the sand of opinion.*"

There is no such thing as different truths – you have your truth, and I have mine. To be truth, it must be exclusive – the only real, true, authoritative position on an issue. For truth to be exclusive, it cannot come from the sand of opinion. Truth must derive its source from an exclusive test, such as a scientific proof of nature, which cannot be denied, or the exclusiveness of the being (God), who has power over life and death, and who created all nature.

Here, Abraham Lincoln recognized (as true Christians also recognize), that we are all humans, all equal under God, all sinners, and all in need of Christ. Without Christ, we all face eternity separated from God, and in isolation forever (hell). God’s Word is truth. Even though slavery existed when the Bible was written, God would have us abandon the practice, and treat each other with love, which is exactly what happened in time – with help from great Americans, like Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, who both were assassinated for following God’s ways.

So...why Christianity, and not some other religion? Christianity, and only Christianity, offers the truth. In **John 14:6**, Jesus said so, and He proved His power over death – true power over life, and death. This means that you won’t find the truth concerning life and death in public schools – because no Christianity is allowed in public school – no Jesus allowed – only human reasoning is allowed in school (My book “*Science, Origins, & Ancient Civilizations*” is subtitled, “Scientific Evidence Withheld from School Textbooks”). I want to give you today’s definition of truth in school today:

‘The post-modern approach to ethics is the metaphysical system known as existentialism, where the act of rational thought produces freely chosen decisions and actions. This view states that as long as the beliefs, decisions, and actions are freely chosen by each individual, they are valid for that person, and therefore, authentic. Persons who follow moral guidelines, which they did not create for themselves, are considered inauthentic. Christians, therefore, are not authentic.

This, of course means (according to this modern way of thinking), that people who humble themselves before Jesus, and follow His ways, when it is against their natural flesh inclinations, are supposedly inauthentic. Their decisions, and their opinions, are somehow not valid, according to modern thinking. Modern thinking (existentialism), states that what a person must achieve is rational thinking without using the Bible. So, we conquered Hitler on the battlefield, but we have lost the war in the classroom, which has adopted metaphysical existentialism (our rational thought is above God’s), which Hitler had popularized.’

Today, the problem is not only in our secular, public, government schools. The problem of defining truth is now also in our Bible seminaries, and colleges. A recent survey showed that only 45% of pastors who attended seminary and Bible colleges, have a biblical worldview. Less than one half of the pastors who attended Bible colleges, believe that moral truth is based on the Bible, and the teachings of Jesus (God, in the flesh).

Jesus proved He is the truth, the only truth, the exclusive truth. HOW? What is so exclusive about Jesus? Well, Jesus told His disciples that He would have to die, and then three days later, that He would arise from death. The disciples didn’t know what to make of this. But, Jesus did arise from death, exactly three days after His death, and then He spent several weeks visiting with hundreds of people. These testimonies of those people who were eyewitnesses to Jesus rising from the dead, are the New Testament part of the Bible (**1 Cor. 15:1-8; Acts 1:1-8**). Jesus did all this to prove to us (a doubting public), that He is God, that He is the way, and, that He alone gives truth. No one else in all of history has ever proved any supernatural power over life and death – only Jesus. Only Christianity has the evidence of truth. Other faiths have nice people, with nice philosophies, and are well-intentioned, but have no evidence of any power over death.

Jesus did say:

I am God – “I and the Father are One” – **John 10:30**.

“My kingdom is not of this world” – **John 18:36**.

This world is Satan’s domain – **Job 1:7; Matthew 4:8-9; John 12:31**.

“I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me.” – **John 14:6**.

So, Jesus did not come to condemn anyone, but, Jesus did come to divide people. We read in **Luke 12:51-53**, that Jesus will divide those who repent (change), and put their faith and trust in Jesus (the saved), from those who excuse sin (the condemned).

In **Luke 6:27-36 and Matthew 4:17**, Jesus called all people to treat each other with love and patience, but Jesus never called people to accept deviant behavior as moral, or to celebrate immoral behavior with pride. This even includes our own children and loved ones, if they embrace homosexual actions, or practice sex outside marriage, or engage in abortion, or whatever else God calls sin. We must love everyone—do them no harm, be patient with their actions as we pray for them to repent (change), because they are lost. But, we must not accept, embrace, celebrate, or promote their sinful activities. We must pray they will seek forgiveness from God, and when a person does repent, we, as Christians, must also forgive them. If I truly love someone, I will want them to spend eternity in heaven with God, and not be condemned to hell. As it is written, in **John 5:25-29**, we are all going to spend eternity in either God's kingdom, or in hell. To show true love is to share the truth with people (the Gospel, the Good News), so that they may be in God's kingdom, and not remain separated from God—hell is *separation* from God and being *isolated* for eternity.

Some people think because God loves us all, that everyone will be going to heaven, except for those society condemns as evil, or except for those few that we are certain God condemns as evil (the Hitler types). Actually this is exactly backwards. Without Jesus, **all** people are condemned to hell (**John 3:18**), whether Hitler, or the little old lady next door who bakes cookies for all her neighbors. God loves us, and shows this love for us by coming to earth as Jesus, and taking all our sins upon His flesh body (**2 Corin. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24**), dying to save us from that eternal damnation we are all otherwise headed for.

In **Acts 1:11**, the Bible informs us that Jesus is returning. The Bible also told of Jesus' first coming, as the Savior. But, Israel didn't recognize Him when He came the first time. Will we be ready when Jesus returns? Are we ready now for His return – right now? In my book "*Revelation, Apostasy, End-Times, & "This Generation,"*" I devote a few pages to the period of time some people speculate that Jesus will now return. Of course, no one knows when Christ will return, except God. The year 2012 represented the last great wave of speculation of the end of the world when Jesus will return. 2012 was supposed to be the end of the world, and the return of Christ. So they said. Who is "they?" Ancient Inca people, in their calendar, predicted that the end of this cycle of earth would be in 2012. Also the age of Aquarius (Zodiac) was triggered in 2012. And, 2012 was the date when the ascent of the star Osiris (the Egyptian god), reached its highest point in the sky – the highest point since the "First Time," or what the ancient Egyptian peoples called the date of creation, some 13,000 years ago. The Hindu faith also targeted this date of 2012 as the reversal of the 26,000 year precession cycle.

Let's think for just a moment about this date—2012. If 2012 had been the actual date of Christ's return, and the end of the world as we know it, then... according to the interpreting of Daniel's 70th week (**Dan. 9:24-27**), there would have been seven years of tribulation prior to this end. This would mean that we were actually in the tribulation in the years prior to 2012. I know many people who actually feel they are in the tribulation right now—actually in the last seven years right now! Furthermore, if you are one of several groups of people who believe in what is commonly called "the Rapture" (where all Christians are supposed to be taken into God's kingdom *before* the tribulation of the end times—*before* the last seven years), then you missed it – oops (assuming, of course, that the end occurred in 2012—which it didn't). The "Rapture" will occur, but occur only after the resurrection of the dead in Christ (**1 Thess.4:13-18**).

Concerning the rapture, one thing is for sure though...this should be our way of thinking – **anytime now** – not a date, but anytime now. This is because we could die—anytime now. Our own personal end time could be any time now. 2012 was interesting, and new dates are being speculated about all the time, but I wouldn't put my faith in a date. Put your faith in Jesus. The point is Jesus is returning – anytime now. And, Jesus will return, *not* to condemn, because we're already condemned to hell. Jesus is returning to harvest those who are saved into His kingdom—those who are "born again" (**John 3:1-6**). Only those who have trusted their lives to Christ (those who have put their trust in Jesus), only true Christians will spend eternity in God's kingdom. Jesus is

returning to administer justice. I have written in my books that I believe 2012 could have been used by the beast (antichrist) to begin to acquire power—that the end is near, and that people will be looking for a “savior” (note: little “s”), as the world spins out of control. But, remember, the antichrist will only imitate Jesus—we must look for the truth—only Jesus, and not the imitation—not the false faiths.

It is normal for *non*-Christians not to understand the ways of God – not to understand truth.

It is normal for *non*-Christians to rationalize, and philosophize, about what to believe, and not understand truth.

Our job, as Christians, is to spread the truth (the Gospel), that even though we are all sinners, even though we are all condemned already—the truth is that we **can** be forgiven by God. Jesus paid the price on the cross *already* – for everyone who will trust in Him. We can live in God’s kingdom, and not be condemned to hell, if, we will change our worldly ways, and seek Jesus only—trust in Christ. I cannot save myself. No doctor, or heart and lung machine, can give me everlasting life. There is only one truth—one truth with exclusive evidence—evidence of the power over life and death. Jesus Christ is the only way. He is the Rock. His way—not my way. Not the popular way, not the world’s way, not the way of the sand of opinion. Jesus said, “I am the way, the **truth**, and the life, No one comes to the Father but by me” (**John 14:6**). And Jesus said, in **John 8:32**: “the truth shall set you free” – not some empty philosophy.

Be sure and check out the 2068 series on the end of this world...Jesus return sometime before 2068 –
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