

AGD: The insanity of the world is unsettling...Evil done in the name of Allah and inability of some to call it evil or connect it to Islam...we can't call evil evil and we can't discuss sin?

Psalm 11

I take refuge in the Lord

Threatened—run away, evil attacks, destruction is easy

The Lord is still present and ruling

The truth is still the truth—and God looks for it

Believers may be tested but they are still loved

God hates the wicked and those who love/use violence

(David asks for intervention and judgement against the wicked—and its coming—"fire and sulfur and a scorching wind")

God still judges between right and wrong.

God is still holy and loves righteousness—those who seek Him will behold His face

It seems that our culture has become unmoored from the truth. We have lost our way and misplaced our compass. We didn't like that it always pointed North so we bent and altered it before we just set it aside.

Civilization and our comforts distance us from truth. Shrink wrapped meat blinds us to slaughter. TV desensitizes us to all kinds of sin. Busyness draws us away from what is important.

Unless it is great evil we can barely recognize anything as sinful.

- Lies come easy when there is no truth to compare it to. We are sinners—still.
- Boundaries on sexuality are overwhelmed by what feels good
- People abandon family and God for selfish pursuits

Is not one indication of our "truthlessness" how we struggle to deal with evil. People who kill and destroy confound us—"just party and have a good time" we can't believe someone could be moved to act out what they believe.

- We are wayward children.

Yet God is still Father to us (Present, faithful, identity giving, guiding, providing, protecting (Shade), challenging, correcting (Cemetery))

At one point the American Chestnut tree dominated the American forests accounting for about 25% of all trees east of the Mississippi. Then a small thing caused a major change. A chestnut blight decimated the king of the forest. Now, most chestnut trees don't live but a few years.

Likewise truth used to matter to us as a nation but a small thing has undermined its importance in our lives.

I can't say where it precisely began but somewhere along the way we started to believe that truth is dependent on the person. Perhaps it was a realization that emotions are relative to the person but when we got to thinking that what is true for you may or may not be true for me we lost our minds.

Most Americans, at least the ones speaking in public, no longer believe in absolute truth...

- "That's your opinion"
- (Maybe reason got in the way—when it replaced revelation)
- We disregard the Bible and the God of the Bible
- We've come to believe that being nice is being good
 - People don't want a Holy God who places demands on their lives or hates their sin
 - We want an indulgent Father or no father at all

There are still American Chestnut trees. Some huge ones still stand. And there are people like Clint who are working to preserve them. Likewise, there are people who still hold onto the truth. There are people who are working hard to resist the blight of moral relativism.

If we can't call evil evil then why should anyone believe what we say about good?

If we are not sinners, why would we need a Savior?+

But regardless of what we do with it, the Truth is still the truth. It just does not benefit us unless we live upon it. God has not waived on what is wrong or right, we may stumble and fumble, but God is not confused.

We need to fight for the truth. We need to use reason and evidence but our most convincing witness is the type of lives that we live. You say you know you are to be a good parent but are you? You say you should be honest but are you? You say God is holy but do you live like a Holy God is judging you?

We might be more comfortable with a God who looks the other way or makes exceptions for our sinfulness.

But God is a holy God who hates sin. One day His kindled wrath against sin will consume it and all those practicing it. But God is also forgiving. God doesn't redefine sin so that we are let go without consequence. God calls sin what it is—evil, rebellion against Him and His authority—and God requires payment for it.

You may have forgotten but your sin and mine cost the life of Jesus Christ. Our sin breached the intimacy between the Holy Father and Holy Son and Holy Spirit.

And in that willingness to be wrong by what is wrong in us God reveals His love.

Regardless of changing moral preferences or clever excuses or justifications the truth is that we are sinners.

And that undeniable truth would be the undoing of us all for God is absolutely holy, but in His Father's heart God is also inexplicitly forgiving—still.