



"Your truth, My truth and Truth with a Capital T!"

August 3, 2025

DEVOTIONS AND NOTES FOR AUGUST 4-9

Monday, August 4 Read Psalm 25

Try memorizing vv.4-5 and repeat them today in an on-going prayer. Why is humility (v. 8-10) so essential in understanding God's truth and walking in God's way? What does this challenge say about human beings? What does it say about our relationship with God?

Tuesday August 5 Read Proverbs 30:1-14

The humility of the writer here is striking, recognizing how little he knows (even by human standards!) and the realization that whatever we think we know or understand must be seen through the lens of our relationship with the omnipotent God. How does human arrogance (and sin!) contribute to our sense that we can discern on our own what is real and true?

Wednesday, August 6 Read John 14:1-9 & John 6:29

According to a recent Pew study, 56% of *evangelical Christians* believe that there are many paths, *other* than faith in Christ, to God and eternal life! How do you think they square such a belief with this passage? How do we stand firm for the singularity of Christ while still being gracious to others? Note that many believe good works are sufficient to commend us to God. How does the John 6 passage challenge that?

Thursday, August 7 Read Ephesians 6:10-20

The weight of ancient armor rested on the hips, held in place by the belt without which the panoply could not be worn effectively. Given that image, how is unwavering truth essential to our purpose and witness (reflect a bit on yesterday's reading here)? What about Jesus is foundational to your own life of faith? Remember here too that the image Paul paints is a reminder that we exist as active combatants against evil and untruth!

Friday, August 8 Read 3 John 1:1-12

The churches to whom the Elder is writing are struggling with a break-away element who have evidently set up their own church and have rejected the traditional teachings about Jesus (see Ch.2). Building up loving relationships in the church appears to be a mark of "walking in the truth." Note the contrast in v.9. Here, what is the mark of living outside the truth? What is Diotrephes' sin and what might that show us about our own times?

Saturday, August 9 Read John 1:9-10

One way to understand Jesus is as a lens or light to how we view and understand the world and what is true. Given what you know of Jesus, why does the world fail to recognize him? What are some of the ways we redefine Jesus in order to live the way we want to?

Sermon Notes

"Your Truth, My Truth and Truth with a Capital T"

1. What God declares true is the only reality with eternal significance.

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" -Psalm 25:4-5

2. The 'Good News' is that there is a Way for failed people to live purposefully and eternally.

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." -John 14:6

3. The challenge is that there is One way and we don't get to decide what it is!

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him." -John 1:9-10



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PART ONE: "WHAT IS TRUTH?"

1. **Read John 1:9-10** Share: "One way to understand Jesus is as a lens or light to how we view and understand the world and what is true." Discuss:
 - *Given what you know of Jesus, why does the world fail to recognize him? What are some of the ways we redefine Jesus in order to live the way we want to?*
2. **Look at Sermon note #1 and Psalm 25:4-5.** As a group, come up with a definition of "truth." How does that line up with how truth is understood in our culture today. How flexible is it? Why or why not?

PART TWO: TRUTH WITH A CAPITAL T

1. Read John 14:1-9 & John 6:29

Share: "According to a recent Pew study, 56% of *evangelical Christians* believe that there are many paths, *other* than faith in Christ, to God and eternal life! "

- *How do you think they square such a belief with this passage?*
- **Look at Sermon note #2.** *Have you ever thought that the "Good News" is not solely about getting to heaven but of having a Way to live fully? Why then is the truth of Jesus important to the decisions and priorities we set today?*
- *How do we stand firm for the singularity of Christ while still being gracious to others? Note that many believe good works are sufficient to commend us to God. How does the John 6 passage challenge that?*

2. Read 3 John 1:1-12 Share: "The churches to whom the Elder is writing are struggling with a break-away element who have evidently set up their own church and have rejected the traditional teachings about Jesus (see Ch.2). Building up loving relationships in the church appears to be a mark of "walking in the truth." Note the contrast in v.9.

- *Here, what is the mark of living outside the truth? What is Diotrephes' sin and what might that show us about our own times?*

3. Read John 1:9-10 One way to understand Jesus is as a lens or light to how we view and understand the world and what is true. Discuss the following:

- *Look at Sermon Note #3. Given what you know of Jesus, why does the world fail to recognize him? What are some of the ways we redefine Jesus in order to live the way we want to?*