

LIVING IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD	Recorded: 1 October 2023 Posted: 8 October 2023
VALUES: what is important	TRUTH & Meaning

Key Scriptures

Acts 2:42-47

Matthew 4:23

John 1:1-14

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 4:18-19

2 Timothy 3:15-17

John 13:34-35

John 16:6; 8:31-32

For the first time in some 2000 years, we have to learn how to do mission in a place that is post-Christian rather than pre-Christian.

That is our task as a church today. If you assume that the people in our city have a fundamental understanding of Christianity

- you don't know our city
 - you don't understand Christianity
- Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Pastor Mike linked this sermon to the sermons on

MRI – Missional, Relational, Incarnational

- The **missional** mindset is to go and lift-up Christ
- The **relational** mindset asks the question: "What is truth?" & the first thing that comes to mind is Jesus
- The **incarnational** mindset means that the gospel will sound and look differently in all cultures

& also the sermon on

- **Everybody** Is Welcome
- **Nobody's** Perfect
- & New Things Are **Possible**

One of the key passages for understanding & living this is **John 13:34-35**

- it is not enough to understand this
- it is not enough to memorize this
- We are called to live this out
- If we don't live love we are just making a lot of noise

The gospel is a lot wider, deeper, longer, larger, bigger than we often imagine.

It is about following and obeying Jesus in everything.

- Why is it important that we grasp this?
- What are some of the ways we (either personally or as the church) tend to do this?

TRUTH & Meaning

God is truth & has made his truth known in his word & in his son Jesus.

- What is the difference between saying the Bible is the truth & saying Jesus is the Truth?
Why is this distinction important?

To call the Bible God's revealed truth –

- Scripture not only gives reliable historical knowledge about how God acts in the daily world;
- it gives unique theological knowledge about what God is like and why He acts.

We hold Jesus Christ as the key to understanding truth and meaning.

And unless these are kept together,

- truth will be empty
- and meaning blind.

Truth is a loaded word in our culture. For truth to be truth, it must serve nothing less than the full and holistic meaning found in the Triune God's active love for the world.

So what we do & how we live has to be rooted in who Jesus is

- Why?
- What does this look like in your experience?

If you want to know who God is... look at Jesus.

If you want to know what it means to be human... look at Jesus.

If you want to know what love is... look at Jesus.

If you want to know what grief is... look at Jesus.

And go on looking until you're not just a spectator,
but you're actually part of the drama which has him as the central character.

N T Wright

- What do you think of what Wright says?

There is more to God's truth
There is more to Jesus
There is more to what the Spirit of God
is doing
then we comprehend

We don't have God all figured out
We don't know him perfectly

We can look at & study & think about
The gospel of Jesus Christ
The kingdom of God

The fullness of what the Spirit is doing

But, however much we learn & know
however we express it,
the gospel – the kingdom – the work of
the Spirit is

wider,
deeper,
longer,
larger

than anything we can comprehend
God is God and we are not.

