

Truth-seekers

What is Christianity all About?

Christianity is about truth-seeking. Consider what Jesus said in response to Pilate's question, "Are you a king?" Jesus replied, "You say it correctly! For I am a king! This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears and listens to my voice" (John 18:37). Those who follow Jesus Christ must pursue truth on all levels. The problem we face is that we are living in a culture that does not appreciate truth.

Truth vs. The Modern Notion of Tolerance

One of the highest values in modern culture is tolerance. Yet the definition for tolerance has changed over time. The 1966 Random House Dictionary defines tolerance as, "a fair and objective attitude towards those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc., differ from one's own." The current Miriam Webster online definition is, "a willingness to accept feelings, habits or beliefs that are different from your own." The key word is "accept." Our society demands that we accept belief systems that are not our own. This simply doesn't make logical sense. It does not make logical sense to attempt to live by two opposing belief systems. This is why modern culture now rejects Christianity. Jesus made the claim to be sole source of truth.

Who are the Wise Men?

The visit of the wise men highlights the importance of truth-seeking. The wise men were members of a priestly caste from Babylon. 500 years before Christ, the people of God were exiled from the holy land to Babylon where they remained in captivity for 70 years. They brought with them the Hebrews Scriptures that became part of Babylonian culture. The wise men had access to the Scriptures, and read them with great care.

How Do They Know What They Know?

The book of Daniel contains a prophecy regarding the time of the Messiah is the appearance. One of the passages of Daniel contains a conversation between the angel Gabriel and the prophet Daniel, where the angel says, "No therefore and understand: from the time that the word went out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of the Messiah, the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and 62 weeks of years (which equals 483 years)" (Daniel 9:25). The wise men took this prophecy seriously and simply did the calculation, coming to the conclusion that the year of the Messiah's birth was at hand. The Wiseman searched for truth in the Scriptures and found Christ!

Are You Seeking the Truth?

The kingdom of God is open to anyone who seeks after it. Are you seeking truth? Most people would say, "Yes I am!" But the reality is found not in our answer to the question, but in our actions.

Here are some self-reflective questions:

Regarding the Scriptures:

Are you reading the Scriptures on a daily basis?

Do you read them with thoughtful care?

Are you learning progressively?

Regarding Your Personal Outlook:

Is your personal outlook on life being shaped by God?

When was the last time your opinion on something changed?

Are you allowing someone else to shape your opinions for you? (This is not good.)

Regarding Your Relationship With God:

Are you allow God to feed your soul with your daily (spiritual) bread?

What is God currently teaching you?

What is you don't know about God?

(and in knowing you don't know it, you realize that this is the next thing to learn?)

Regarding Your Relationship With Others:

Are you engaging in conversation with other truth-seekers?

Are you allowing others you trust to evaluate your current opinions?

Are you asking others what they are learning?

All of these are activities of truth-seekers.

Final Thoughts

Jesus once said that the kingdom of God was like a treasure hidden in the field, that when a man found it, he went and sold everything he had in order to buy the field. The kingdom of God is a treasure worth finding, and it can be found by anyone who is willing to seek after it. In fact, if you do not seek you will never find. But if you do seek with a genuine heart, you will certainly find the treasures of the kingdom of God.