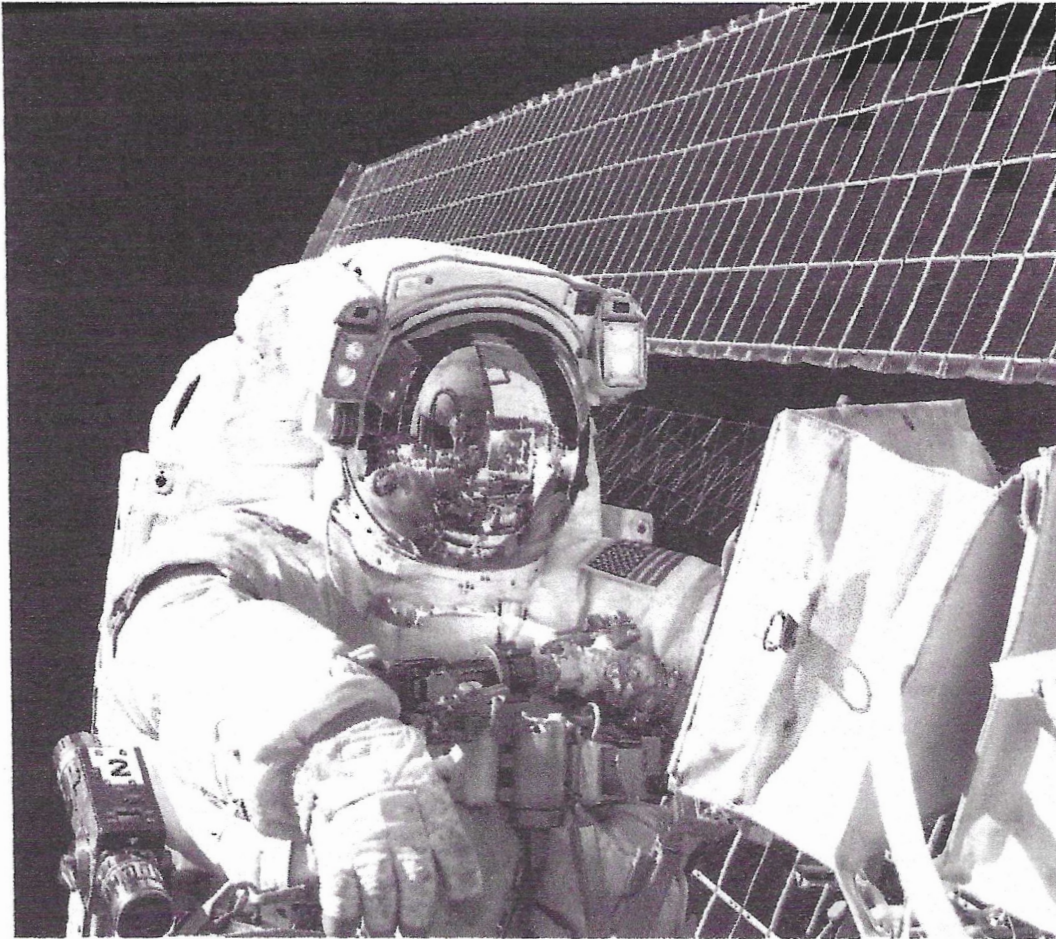


12 N Bible Study - April 12, 2023

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Does Absolute  
Truth Exist?



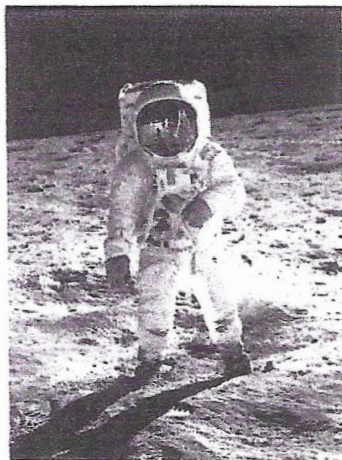
QUESTION 1:

***What fascinates you most about  
the space program?***



## THE POINT

Truth is found in  
Jesus Christ.



## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. It's amazing to think that our smart phones today have more computing power than the bank of computers NASA Mission Control had in 1969.<sup>1</sup> That doesn't mean landing on the moon was an easy task. Some 400,000 engineers, technicians, and scientists were involved in this mission. Because critical calculations had to be precise, they were checked and rechecked. Everything had to go absolutely right for the mission to be successful.<sup>2</sup>

As Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin prepared to land the lunar module, it would've been disastrous if Mission Control had told them, "Execute the moon landing however you think best. Don't worry about the calculations; just do whatever feels right."

Disastrous? Yes, because the truth could not change at the whim of the astronauts. We want this form of absolute truth in science and physics; yet, many believe truth is subjective and personal and doesn't apply to behavior or religious beliefs. Jesus Christ shows absolute truth exists in all aspects of life.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

### JOHN 18:36-38A

<sup>36</sup> **"My kingdom is not of this world,"** said Jesus. **"If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."** <sup>37</sup> **"You are a king then?"** Pilate asked. **"You say that I'm a king,"** Jesus replied. **"I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."** <sup>38a</sup> **"What is truth?"** said Pilate.

Hours before His crucifixion and death, Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate. Pilate had been appointed the governor of Judea, and he represented the most powerful figure in the world, Tiberius (14 BC–AD 37). Pilate could have seen Jesus as a rival, someone trying to usurp his authority, but Jesus made it clear: "My kingdom is not of this world" (v. 36).

As the true king, Jesus said He had come into the world to testify to the truth (v. 37). Pay close attention to the subtleties in this passage. No more weighty or consequential definite articles may appear in the whole of Scripture than the definite article "the" in these verses. Jesus might have said the purpose of His life was to testify to my truth. Or a truth. Or some truth. Instead, Jesus referred to *the* truth.

With a skeptical tone Pilate asked, "What is truth?" (v. 38a). This Judean governor may have been the world's first post-modern relativist, and he lived some two thousand years ago! Some commentators have attempted to impose an interpretation that Pilate was sincerely seeking truth. This is not the case. Pilate had neither time nor interest for truth. Jesus testifying to "the truth" was merely frivolous to Pilate.

Here was Jesus—"the truth" (John 14:6)—standing before Pilate, and yet Pilate could not recognize the truth.

#### QUESTION 2:

***How does our culture answer the question: "What is truth?"***



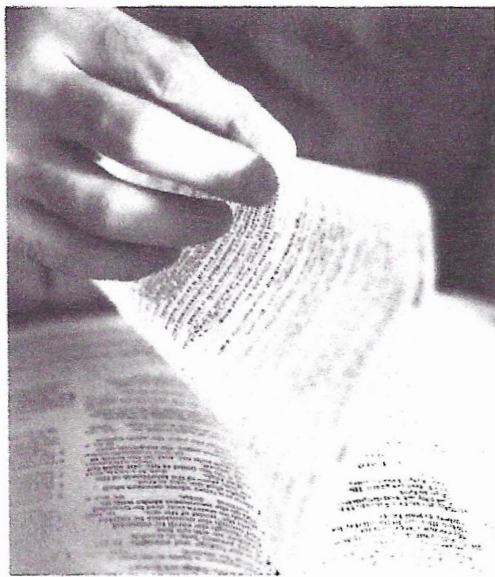
## THE POINT

How can we know what truth is? Truth is what corresponds with reality; it corresponds to what we know to be accurately represented in the world around us. Truth exists whether we recognize it or not. Pilate didn't recognize the truth in front of him, yet the truth was there. Truth is absolute—true for all people at all times and in all places—or it is not truth at all.

Absolute truth is from God. Jesus came “from the Father, full of grace and truth” (1:14). Jesus said, “Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (18:37). The Source of truth is God and when we connect to the Source—God—we hear the voice of Jesus (truth). Therefore, we cannot know truth without God.

## JOHN 1:14-18

**<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, “This was the one of whom I said, “The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.”) <sup>16</sup> Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, <sup>17</sup> for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him.**



The first eighteen verses of the Gospel of John are a powerful prologue to the life and teaching of Jesus. Jesus' life did not “begin” at His human conception or birth; He is God Himself, who has always existed and is the agent of creation. But in the wondrous and amazing power of God, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (v. 14).

Because Jesus came from God full of grace and truth, “we have all received grace upon grace from His fullness” (v. 16). Because of Jesus we have received one blessing after another. By knowing the absolute truth in Christ and dwelling with Him, we go from strength to strength and receive grace upon

grace. When we follow Christ we live in victory regardless of our outward circumstances.

Knowing Jesus Christ is the only way to know truth. Earlier, John wrote that Jesus, "the true light," came into the world, but "the world did not recognize him" and even "his own people did not receive him" (John 1:9-11). Our world is in trouble because it has not recognized or received Jesus Christ—the light and the truth.

**QUESTION 2:**

***How are grace and truth demonstrated in Christ?***

In a society held together by the Judeo-Christian ethic, the principle of absolute truth holds sway. Even those who are not ardent followers of Christ have an understanding that absolute truth exists. But as society has pushed further away from the tenets of Scripture and has driven Christ ever further out of the people's midst, moral relativism has crept in and is now taking over. Without the light of Christ and the truth of Scripture He gave us, culture has joined Pilate in questioning what truth is.

Truth—absolute truth—exists. The laws of science and math teach us that. Moral and ethical truth also exists—and we know that when we encounter Jesus who is the truth.

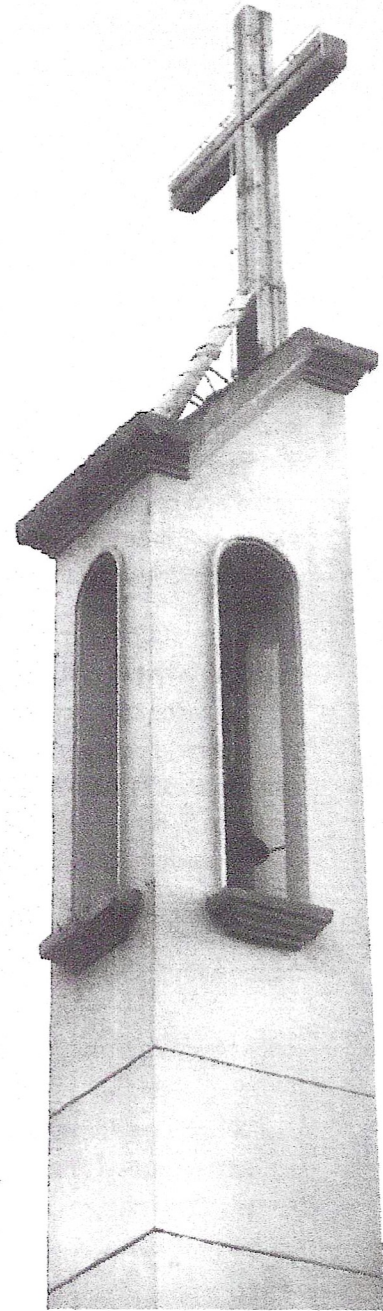
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**JOHN 8:30-32**

**<sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.**

**<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples.**

**<sup>32</sup> You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**



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APRIL 12

## Center Your Heart

*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will  
do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like  
the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.*

PSALM 37:5-6 (NIV)

WHEN YOU CENTER your heart on God, you can be sure  
that He will guide you in countless ways. If you require  
His guidance, pray: "Lord, you know my troubles.  
Guide my thinking and help me do things Your way."

*Dear Lord, thank You for Your guidance and direction.*

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