

John 17:6-17

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. "Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. "For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

What Is Truth?

Perhaps the greatest question ever asked fell from the lips of Pilate as he queried Christ, before the cross. His question, like an airport light-beacon, still circles the shifting space of human values. His question, like a lighthouse beacon still pierces the dense fog of human thought His question: "What is truth?"

Jesus answered that very question in His prayer recorded in John 17. He prayed for those who would believe in Him, that God would: "Sanctify them by your truth. **Your word is truth.**" Consider what Jesus believed about the Scripture as absolute truth: He believed in the literal interpretation of the Genesis account of creation and that Adam and Eve were two uniquely created individuals, brought together in marriage by God as the first family (Matthew 19:4,5). Jesus believed in a literal interpretation of Noah, the ark and a universal flood (Matthew 24:37-40). He believed in Jonah being swallowed by a fish and spit up three days later (Matthew 12:40,41). He believed in the prophecies of Daniel, and called him by name (Matt. 24:15). He believed in the actual supernatural destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:29) and the turning to salt of Lot's wife (verse 32).

Jesus was so committed to the authority of each word of Old Testament Scripture as God's source of Truth for man that he made this bold declaration: "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle (the two smallest strokes – a letter and a vowel mark of the Hebrew alphabet) will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." He further stated: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Luke 21:33), and explained how His Word would be passed on to the New Testament writers: "when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." (John 16;13-14).

Therefore, Jesus endorsed the Old Testament writers as well as the New Testament writers, as giving man God's very Word. Jesus made commitment to the entire Word of Truth (the Bible) a test of freedom from sin and error - John 8:32, a test of discipleship -John 8:31, a test of prayer life - John 15:7, and the standard of future judgement – John 12:48.

As Harold Lindsell once wrote: "Of all the doctrines connected with the Christian faith, none is more important than the one that has to do with the basis of our religious knowledge. For anyone who professes the Christian faith the root question is: "From where do I get my knowledge on which my faith is based?" . Lindsell answers the question with a historical fact: "From the historical perspective it can be said that for two thousand years the Christian church has agreed that the Bible is completely trustworthy; it is infallible, inerrant." (*The Battle for the Bible, Zondervan Publishing*). The Jesus of the Bible believed it so, do you?

What is my response:
