

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Matthew 24:24 NIV)

Some of this article will be a review to many who attend NUMA services in person or online. It helps me to review what I have learned. Some “old” truth, and some “new.” I hope you find it beneficial.

Jesus said, **“All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”**

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. (from John 18:37,38) We see two things from this passage.

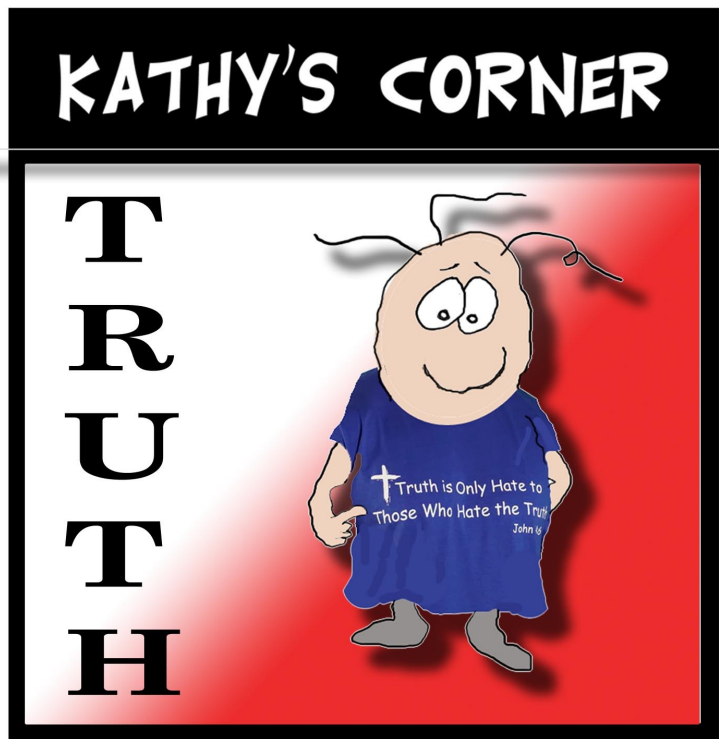
1. Truth is recognized by those who love it. It reminds me of one of the tees that Paige wears: ***Truth is Only Hate to Those Who Hate the Truth.*** (available from www.numatees.com)

2. It is likely that Pilate was living in a confused society similar to ours that thought truth was relevant to individuals and how each perceived it.

If we aren't very deliberate about what we hear and what we look at, we open ourselves to the deception that is rampant in today's culture. Has there ever been a time in America where there has been so little of truth from governments, schools, and all systems of authority and influence including our churches? In fact many of the mentioned are actively promoting lies. At best, they are just silent about what is going on.

One of the standout things about NUMA Ministries has always been their desire to present the truth. “Putting the truth in place of lies.” This was also the ministry of Jesus as He undid the works of the devil. Many “churches” are obligated to stay clear of certain subjects because of their agreement with the government due to their 501c3 status, which was actually unnecessary for tax exemptions. The church already has this. Instead, the status just silences the church on crucial current topics, making it much easier for evil agendas to become mainstream. We need more churches like NUMA who are not part of the system—churches that can still expose sin and evil agendas in our world.

Such confusion and deception has resulted from so many lies. I think most of us know at least one person who is totally deceived about their sexual identity. As these people adopt the lies, they slide onto the dangerous ground spoken of in Romans 1, and may end up with a totally useless/worthless mind (reprobate). Satan is having a hay day! Scripture points out that Satan was a liar from the beginning and calls him the father of lies. The enemy uses lies because they are effective in causing doubts, deception and confusion, in creating division and controversy, in destroying faith and trust in God which is crucial to our walking in authority, power and victory. Lies can hinder or keep us from God's plans and purposes for our lives, if we believe them. Satan hates us. Satan hates God and doesn't want Him to have the glory and honor that belong to Him. Belief of lies can set up an area for



a stronghold in our minds from which satan through demonization can operate, binding and controlling us.

I find confidence in the provisions of God to His people. One such is the *belt or girdle of truth*—part of the armor of God described in Ephesians 6:10-17. The King James says, “**Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth.**” The Strong’s definition of loins (Greek 3751) mentions the area of *procreative power*, our reproductive capacity—our fruit bearing capacity—everything that God wants to birth through us. Were it not for the belt or girdle of truth, this area would be most vulnerable having no firm ribs or such to slow the enemy’s weapon. In his book *When the Enemy Strikes* Charles Stanley pointed this out, also the fact that this is the area of the digestive system needed for nourishment and to get rid of waste. Spiritually, we all know the importance of eating spiritual food. It is equally important to get rid of what doesn’t belong. As our false beliefs and faulty doctrines are brought to the light of truth, we can discard them.

Truth is of course, a person. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” He is a great provision—the living Word. As a Person Who is the same yesterday, today and forever, the Truth also doesn’t change. There is no “your truth,” “my truth,” or “relevant truth.” The same Truth is for all in every situation. Christ is all and in all. Jesus is the Truth—the living Word. If we aren’t very familiar with the Word of God, we lack an effective filter for discernment and the plumb line for building properly.

Now, our Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, brings the appropriate Word to our remembrance, and shows us things to come. **When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.** (John 16:8 CSB) More than likely, Holy Spirit will be using the Word to get this Truth across.

In the book I mentioned by Charles Stanley he details a lot about the armor of God. He also suggested putting on the armor **mentally and verbally** before getting out of bed in the morning. I am including one paragraph of his suggested prayer. I think this would benefit each of us:

Lord, by faith here’s what I’m doing right now to prepare myself for the coming day. I’m putting on the belt of truth. I ask You to make it very clear to me what I am to accept into my life and what I am to reject. Help me to see clearly the motives of others as they deal with me and converse with me. Let me walk in Your truth, making decisions and choices according to Your plans and purposes for my life.

Stanley continued the prayer addressing each part of the armor. He ends with the following that should resonate with all of us:

*Father, I want to be fully clothed with the identity of Jesus Christ today. I am in Christ. He is in me. Help me to fully realize and accept that He is my Truth, my Righteousness, my Peace, my Savior, the source of my faith, and the ever-present Lord of my life.
I want to bring glory to Your name today. I ask all of this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*