

“SEEING CLEARLY”

Heroes, Part 3

January 23rd, 2011

Too often we have no urgency to take care of anything except my family & me in my little world

A hero is someone who does the right thing, in the right way, at the right time

By acting at the wrong time or in the wrong way, we can make things complicated

Some people Resist Christianity because we haven't done the right thing, in the right way, at the right time

Often what we hear & see is very different than what we read in the Bible about what Christianity is to be about

1 Samuel 18:6-9 (NIV) “When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.’ Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. ‘They have credited David with tens of thousands,’ he thought, ‘but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?’ And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.”

1 Samuel 24:1-3 (NIV) “After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, ‘David is in the Desert of En Gedi.’ So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.”

Looking at the circumstances you would think God had answered David's prayer

1 Samuel 24:4 (NIV) “The men said, ‘This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’”

All of us have made decisions based on our ability to read circumstances

Circumstances are circumstances - not a green light or a red or yellow light – just circumstances

What Is True? How Do You Determine What Is True?

The dominant belief in our society regarding truth and morals is “Relativism” - what is true for you may not be true for me

(not on outline, but please put on a slide)

Relativism

Everything in life is negotiable, and “nothing can be known for certain except the things you experience in your own life.”

“I feel it’s wrong – for me – but people have to decide for themselves whether it’s wrong for them; I can’t push my beliefs on others.”

“Just because it’s wrong for you doesn’t mean it’s wrong for me.”

A absolute Truth – that which is true for all people, for all times, for all places

When you accept an objective standard for truth, you adopt a moral and ethical viewpoint that guides your choices of what is right and what is wrong

Sin offers instant gratification (that’s why so many choose it) vs long-range benefits

When one rejects truth as an objective standard, their view of life becomes distorted → easily accept counterfeits → begin to make wrong choices → suffer the consequences

Psalm 11:3 (KJ) “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

Someone may appeal philosophically to a “relative” model of truth (truth is defined by the individual; it is subjective & situational), but they expect others to treat them according to absolute truth (it is objective and absolute)

(Not on message outline – but on slide)

“There are no relativists who expect to be treated relatively.”

There must be a standard of right & wrong that exists outside, above, & beyond ourselves

(Not on message outline – but on slide)

#1 slide – can we use the real Jeopardy slide?

New Hope

Jeopardy

#2 slide

Final New Hope Jeopardy Category

“Standards”

#3 slide

Final New Hope Jeopardy Question:

In this Paris suburb the “standard” is set for all the world

(Jeopardy music plays)

#4 slide

Final New Hope Jeopardy Answer:

What is “The International Bureau of Weights & Measures”

(Not on message outline – but on slide)

If an objective standard of truth and morality exists, it cannot be the product of the human mind (*or it will not be objective*); it must be the product of another Mind.

New slide.

If a constant and unchanging truth exists, it must reach beyond human timelines (*or it would not be constant*); it must be eternal.

New slide.

If a universal rule of right and wrong exists, it must transcend individual experience (*or it will not be universal*); it must be above us all.

New slide.

Yet, absolute truth must be something – or Someone – that is common to all humanity, to all Creation.

The requirements for a standard of truth & morality are found only in one person - God
Deuteronomy 32:4 (KJ) "He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He."

Truth is not something God decides; it is something He is - He does not change
James 1:7 (NIV) "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

It's not what I know, nor what you know, that makes a thing wrong; it's what God is that makes it wrong.

It is vital that every child, teen, and adult have a healthy fear of God
Proverbs 9:10 (NIV) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, & knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

The fear of God is a profound awareness of God, and reverence for who He is and what He can do

My Next Step Today Is...

- I accept there is absolute truth found in God's Word
- God's Word is my source for giving me the clarity I need to see what needs to be done and what to do – not just my circumstances or my culture
- I plan to attend the special Sunday night worship, Stories & Songs, on Jan 29th. (If you need childcare, please indicate the number of children & their ages: _____)