

“The Trouble with the Truth”

We are about two months away from the presidential election, and the “mud-slinging” is in full progress. Candidates claim superiority over their opponent and dig up dirt like gold diggers in California during the gold-rush. I do understand when people feel overwhelmed, disgusted, angry, helpless, ... and the list goes on. How is one to deal with this continuing bombardment? Glad you asked. ;o)

In about another week we will be able to have a look at the platforms of both parties. Ultimately, in this Constitutional Republic we do not only elect a President, but whoever that individual is, they bring their party’s platform to be used as guidelines for laws and policies that will govern our homeland for the next four years – at least. One definitely hopes that there is some truth to be found in those platforms and the planks from which they are construed.

What kind of measuring stick should we use to make an informed decision who we will give our vote? I propose a measuring stick that sticks with the truth. For years now I have heard people referring to truth in this way, “Well, you have your truth, and I have my truth, let’s just agree to disagree.” I call “baloney” on that since the other term is not fit for a pastor’s column. Truth is neutral and unwavering. Our forefathers had it right, when they required that people would swear that they “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.”

While others might wonder, Christians have the great advantage to conduct their life in accordance with the Bible. Jesus states in John 14:6, “I am the way. the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through Me.” (MEV) And just six chapters earlier Jesus provides this encouragement to his followers, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” (John 8:32, MEV)

That is why it is so important to realize that there is not an undefined number of ways to GOD, just ONE, Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, who died on our behalf, so we can go without punishment and enter into an exclusive eternal relationship with Father GOD. All that is needed is that we accept Jesus the Christ as our personal Savior and LORD.

How then shall we define truth? Let us go back to the red print. Jesus states in John 17:17, “Sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is truth.” (MEV) In case you are wondering the Greek term for “Word” is *LOGOS*, the eternal unchangeable word of GOD, and hence the eternal unchangeable truth, given to us by GOD in the writings of the Bible.

John, the Gospel writer that is providing the scriptural foundations today, begins his very Gospel with these words, “In the beginning was the Word (*LOGOS*, all through this passage), and the Word was with GOD, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were created through Him, and without Him nothing was created that was created, In Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ... He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, He gave the power to become Sons of God, to those who believed in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:1-4 and 11-13, MEV)

As believers in CHRIST, we are sons and daughters of the One and Only Most High GOD, and we owe it to Him to not only pray, “... Your will be done, Your Kingdom

come on earth as it is in heaven..." but we are charged to conduct our life to His standards and advance His standards in our society, since we received from God "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," which are some of inalienable rights GOD is providing for us, GOD and not the laws of this nation.

So let us study the Word of GOD as described in Psalm 119 – the 22 devotions are still available on Facebook, and make GOD's Word the measuring stick for any political party and their desire to have us support their platform. Scripture was once called Canon, which means "a general law, rule, principle, or criterion by which something is judged. Sounds to me like GOD has given us what we need to make wise decisions come November.

In CHRIST's Unfailing Love
Pastor J. Paul <><