

# The Bulwark

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

## TO TELL THE TRUTH

From 1956 to 1968 Bud Collyer served as the host to the television program, "To Tell The Truth". Celebrity guest panelists were set about the task of finding out who among a trio of people all claiming to be the same person or the master of a specific task was telling the truth. Over the past several years, there has been a revival of the show, hosted by Anthony Anderson. With the same intent, finding out who is telling the truth. In conjunction with the need to determine who is telling the truth, the Washington Post newspaper "awards" up to four "Pinocchio's" for politicians who are less than truthful.



Truth is defined as being, "the body of real things, events, and facts, actuality; the state of being the case, fact". The Bible definition of truth is basically conformity to fact. Despite what many philosophers of the day try and assert, truth is not relative, it is actual and factual. The apostle John, in his writing puts a premium on the word truth. Twenty-five times truth is recorded in the gospel of John. In the three epistles John wrote, truth appears a combined sixteen times.

In the eighth chapter of the book of John, truth is the central thought as Jesus engages in a debate of sorts with some Pharisees and others. They had challenged Jesus, think-

ing He was making false claims about Himself. The verbal sparring continued for some time and built in intensity. In verses thirty-one and thirty-two the following is found. "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Some of those listening came to believe in Him, while others cast derision.

Undaunted, Jesus kept asserting the truthfulness of what He was saying. Notice further in John chapter eight. "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth; which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do." (v. 40) "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me?" (vs. 45-46) Short answer, there were some who simply refused to consider the facts in evidence (see John chapters two through seven; assorted miracles performed)

Not much has changed from then and now. One might offer that today those who claim to be following after God are oft times seen discounting the evidence, that may be a difference. Maybe not so much, remember Jesus received His stiffest opposition from the Pharisees and scribes; the religious leaders of the day. It is so amazing

at how many today, who claim to be following Jesus, yet reject truth. "Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth." (John 17:17) Twisting, bending and ignoring the Scriptures when it doesn't meet their standards.

Jesus is referred to as the "Word" and the "Word" is referred to as "Truth". Jesus is the very embodiment of truth. One must always "fact check" that which is being taught and practiced. From the paradigm of if it conforms to the Scriptures? "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:17) We have been provided with truth, let us uphold the truth and speak only the truth. (wbe)

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