

TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH

Revelation 1:4-8 & John 18:33-37

Rev Dr Ray Francis

11-24-2024

TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH

- As we explore scripture and build our relationship with God, what are the truths we should be testifying to as Disciples of Jesus Christ?
- Lectionary – End of Year B (last Sunday of the liturgical year)

TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH

- Established in 1925, **Reign of Christ (or Christ the King) Sunday** may be just a year away from its one-hundredth birthday, but it is still a newcomer in comparison to other celebrations on the liturgical calendar.
- According to [Cyril of Alexandria](#), Christ "has dominion over all creatures, a dominion not seized by violence nor usurped, but his by essence and by nature.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_Christ_the_King

Christ, the Savior of the Earth – Revelation 1:46

- **1. Grace and Peace from the Eternal One:**
- "Who is, who was, and who is to come" (1:4) – A reminder of God's eternal nature.
- **The Seven Spirits:** Representing the fullness of God's presence before His throne.

- **2. Christ as the Faithful Witness:**
- "The faithful witness" (1:5) – Christ's testimony and commitment to truth.
- Christ's resurrection as the promise of life beyond death.

Christ, the Savior of the Earth – Revelation 1:4-6

- **3. Christ's Sovereign Authority:**
- **Ruler of the Kings of the Earth:** Christ holds dominion over all earthly powers.
- "He loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood" – A message of redemption.

Christ's Coming and His Eternal Reign – Revelation 1:7-8

- **1. The Return of Christ in Glory:**
- "He is coming with the clouds" (1:7) – Christ's return will be visible to all.
- **Universal Revelation:** Every eye will see Him, even those who rejected Him.

- **2. Christ's Divine Identity:**
- "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (1:8) – Christ's eternal nature as the beginning and the end.
- **The Almighty** – A declaration of God's omnipotence and sovereignty over all creation.

The Kingdom of Christ – John 18:33-36

- **1. Pilate's Question:**

- Pilate asks, "Are you the King of the Jews?" (18:33) – A political inquiry, questioning Jesus' identity.

- **2. Jesus' Response:**

- Jesus challenges Pilate's understanding: "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" (18:34).
- Jesus does not confirm or deny the title directly but focuses on the nature of His kingship.

The Kingdom of Christ – John 18:33-36

- **3. The Nature of Christ's Kingdom:**
- "My kingdom does not belong to this world" (18:36) – A spiritual kingdom, not one of earthly power or politics.
- **Kingdom's Authority:** If it were of this world, His followers would resist, but instead, His kingdom is from another realm.

Christ as the Testifier to the Truth – John 18:37

- **1. Jesus' Mission:**

- "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world" (18:37) – Christ's purpose is to testify to the truth.
- His kingship is bound to the truth, not to political or earthly authority.

- **2. The Truth and Its Followers:**

- "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" – True allegiance to Christ is marked by a willingness to hear and follow His truth.
- Christ is the embodiment of truth, and His kingdom is established by truth, not force.

Testify to the Truth – What About Us?????

- Exploring the call to bear witness to the truth of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus as the embodiment of truth and the message we are to share with the world.
- **Key Scriptures:** Revelation 1:4-8 & John 18:33-37.

The Nature of Truth – Jesus as the Truth

- **. Jesus' Declaration of Truth:**

- "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).
- Christ is not only a teacher of truth but the very embodiment of it.

- **2. The Call to Live the Truth:**

- As Christians, we are called to reflect the truth of Christ in our lives, actions, and words.
- The truth we testify to is a person, not just a set of ideas.

Jesus' Purpose – To Testify to the Truth

- **1. Jesus' Mission:**

- "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (John 18:37).
- Christ's life, death, and resurrection all point to the ultimate truth of God's love, salvation, and Kingdom.

- **2. The Truth as Revelation:**

- Jesus reveals God's truth through His words and actions, showing us how to live according to God's will.

The Kingdom of Christ – Not of This World

- **1. Jesus' Kingdom is Spiritual:**
 - "My kingdom does not belong to this world" (John 18:36).
 - The Kingdom of God is not a political realm, but a spiritual one that exists wherever God's truth reigns in the hearts of believers.

- **2. The Contrast Between Earthly and Divine Kingdoms:**
 - Earthly kingdoms are based on power, control, and influence, but Christ's kingdom is based on truth, love, and peace.

Christ, the Faithful Witness – Revelation 1:5

- **1. Christ's Testimony:**

- Jesus is the "faithful witness" (Revelation 1:5), showing us the way to God through His words and actions.
- His life is the ultimate testimony to the truth of God's kingdom.

- **2. Our Call to Be Witnesses:**

- We are called to reflect Christ's faithfulness and testify to the truth of His salvation in our own lives.

Living in the Truth – Following Christ's Example

- **1. Truth Transforms Us:**

- When we embrace the truth of Christ, it changes how we live, love, and serve others.
- Living in truth means rejecting lies and falsehoods, and aligning ourselves with God's will.

- **2. The Role of the Holy Spirit:**

- The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth, helping us to discern and live according to God's Word (John 16:13).
- Through the Spirit, we are empowered to testify to the truth in a world that needs it.

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. The Great Commission:**

- "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).
- We are commissioned to spread the truth of the Gospel to all nations.

- **2. Living as Ambassadors for Christ:**

- As Christians, we represent Christ in the world, and our lives should testify to His truth.
- Our words and actions should point others to the transformative power of the truth of Jesus Christ.

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - His Brief History**
- **“Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”**

When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said: “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.”

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - Life before Christ**
- **“I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.”**

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - Coming to know Christ**
- **“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’**

“‘Who are You, Lord?’ I asked.

“‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ He replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of Him who was speaking to me.

“‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - Coming to know Christ**
- **“‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.**

“A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.”

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - After Coming to Christ**
- **“Then [Ananias] said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth. You will be His witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.’**

“When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ He said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about Me.’”

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - Obedience to Christ**
- **“‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in You. And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing Him.’**
- **“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”**

Testifying to the Truth in the World

- **1. Paul as an example (Acts 22:1-21) - Following Paul's example**
- **Opening / Relationship**
- **Life Before Christ**
- **How you came to Christ**
- **Your life after putting your faith in Christ**
- **Your personal statement**
- **(prayer)**

Testify to the Truth – A SUMMARY

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to testify to the truth, which is embodied in Christ Himself. Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), and our mission is to reflect this truth in both word and action. The truth we testify to is not merely intellectual knowledge but a living reality that transforms our lives. As Jesus came to testify to the truth (John 18:37), we too are sent to share the good news of His salvation and kingdom. His kingdom, unlike earthly kingdoms, is rooted in truth, justice, and peace (John 18:36). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live in and speak this truth to a world in need of redemption. Our testimony is not only in what we say, but also in how we live, as we embody the love, grace, and justice of Christ in every area of life. Ultimately, our calling is to be faithful witnesses of Christ, sharing His truth with a world that desperately needs to hear it.