



Life Group Study Notes

“The Human Right: Truth is Authoritative”

Ps. James Lowe - April 22, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who disciplined you when you were growing up? Were they consistent?
- Who established the rules in your home when you were a child? Did they enforce them?
- Were you more of a rule-keeper or a rule-breaker when you were a child?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Key Quote:

Hebrews 1:1-4 ESV *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

God speaks truth.

God has been speaking to humans since he created the human race. He has particularly spoken through the ancient Hebrew prophets, especially through their writings which are known to us as the Old Testament.

His Holy Spirit has been wooing human hearts to himself from the beginning, convicting us of our sin and pointing us back to God. God’s communication has consistently aimed at reconciling us back to himself and to one another.

Our own sin has estranged the human race from God, clouding our thinking and our vision and understanding of God, and muddling our hearing of God’s message to us. We need God to speak to us and to break through our sin barriers.

God’s Son is truth.

Jesus is none other than God the Son, who joined himself to human nature. As God he is true and can only speak truth. It is impossible for God to lie. Jesus is the embodiment of truth.

He has spoken to us about God, our human condition, and God's purposes for us and our world. He has especially spoken to us about how he made it possible for us to be fully reconciled to God. He provided insight to why he would die on the cross (for our sins) and rise from the dead (for our salvation).

All this has been faithfully recorded for us in the writings of the New Testament. Jesus is still speaking to us through these Scriptures. The Holy Spirit works to confirm to us the veracity of the things spoken to us by Jesus and about Jesus. He does this through his invisible working upon our consciences and minds. And he does this by providing various signs that point to Jesus.

God's truth is authoritative.

God is the creator, and as such is the ultimate determiner of the creation's destiny. He is creation's owner and has complete authority over it. He is its ultimate judge.

Jesus, being fully God, inherently possesses authority over creation and humanity. Jesus, being fully human, was given this authority as a human because of his impeccable, sinless life of perfect obedience to the Father. On the basis of his authority he will one day at the resurrection judge every person who has ever lived.

This same level of authority has the right to declare us forgiven of all of our sins because of what Jesus did for us. Jesus with all authority declares us adopted as God's children when we turn to God, trusting in his atoning death. He authoritatively sends the Holy Spirit to be with us to help us to know God and obey him. And he will authoritatively reward us one day for every act of obedience to him, however seemingly small and insignificant the deed might seem to us.

Let us therefore embrace Jesus and his words, trusting that they are true and full of divine authority.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Why is it appropriate *and* good that Jesus is authoritative?
- How frequently do you read the Gospels and think deeply about Jesus?
- Is there anything specific that Jesus is speaking to you about these days?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for his truthfulness and reliable authority.
- Ask God for a greater revelation of Jesus' authority.
- Ask God to work a greater level of trust in us regarding his truthfulness.