

Word notes Sunday 15/01/2012 Tony Hodge
Jesus, The Truth

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 14:1-6

Jesus said he was the Way and the Truth. Like being the Way, being the Truth is more than just speaking truth or being true to himself and God – though these are important – Jesus IS the Truth. Philosophers have many theories of truth – what truth is or means, some of straightforward such as thoughts or words that correspond to reality, others more worrying such as truth being what we decide it's going to be – witness the totalitarian states of the second half of the last century and still around today.

Truth to us probably means 1 The state of being in accord with fact or reality; 2 Having fidelity to an original or to a standard or ideal; or 3 Constancy or sincerity in action or character. Jesus is certainly true in these ways but to be the embodiment of Truth means something more.

Like God the Father Jesus speaks only truth, being God's Word made flesh (John 1:1 & 14) tells us this. In combination with being the Way, Truth means Jesus is the true Way – in fact he goes on to confirm this in John 14:6 by saying no one comes to the Father except through him.

Jesus is also the Truth in respect of the Law and indeed the only way to fully satisfy the Law rather than Mosaic Law (Heb 10:1) – the fullness of God's provision of Grace is only found in Jesus.

Jesus is also the yes and amen to all of God's promises to us. The word translated as "truly" or "verily" is the same word as is translated "amen" when at the end of a sentence and is directly related -- in fact, almost identical -- to the Hebrew word for "believe" (amam), or faithful. Truth, agreement, belief and faith all come together in Jesus.

In the end it all comes down to trust. Who can we trust in – philosophical or scientific truth – that's variable, Jesus is faithful and true, God is unchanging. Build your life on the Truth in Jesus and your house will withstand the storms, Halleluiah!

Godson summed it up quite well: "Things of the world can be true and yet change but only God IS unchanging Truth."

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Has anyone ever been fooled into believing something that was not true? What happened when the truth came out?

Jesus said: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31, 32). What truths have you found in Jesus that have set you free and from what?

Jesus said those words in the middle of a discussion with some Jews about his identity after he refused to condemn the woman caught in adultery. What message does this have for all people? How do we get the truth "out there"?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Elevator witnessing: You have 3 minutes in an elevator (lift) to share something (anything) engaging about your life in Christ – have a go!