

## Minister's Website Article June 2021 Wrigton and Lynch Chapels

In times like this, it seems to me, people look for certainty. Maybe that's you. You want truth. Maybe Covid, and the subsequent fallout, has left you uncertain. Jobs aren't secure. Families aren't secure. A long life isn't secure. Where do you turn? We live in a multi-belief world. The motto seems to be, 'There is no absolute truth. Do what you feel is right for you, and that's it.' Even when it comes to God, the attitude is, 'Believe what you like. It's all the same in the end.'

But is that right? Some things have to be true, don't they? Up is up. If you walk off a cliff, the truth about gravity happens. In the Western Mountains of California, some old folk remedies persist. Some are good, some useless. If I go on holiday to Western California, and go for a trek in those mountains, and develop a dangerous disease, I hope the person who treats me doesn't just give me a spoonful of honey. If I'm really sick I don't want honey. I want a doctor who knows what he's doing.

If I went to my doctor, and he said it really doesn't matter what medicine I use as long as I believe, that won't fill me with assurance. Certain truths are important in medicine. Honey doesn't cure cancer. A herb will not heal heart disease. If you play around with medical truths, you end up with your hands full of corpses.

I stand behind the truth of the Christian gospel. The Christian faith is truth, not just feelings. Yes, in a Christian walk with Jesus, feelings do matter. If you don't ever dance, or laugh; if you don't feel accepted, forgiven and loved, you've missed a significant part of the Christian faith. But, at the heart of this all is truth. Jesus said, 'I am the truth.' In a sense, every time you say, 'Two plus two equals four,' Jesus is there, because he is the truth. As you teach your children the truth about history, goodness, and so on, Jesus comes, because he is the truth.

The bible says that when Jesus came it was the truth. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' Yet so many misunderstand. Frankly, if a Christian isn't clear about truth, then his or her faith will die or become a dull habit.

There's something else here: the truth of the Christian faith is verifiable. Those who think the Christian faith is intellectually inferior simply haven't examined the data. Anyone who reads Jean Paul Sartre without reading CS Lewis should consider their education inferior. Anyone who scoffs at the Christian faith and has not read Pascal, Aquinas or Calvin, ought to understand that the data is insufficient or biased in its outlook.

This stuff - this Christian faith about Jesus - is true. It's not just true - it's verifiable. Truth is truth. Either Jesus is God or he's not. You can't have it both ways. The truth of the Christian faith is verifiable. Look at the data. You might not buy into it, but you ought to at least know what it says.

That's my certainty. In this time of Covid fog, I stand by the Christian truths. Jesus is God, come to live as a human. He died to set us free from our own sin, and rose again to call us to follow him as Lord, and his Spirit lives in us to guide us. We have an ultimate home, but the truth of heaven is with us now. He will never let us go. If you want to know more, make contact through this website.

Every blessing

Duncan