

# Light Brings Salt

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## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*



### **Absolute Truth in a Changing Culture**

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**Premise:** Absolute Truth Exists and there are DOCTRINES, truths of the Word of God, that must not be compromised.

In almost all "moral" areas of life, compromise is the name of the game. In secular universities today, truth is no longer seen as an absolute that can be pursued and discovered.

And certainly this applies in the fields of philosophy and "religion." The dominate view is this, **Truth is what you make it. Right and wrong are what you perceive them to be.**

Situational ethics prevails when trying to find a course of moral action. Since each event has its own set of circumstances, there are no measuring guidelines for certainty of moral response.

This all of course impacts heavily on the proclamation of the Bible which makes it perfectly clear that there are absolutes because there is an eternal, unchangeable Law-Giver who does not vary in His righteous demands.

In many ways the secular universities have won the battle for control of Western culture. With no absolutes the Scriptures are certainly not reliable as a source of morality or eternal truth in their view! They, the absolutes of Scripture, have no place in the debate.

In fact the Bible is now seen through the glasses of fallible humanism. The supernatural has been removed from its

pages. The prophets and apostles were politically and mystically driven to fabricate twisted versions of history. The only thing left at best, so the humanist say, is a very uncertain, confused and jumbled history, void of any authenticity and certainty.

**How is this possible? How did it happen?** [many oblivious, frog in the pot]

One of the main reasons I believe is that we have moved from antithetical type of reasoning which was common in the past to what is linear reasoning/thinking.

Antithetical reasoning says that there is a right and that the antithesis is wrong.

There is a heaven and the antithesis is hell/LOF.

There is a Kingdom of God and the antithesis is kingdom of Satan!

All through the Word of God we find that kind of reasoning.

Good example is **1 Jn. 5:12.**

So we have left antithetical reasoning, thinking which says this is right and that is wrong; left that and moved to linear thinking which says you have an idea, another has an idea, and an other has an idea and they're all equally valid and all are really morally neutral.

If your idea is right for you, its right for you. That's fine! but it may not be right for me.

That kind of thinking is okay if your picking out color schemes for something, or the style of clothes to wear, the type of car to buy; but that kind of thinking/reasoning has no place in areas of morality at all.

There are observable consequences to this kind of thinking. Since absolutes have been removed from the arena of human ethics, the world of reason has been turned upside down.

Right has become wrong, and wrong has become right! Exchanged truth for a lie. (Isa. 5:20)

From this a new humanism has emerged what some have labeled "Sympathetic Humanism."

The sympathy now goes to the bank robber who got shot in the leg while holding up the bank; the homosexual who flaunts his sin before society and gains almost unlimited government assistance and support.

Victim mentality rules. No one has to muster any personal responsibility or common sense!

Self-fulfillment and self-actualization now overshadows reason. Whatever is considered to be good for me becomes a driving personal force. **There is no God to answer to.**

To live fully for the now is the consuming emotion. "You only go around once!" "Grab all the gusto!" "Life is short. Play hard!" These and other slogans exemplify the cultural attitude towards life, existence and yes, even to the lack of an eternity!

Thirty years ago Francis Schaeffer, the great Christian teacher, saw our day coming and warned of its impending disastrous consequences for the Church and the Gospel. He wrote concerning the philosopher Hegel:

He opens the door to that which is characteristic of modern man: truth as truth is gone, . . . relativism [now] reigns. Man will keep his rationalism and his rebellion against God, his insistence on total autonomy even if it means he must give up his RATIONALITY. (In *Escape from Reason*)

Historian Arnold Toynbee wrote that:

... of the 22 civilizations appearing on the stage of world history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the present moral condition of the United States. [1979]

I would ask is it better or worse today than it was in 1979?

Unfortunately, the philosophies that dominate our culture today are hammering away at the Church and its truth with a deadly effect.

Those who are aware of what is happening must sound the alarm. Be the modern day watchman on the wall to alert and warn other believers of what is happening and the consequences.

If we are to be alert and provide the warning at some point a decision must be made about what are the truths that cannot be compromised and are to be held to at all cost.

The answer to this I believe is very simplistic: "No biblical doctrine can be forfeited or given away!"

But for argument sake, you would say that there are certain cardinal truths of Scripture, doctrines clearly taught by the word of God that we must hold to at all cost!

If not then we begin to forfeit our foundation of truth.

The President of Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Steven Muller asserted that;

Failure to rally around a set of values means that we are turning out highly skilled barbarians. Society as a whole is turning out barbarians because of the discarding of the value system it was built on .... To restore its lost value system, America would have to return to its faith in God.

There can be no value system where there is no supreme value that transcends man's natural self centeredness where one man's values are esteemed as good as another's'.

We'll highlight some of these cardinal truths in this study that we cannot in any way compromise without compromising the foundation of truth.

Is there anything more **unpopular** today than to assert, dare I mention it, doctrine, the teaching of the Word of God. This is true even in churches not just out there in the culture. Why??

BD says this is true and that is wrong!

Jesus is the Son of God that which opposes that, teaches against that is antithetical to it and is false.

Why is BD so opposed today? Because it divides, discriminates!

What's the difference say between a Baptist and an Episcopal? Beliefs, BD.

Jesus said that "*I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the father but through me.*" Jn. 14:6

Acts 4:12 says that "*salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*"

1 Tim. 2:15 tells us that "*there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*"

If these absolute statements are true, and they are, then they rule out all others that man holds to as ways to God, such as Buddha, Muhammad, Krishna or any other man derived religion.

One of the views heard quite often today is that all religions are like spokes on a wheel, they are all attached to the hub. Then they say, God is the hub and all religions fundamentally lead to the same God!

If you hold to the truths of the Word of God and attempt to live them, there will come a time, sooner than latter, when you will become illegal, you will become considered anti-social.

Already if you say in most public settings that this is right and that is wrong, that is show some discernment, you are labeled, your called a **B I G O T**.

Judge Roy Moore was sued by the anti-American ACLU for displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom foyer. He has been stripped of his judgeship and now they are trying to strip his right to practice law in Alabama.

The judge has written a poem which sums up the situation today in this country quite well.

**America the Beautiful, or so you used to be.  
Land of the Pilgrims' pride; I'm glad they'll never  
see.**

**Babies piled in dumpsters, Abortion on demand,  
Oh, sweet land of liberty; your house is on the  
sand.**

**Our children wander aimlessly, poisoned by  
cocaine  
choosing to indulge their lusts, when God has said  
abstain  
From sea to shining sea, our Nation turns away  
From the teaching of God's love and a need to  
always pray.**

**We've kept God in our temples, how callous we  
have grown.  
When earth is but His footstool, and Heaven is His  
throne.  
We've voted in a government that's rotting at the  
core,  
Appointing Godless judges who throw reason out  
the door,**

**Too soft to place a killer in a well deserved tomb,  
But brave enough to kill a baby before he leaves  
the womb.  
You think that God's not angry, that our land's a  
moral slum?  
How much longer will He wait before His judgment  
comes?**

**How are we to face our God, from Whom we  
cannot hide?  
What then is left for us to do, but stem this evil  
tide?  
If we who are His children will humbly turn and  
pray;  
Seek His holy face and mend our evil way:**

**Then God will hear from Heaven; and forgive us of  
our sins,  
He'll heal our sickly land and those who live within.  
But, America the Beautiful, if you don't - then you  
will see,  
A sad but Holy God withdraw His hand from Thee.**