

with Dr. Greg Evans

Resume 12 - Certainty And Fresh Starts

- **Q: What question did Pilate ask Jesus? John 18:38a. A:** What is truth?
- All search for the truth of how to live life.
- **Q: Where do we look to find truth? John 17:17; 14:6**
- **A:** The Bible, the Written Word of God & Jesus, the Living Word of God.
- Many people look in the wrong place for truth, don't find it, so they say that it doesn't exist.
- In fact, a popular worldview today is that there is no absolute truth.
- It is the worldview of post-modernism. It is the worldview that "rejects any notion of objective truth Tolerance is the supreme virtue, and exclusivity the supreme vice. Truth is not grounded in reality, or in any sort of authoritative "text" [like the Bible], but is simply constructed by the mind of the individual." Gene Edward Veith, Jr., *Postmodern Times*, 212,213.
- Modernism is the worldview that truth is based on rational enquiry, scientific discovery, and empirical evidence. That is, reason, science, and technology.
- It originated during the Age of Enlightenment of the French Revolution in 1789.
- Truth is found in reason, science, and technology.
- Pre-modernism is the worldview that truth is what the supernatural says it is.

- **Q: What should become our life goal? 1 Timothy 2:3,4. A:** Knowledge of truth.
- **Q: How can we be certain that we have the truth? 1 John 2:3,4**
- **A:** 2-part answer: 1. Keep His Commandments; and 2. Know (believe in) Jesus.
- **Q: What is the result of doing things our way? Proverbs 14:12**
- **A:** Our way seems right but it leads to death.
- **Q: Can we change ourselves so that we do the right thing? Jeremiah 13:23**
- **A:** No! Like a leopard, we can't change the way we are on our own.

- "Modernism" = "**deviation** from the ancient and classical manner."
- So, in that context, biblical:
 - **Modernism** had its human origins in **Genesis 3:6** – Adam and Eve deviated from the 'classical' manner of life; deviated from God's way of doing things; deviated from God's culture, into sin.
 - **Pre-modernism**, meaning before modernism, before Adam and Eve deviated into sin, is described in **Genesis 1:31**. All was "very good."
 - **Post-modernism**, meaning after modernism, is described in **Genesis 3:15** –

- Knowledge has increased, but mankind still deviates from God's ancient ways, modern

- **Q: What must you do to be saved – 3 key words? Acts 16:30b,31; Acts 2:37,38**
- **Repent** = recognize your need, confess your sins, change your attitude, make a U-turn in your life.
- **Believe** in Jesus = faith, trust, and obedience.
- **Be Baptized** = outward sign of an inner change that we are set apart.

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- **ILLN:** The early Christians developed a symbol made up of the letters which form the Greek word for "fish", which is ICHTHUS or ΙΧΘΥΣ.

- However, there are 2 stand-outs:

1. It is an acronym for "Jesus Christ God's Son is Saviour" (Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς Θεοῦ Ὑιὸς Σωτήρ).

- **I** = 1st letter for *Jesus* in Greek (Ἰησοῦς) (I = iota)
- **X** = 1st letter for *Christ* in Greek (Χριστός) (X = chi)
- **Θ** = 1st letter for *God's* in Greek (Θεοῦ) (Θ = theta)
- **Υ** = 1st letter for *Son* in Greek (Ὑιός) (Υ = upsilon)
- **Σ** = 1st letter for *Saviour* in Greek (Σωτήρ) (Σ = sigma)

2. Tertullian of Carthage (155-230) in his treatise, *On Baptism*, believed that it was because fish are born in water – Christians are reborn in water of baptism. (Tertullian, in his treatise *On Baptism*, makes a pun on the word, writing that "we, little fishes, after the example of our Ichthys [ἰχθύς] Jesus Christ, are born in water". Wikipedia, fish symbol)

- **Q: What does baptism symbolize? Romans 6:3,4**
- **A:** Death, **burial**, and resurrection into newness of life.
- **Q: About how many types of baptism does the Bible speak? Ephesians 4:4-6**
- **A:** One Lord, one faith, one baptism.
- John the Baptist baptized where there was a lot of water (**John 3:23**); so did Philip (**Acts 8:38,39**). Jesus was baptized in plenty of water (**Matthew 3:16**)
- **Q: Into what were the NT Christians baptized? 1 Corinthians 12:13,14**
- **A:** One body, or church or community of faith and fellowship
- **Q: What are Christians counselled to do as time nears its end? Hebrews 10:25**
- **A:** Gather together in church and encourage one another.
- **Q: In which church should we worship and fellowship? Ephesians 4:4-6**
- **A:** 1 body, 1 faith – in other words, the right 1; there is only 1.
- **Q: What are 2 characteristics of God's end-time people? Revelation 12:17; 14:12.**
- **A:** Keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus.
- This absolute truth is repeated for emphasis in the messages of the three angels of **Revelation 14:12**