



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



IS
GOD
REAL?

MESSAGE NOTES

"200 Times a Second"
Sept 8, 2024 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



"200 Times a Second"

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MESSAGE NOTES

This all-church spiritual journey is based on a question that is googled _____ times a second = *Is God Real?*

Our common search as human beings revolves around some _____ life questions:

- Can _____ be known?
- Does God _____?
- Can the Bible be _____?
- Why is there evil and suffering?

Note **John 14:1-6**

As Jesus often did, He made a clear, straightforward statement that day 2,000 years ago that spoke _____ to people then and it still does today, too.

Jesus is telling us 3 powerfully _____ things:

1. I Can Know that Truth _____

It's also popular (and totally _____) for some to claim that there's no such thing as right or wrong/truth or error...

Jesus doesn't permit such illogical, _____ reasoning about either Himself or truth.

He didn't treat truth as a personal preference, but declared that truth exists as an _____ reality.

2. I Can _____ the Truth

One of the greatest _____ repeatedly told in our 21st century world is that truth cannot be known.

This kind of reasoning is hopelessly _____...

Most people have never considered the scientific, philosophical, historical, and experiential _____ for Jesus who declared He is the truth.

God doesn't play _____ and go _____ with people.

He wants us to _____ Him (note **Matthew 7:7-8**).

Jesus _____ stated that truth can be known (note **John 8:31-32**).

He said if we become His fully-devoted followers that we will KNOW the truth, and knowing truth will be the ultimate _____ experience of our lives.

3. I Can Live in _____ with the Truth

Jesus didn't define truth as a concept, or an _____, or even a principle, but as a Person. _____.

Pontius Pilate...

...he was staring into the face of _____ truth but refused to see it (because of _____, politics, and pandering).

He refused to let Jesus shake up and transform his life, and his eternal legacy is one of having truth in his hands but _____ it with his mind and heart.

So is God real?:

- If you're here today and you're intellectually _____ and a sincere seeker after God, I invite you to reach out, embrace Jesus, take Him at His Word, and find Him to be the real reason for living.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).****MYRC.LINK/CONNECT** or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Imagine only being able to see black, white, and one other color. If you could choose, what would that color be and why?

1. Pastor Tom made clear that Jesus “didn’t treat truth as a personal preference, but declared that truth exists as an objective reality.” (**John 8:31-32**) How does this contradict the attitude of our culture and why does it make sharing Jesus with others so difficult?
2. Pastor Tom declared that, “God doesn’t play *hide and go seek* with people,” but rather wants people to know both Him and the truth. (See **Matthew 7:7-8**). Aside from the Scriptures, what are some other ways that God reveals Himself and demonstrates His love to humanity?
3. “Jesus”, Pastor Tom explained, “didn’t define truth as a concept, or an idea, or even a principle, but as a Person. Himself.” (**John 14:1-6**) How can you use your experience of Jesus as “the truth” to help lead others to Christ?
4. Pastor Tom noted that Pontius Pilot refused to see the truth, even when he was literally “staring into (its) face...because of pride, politics, and pandering.” How/When have you seen these things blind or distract yourself and others from the truth as seen in Jesus?
5. In the introduction to his book, *Is God Real?*, Lee Strobel recounts the individual stories of nine people (pages 7-9) who were adamantly opposed to the truth of Christianity but, upon investigation, ultimately said "YES!" to Jesus. What are some of the reasons they gave for embracing Jesus as truth, and what do they tell you about the needs of people in your life that only Jesus can fill?

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read the Introduction and Chapter 1 (pages 1-34) of *Is God Real?*

Not in a small group? Go to **GROUPLINK** after services today!



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Our common search as human beings revolves around some pressing life questions:

- Can truth be known?
- Does God exist?
- Can the Bible be trusted?
- Why is there evil and suffering?

Note **John 14:1-6**

As Jesus often did, He made a clear, straightforward statement that day 2,000 years ago that spoke volumes to people then and it still does today, too.

Jesus is telling us 3 powerfully relevant things:

1. I Can Know that Truth Exists

It's also popular (and totally illogical) for some to claim that there's no such thing as right or wrong/truth or error...

Jesus doesn't permit such illogical, faulty reasoning about either Himself or truth.

He didn't treat truth as a personal preference, but declared that truth exists as an objective reality.

2. I Can Know the Truth

One of the greatest untruths repeatedly told in our 21st century world is that truth cannot be known.

This kind of reasoning is hopelessly contradictory...

Most people have never considered the scientific, philosophical, historical, and experiential evidence for Jesus who declared He is the truth.

God doesn't play hide and go seek with people.

He wants us to know Him (note **Matthew 7:7-8**).

Jesus plainly stated that truth can be known (note **John 8:31-32**).

He said if we become His fully-devoted followers that we will **KNOW** the truth, and knowing truth will be the ultimate liberating experience of our lives.

3. I Can Live in Relationship with the Truth

Jesus didn't define truth as a concept, or an idea, or even a principle, but as a Person. Himself.

Pontius Pilate...

...he was staring into the face of absolute truth but refused to see it (because of pride, politics, and pandering).

He refused to let Jesus shake up and transform his life, and his eternal legacy is one of having truth in his hands but rejecting it with his mind and heart.

So is God real?:

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