

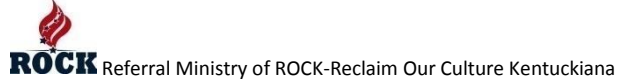
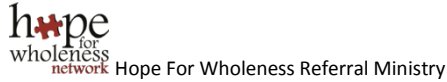


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THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. John 17:17*

Reality Vs Truth

Recently, a friend on FaceBook posted a meme which read, “A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong doesn’t become right, and evil doesn’t become good, just because it is accepted by a majority.” There was only one written response to her post, and it read, “Unfortunately, so many think they’ve cornered the market on the ‘truth.’” I have posted the same meme on my FaceBook page previously, but when I saw this particular response when my friend posted it, I began thinking about the difference between reality and truth, and how that individual might be misusing or confusing the two.

When Jesus was nearing the time of His crucifixion, He prayed to the Father about the earthly assignment He had been given. Our meditation verse this month is taken from that prayer, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” Elsewhere in John’s gospel, in 14:6, Jesus declared to the apostle Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” Earlier in his gospel, John writes of Him, “And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

There are many, many other Scripture passages speaking about God’s truth. Several talk about truth in connection with God’s mercy. We’re told in the New Testament that the truth will set us free, and to gird our loins with truth. In the Old Testament, we are told truth will be our shield, we will be judged with truth, and that His truth endures to all generations. These and dozens of other passages lead me to the conclusion that truth is absolute, definite, unquestionable, unwavering. But is that how we equate God’s truth in our daily living, or do we sometimes confuse our reality with truth?

I propose that at times exactly what we do is confuse reality with truth. I don’t believe that you will find the words ‘real’ and ‘reality’ in the Scriptures. (Unless maybe a modern-day translation has taken some license with the original languages.) Reality is not the same as truth. For example, when I was growing up, I believed that no one loved me and that I was unlovable. I came to this conclusion based on several things which I perceived from my limited perspective as a child, and from circumstances and events in my life. My perceptions were my reality, but they weren’t the truth. Because I knew nothing about the truth of God’s Word as a

child, I could not have known to align my young life's experiences and feelings to it in order to come to truthful conclusions.

I knew instinctively growing through adolescence into adulthood that my same-sex attractions were not the truth of who Father created and destined me to be--even before I became familiar with the Scriptures. But I was ill-equipped and unable to deal with those feelings and attractions sufficiently enough within myself to make the transition. Then when I did begin to know and understand the Scriptures, I made the choice to align my feelings and experiences with its truth, not re-create truth to fit my feelings. Even when I was active in the addiction of my sin, I knew the truth in my heart. There was never a time when I was comfortable with the sin I was engaging, nor did I ever believe God was OK with it. Finally, He brought me to the place where I allowed Him to show me the way to deal with my sin effectively, leave my double-life behind, and begin living righteously in truth before Him.

James 4:17 states, "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin." As followers of Jesus here on earth, becoming more perfectly conformed to His image, let us be found aligning what we believe our reality is with God's truth, leaving behind whatever we find is not, so that we can continue to be a reflection of Him both individually and corporately to all who need to see Him.

Responses From You

From a brother in Louisville: Great newsletter Daniel. I think every believers life long journey and battle is to lay down our lives and take up the cross daily. Some days are easier than others, but the day is coming when Christ wins the final battle and we will be with him forever. Press on brother.

From a brother in SC: A good word there about "scooting over." I'll have to remember to use that one in a message. Thanks.

From another brother: I like it! Good article.

From a couple in Northern KY: Daniel, My wife and I want to support your ministry. Can you send me the details about how to do that?

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

Overcomers Group: Thursday, Jan 28, 2016; Thursday, Feb 11, 2016; Thursday, Feb 25, 2016

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, Feb 2, 2016; Tuesday, Feb 16, 2016

Ongoing Prayer Requests

As always, we covet your prayers for our ministry to grow, financial support to increase, to move forward proclaiming freedom to the captives, and that churches would open their doors

to Abba's Delight. Please pray for our ministry participants, our Family & Friends Support Group, our meetings, our conferences, events at which we sponsor and exhibit, our Board of Directors, and most importantly that many lives will be touched by the Holy Spirit to draw closer to Jesus, seeking freedom from their bondage. Please pray that church leaders and congregations will awaken to the necessity of being prepared Biblically with wisdom and God's love to face head-on the growing numbers of those in our congregations who are being impacted, either directly, or indirectly through a loved one, by homosexuality and the ever-increasing acceptance of gay life in our culture.

[A Big Year-End Thank You!](#)

A big thank you to everyone who contributed financially to Abba's Delight in 2015! The gifts we receive monthly are a huge help in meeting our ongoing expenses, and the end-of-year donations were wonderfully supportive! We appreciate all of our donors and pray Father will continue multiply blessings back to you, as you have blessed Abba's Delight. If you would like to become a monthly donor, please contact me at 502-939-9269, or send your check to the ministry address near the top of the front page of this newsletter, marking your gift "monthly donation."

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25