

June 2016

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite quotes in all of historical literature is that provided by Lt. Frank Haskell of the Union army concerning the battle of Gettysburg in which he was a participant; "...of this battle greater than Waterloo, a history, just, comprehensive, complete, will never be written. By and by, out of the chaos of trash and falsehood that newspapers hold, out of the disjointed mass of reports, out of the traditions and tales that come from the field, some eye that never saw the battle will select and some pen will write what will be named *the history*. With that the world will be—and if we are alive we must be—content." Such is the lot of fallen human history, sadly not long after completing his work on Gettysburg, Haskell himself become part of the history of another battle at Cold Harbor, VA where he was killed. Haskell was prescient in that the recollections of human beings are by default fraught with inaccuracies and misstatements simply because we can't help it, we're fallen. We are not of the truth; we are self-guided observers who see only what we choose to see. From that point of view, we don't simply distort some things we distort everything. We cannot be of the truth as a matter of fact the truth is not in us, as Jesus told the religious leaders of His time in John 8:32-47.

"Truth" as it is used in the New Testament is not fully understood as we use the term in contemporary English. The word often translated from Greek as truth isn't simply speaking of true as opposed to false but real as opposed to unreal. The fallen human being can only have an idea; a perception, of what is real. Therefore, even its sense of real is tainted with unreality. That's perfectly understandable as long as we're honest with ourselves and admit we don't fully understand (1Cor. 13:12). However, when we arrogantly assert that according to our partial knowledge we now "know", we show that we have been deceived and we are not of the reality.

Jesus came to bring us to the truth, the real (John 8:32). He gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth (John 16:13) for He testifies to the one who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). There is no truth, no reality, outside of the person of Jesus Christ; so we must be reborn in Jesus Christ Himself. Only in this way can we know what is real. Only here can we be truly free, liberated from our sense of reality and given to live in the real through Jesus Christ. For this reason, we don't place our trust in any of the half-truths of human understanding. We want to know nothing but the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We know God only as He reveals Himself in His Word and we aren't content with any substitute. We would see Jesus! (John 12:9) For this reason we are dedicated to the study of God's Word as the only source and norm for all real knowledge of God. That is the core of our whole curriculum. In human understanding we have to be content with half-truth and unreality as Haskell points out, in God's Word we have the whole truth. Thank you for your support of the truth!

God's Peace,

Jay Weidner



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