

Friday, July 22, 2016 - Truth by [Philip Davis](#)

I have chosen the way of truth... — Psalm 119:30 KJV

Truth is vital to our well-being. Having the facts about the effects of a substance can help one to discern whether it is medicine or poison. Imagine two white powders: one is aspirin and one is cyanide. They look very similar—white, powdered—but their effects are very different. One may relieve pain. The other almost certainly will cause death. So it is in religion.

Most of the world throughout history has worshiped idols, which are false deities of myth and superstition. Paul's world was no different. When he entered Athens (in Acts 17) he was overwhelmed by the enormous number of temples and altars to the deities of this Greek metropolis. There was even an altar "to an unknown god."

It also is true that some people make virtual gods of themselves in God's place. Their desires, rather than their principles, rule their lives. Could this be at the root of idolatry? Paul said, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness ... so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts...and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man" (Romans 1:18-32).

Jesus taught, "...and ye shall know the truth; and the truth will make you free," (John 8:32). He not only described the liberation from sin found in the Gospel, but a general principle that teaches us the value of integrity, honesty, and truth.

Whether the falsehood (error) is one of religion, of priorities, of attitudes, or of simple fact, truth (facts) relieves us of the damage done by "believing a lie," (2nd Thess. 2:10-12).

Remember the aspirin and cyanide? No matter how fervently one believes that cyanide is a beneficial, medicinal substance, if he consumes it he will die. We need the facts, unfiltered and obvious, to avoid "taking the wrong pill."

The same is true of our religious beliefs. It simply is not true that all beliefs are of equal worth. Some of them are poisonous. May we ever be discerners of the truth, especially that we learn from observing God's world and word (Romans 1:16-23).

Remember—you are loved. — Philip