

Trinity C - 2022

Truth

(from <http://www.sermons.com>)

School's out. Summer's here. Kids have been waiting for this for weeks. All summer and nothing but swimming, riding their bikes, endlessly playing video games, and vacations. While our kids live in that world this summer we adults will be living in another.

There is the economy and the struggle to keep Wall Street and Main Street happy and accountable at the same time. There are budget cuts affecting 80% of school districts in this country while we work to improve education nationwide. There is Covid and long term Covid; there is runaway inflation and a war in Ukraine.

If there is one thing I have learned in life it's that everybody has their own version of the truth.

And we have to try and find the truth among all the truths that present themselves to us. It is very hard these days to know whom to believe. Everyone is trying to lead us to their version of truth.

In 1997, Nathan Zohner, a 14-year-old student at Eagle Rock Junior High School in Idaho Falls won first prize at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair by showing how conditioned we have become to alarmists spreading fear of everything in our environment through junk science. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical "Dihydrogen monoxide" because:

1. It can cause excessive sweating and vomiting.
2. It is a major component in acid rain.
3. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
4. Accidental inhalation can kill you.
5. It contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
6. It decreases the effectiveness of automobile brakes.
7. It is found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they support a ban. 43 said yes, Six were undecided **And only one knew that the chemical is ... water.** I just about fell out of my chair when I found the website DHMO.org. Apparently some prankster has taken this little spoof to a whole new level. The website looks official, a real action committee feel to it. You can even buy

the T-shirt with your MasterCard or Visa. The page reads: You can help us to continue spreading the word about Dihydrogen Monoxide by purchasing one or more of these high-quality, 100% Cotton T-shirts. They make great gifts for yourself, coworkers, friends, family and that geek, nerd, dweeb or chemist in your life! Then it assures the customer: "Our T-Shirts are DHMO FREE." Ever try wearing a T-Shirt made of water?

Truth. Pontius Pilate asked his wife: What is Truth? It's a question that plagues everyone who tries to do the right thing, who tries to live above board, who struggles with all the complexities of life.

"I have much more to say to you," Jesus said to his disciples. "More than I can possibly say to you now under the circumstances. But when the Holy Spirit comes he will guide you into all truth." Thank about those words of Jesus. All Truth. He will "lead us into all truth." How do you ever find firm ground to stand on an issue?

1. First, Listen to the Spirit of Truth.
2. Second, That Spirit of Truth will set you Free.

Observable Love

During the Italian occupation of Ethiopia in the days of Mussolini, Christian believers suffered considerable persecution. In his book, *Fire on the Mountains*, Raymond Davis tells of the love demonstrated by believers for each other during this period of affliction, which in turn made a major impression on unbelievers. For example, no provision was made to feed the prisoners in jail by the invading army. This was the responsibility of relatives and friends.

Christians in the prisons had no problem, though. They were well cared for by friends and family. In fact, so much food was brought them by fellow believers and church groups that enough remained to feed the unbelieving prisoners also.

This observable love, vibrant though nonverbal, brought many to seek the Lord. Such love was previously unheard of. As a result, the word spread far and wide. Non-believers sought out believers to learn more about the Christian faith.

When prisoners who had come to know Christ while in jail were released, they went back home and attended the nearest church. (by Leslie B. Flynn from *You Don't Have to Go It Alone*, Denver, Colorado: Accent Books)