

Title: What Is Truth?

Sermon Title: Stand: Stand in Truth and Righteousness - Dr. Darin Wood

Date: 2025.10.12

A recent study conducted by the Ligonier School of Theology and LifeWay, the same organization that provides many of our Sunday school materials, set out to measure the state of theology in the United States. They surveyed a nationwide group of over 3,000 individuals who self-identified as evangelicals. The findings were not just surprising. They were deeply troubling.

These weren't questions about secondary theological issues, like the specifics of Christ's return. These were core, truth-based questions about Christian orthodoxy. And the answers revealed something that should concern all of us who call ourselves believers.

A Disturbing Glimpse at What People Believe

Let's look at a few highlights from the survey.

Only **53%** of respondents believe that God is perfect. That means 47%—nearly half—do not. Let that sink in. What are we doing if we don't begin with a perfect God?

Even more shocking, **only 45%** believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Yet in *1 Corinthians 15*, Paul clearly states that if the resurrection didn't happen, "*our faith is useless*." The resurrection is not a footnote to our faith. It is the foundation. If Christ did not rise, then everything else we preach and teach falls apart.

Another alarming statistic: **48%** said Jesus was a great teacher but not God. An additional 11% were unsure. That means nearly **six out of ten** people who call themselves evangelicals do not affirm the divinity of Christ.

And it doesn't stop there. A full **66%** believe most people are inherently good. But anyone who's driven on Midland, Texas roads might have a different perspective. More importantly, Scripture tells a different story about human nature.

48% believe the Bible is not literally true, even if it contains helpful teachings. And **45%** agree that religious belief is not objective truth, with another 22% unsure. That means effectively **67%** of professing evangelicals do not view the Word of God as objective, unchanging truth.

This should cause our hearts to shudder. These aren't statistics about people outside the Church. These are self-professed faithful believers. What we're seeing is a widespread attempt to redefine Christianity according to *their* version of truth.

The Truth Is Not Up for Redefinition

We've talked about this before, but it bears repeating. **Truth is not up for grabs**. There is no way to separate truth from reality. Just like Pilate asked Jesus, "*What is truth?*" many are still asking that question today. But it's the wrong question.

The real question is: **Who is truth?**

Truth is not an abstract idea we bend to fit our preferences. Truth is a person—**Jesus Christ**. If you are going to build your life on something solid, if you're going to make truth your foundation, then you need to understand just how important that foundation really is.

The Power of a Firm Foundation

Imagine being stuck in a boat on an endless sea with no land in sight. You're constantly being tossed about with no anchor, no solid ground. That's what it's like to build your life without truth.

I remember our first, and last, cruise. The ship was not designed for people my size. Nothing about it fit. And to make matters worse, I got food poisoning the very first night. Then we hit rough waters. All night long the boat rocked back and forth. I couldn't wait to get off that ship.

When we finally arrived in Alaska, I ran down the gangplank, fell to my knees, and kissed the earth. I had never before appreciated the power of solid ground beneath my feet. But in that moment, I understood.

Truth is like that firm foundation. It doesn't move when life gets rocky. It doesn't shift with the wind of culture or public opinion. It's solid, steady, and trustworthy.

Some people today claim to know the truth, but they're really just drifting. Tossed about like ships with no anchor. If they aren't aligned with Jesus as the Truth, then what they are proclaiming is not truth at all. Don't get caught in it. It's a miserable way to live, and I don't want that for you.

Some Things Are True—And Some Are Not

If you're going to build a faithful and truthful foundation, it starts with acknowledging that **some things are true, and some things are false**. That may be offensive or even hurtful to some, but it doesn't change reality.

When we lean into that truth, we discover something unexpected. **Stability and security**. Why? Because we've put ourselves on a foundation that doesn't move. Scripture calls it the *belt of truth*. It holds everything else together.

If we get this first part wrong, the rest won't hold. You can't build a Christian life on a shaky understanding of truth. The truth of a Truth foundation starts by realizing that **truth is what everything else builds on**.

So what is truth? Truth is Jesus. And if we don't start there, we'll never end up where we need to be.