



WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

November
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Jesus is Truth

by Tim Tripp

We live in an age of relative truth, political spin and perspective based reality. Many seem convinced these days that truth is whatever works for you. If you like something, it can be truth. If you don't like something it can be labeled as false. Research can be presented to defend whichever position you want to take. Truth is customized to fit your wishes and your lifestyle. Facts can be relayed in a way that defends either side of an argument. Anything imaginable can be defended as truth, or right or acceptable as long as you can get a large enough group to agree with you.

It annoys me more than it should when I am discussing spiritual truth with someone and they begin a statement with, "Well actually...". They don't have to finish the thought. I know that they have some factoid or thought with which they plan to counter what I have just said. Even if they are right, it still grinds my gears. It is often an arrogant way to express that one version represented as truth is not necessarily the only way to see it.

I understand that most lines of reasoning have multiple perspectives from which to view them. Some of those lines of reasoning relate to issues and subjects that are amorphous and unclear. Some however relate to issues and subjects that are very clear. We may not like it but it is clear.

Concepts like global warming and climate change may not be clear in terms of causality but the polar ice caps are shrinking. That is observable and measurable. Some people don't believe in God and yet the universe exists in all of its unexplainable complexity and that demands an explanation of origin. If not God, how? All this just came together by chance? I don't think so.

Jesus didn't leave us with a complicated view of truth. In his day there was similar confusion around the concept of truth. When Jesus told Pilate that he came to "testify to the truth." Pilate responded with, "What is truth?" Perhaps as many versions of 'truth' existed then as do now and people were confused. As it often is today, truth then was defined by the people who scream the loudest, have the most money, offer the sexiest deal or point the biggest weapon.

John, in his gospel, often quotes Jesus as talking about truth. Jesus' truth wasn't complicated. John quoted Jesus as saying, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.*" (John 14:6). Jesus embodied truth. In Christ the truth was taken out of the mouth of the prophet and off the written page and given life. As in the 'word' and the 'light,' 'truth' took on flesh and walked among us. God came to live with men and gave his life, submitting to torture and death on the cross to save mankind from their sins. Everyone who believes has access to salvation through the truth that God loved them so much he gave his life to atone for their sins so that they might do the work of the Kingdom here and share eternity with him in heaven.

That is truth. We blew it. He saved us. We live according to his will and his purpose as best we can, and eternal life is ours. The vision for the church is based on that truth. It is simple and it is beautiful. We have a choice as to whether to believe it or not.

What is truth? The simple answer is Jesus.

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Blessings my West Side Family!

Well, our mission started, and we are on our way to reach out souls for The Lord! LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO (The Church of Christ) in Spanish is now in action! We started with a good first Sunday, focusing on worshipping our Lord. We dedicated our entire service to worship, praying and reading Scriptures praising our God, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are so excited having this wonderful blessing to be worshipping in this facility from which very soon, we are hoping, will be so small that it will need some expansion!! God will provide. We are so thankful to the Lord and to you my West Side Family, for such a wonderful blessing that has been given to us. Please continue your prayers for this ministry and for the leadership that we will be doing as our call from the Lord, we fulfill.

May God bless you more with abundant riches that you will keep blessing others as you have done with the Spanish Ministry. God Bless You my West Side Family!

Gathering Times

Sunday Morning 10 Am Worship
& Kids for Christ
ages 1yr-5th grade

In- Person Adult/Teen Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:30pm - Room 3 & Cornerstone

Friendship Cafe and Conversational Christianity
Sunday Mornings at 8:45

In- person Adult Bible Study
Sunday Mornings at 9am

West Side News

Camp Caudle Christmas!!

At Camp Caudle we are planning (with the help of Rocky and Cindy Jones) to once again host our Old Fashioned Christmas events!

It's a wonderful time of the year, and we have different activities like readings of the Christmas story, cookie making, crafts, writing letters to Santa, and hayrides! There are more details and activities to come, but it's high time to save the afternoon of December 4th on your calendars!

This is a fundraising event for Camp, so there is a cost per child coming to participate - \$15 for the first child, \$10 more for a second child, and register three for \$30!

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with this event - if you have helped in the past, or are interested in coming out to help, please let Marcus McCormick know. Sign-up sheets are available on the Starting Point desk. Send Marcus a Facebook message, or text at (512)-296-7567, or an email at marcus@campcaudle.org

Community Thanksgiving Service

This year Tim Tripp will be the keynote speaker for the Russellville Community Thanksgiving Service which will be hosted by Russellville First Assembly of God, next Sunday Nov. 21st at 5pm. Along with this, there is a fundraiser benefitting Help Network, our local non- profit organization dedicated to offering a hand up - not a hand out to those in need. Donation buckets will be available here for those who wish to donate but may not be able to attend the service.

Sign up for WS emails at
westsidear.org/subscribe

Week of: 11-7--2021

Weekly Giving: \$16,264

Attendance

Weekly Budget: \$ 13,820

Sunday AM - 250
Wednesday PM - 121

YTD Giving: \$ 597,533

YTD Budget: \$ 621,889

Family Illness and Recovery

Margaret Grant is recovering at home following knee replacement surgery and hospitalization. She continues to have some slight complications and weakness. Please pray for her overall strength to improve allowing her to resume her therapy and recovery.

Tami Robinson is scheduled to begin chemo treatments soon. Please keep her in your prayers for strength, both physical and emotional. Continue to also pray for complete healing.

Jonah Vanderheiden was hospitalized wednesday evening in Little Rock for fluid in his lung again. Please keep him in your prayers for his asthma to be controlled and his health to improve.

Helen Stephens is currently hospitalized and undergoing rehab following surgery to mend a broken hip. Please pray for her improved strength and complete healing.

Joel Delgado, infant great-grandson of Kay Larson, is home again following another recent hospitalization with viral infection. Joel is in need of two different surgeries to correct issues, but has to recover from the current illness and remain infection free for a period of time before his necessary surgeries can take place. Please keep little Joel and his parents in your prayers. Pray for his overall health to improve allowing him to receive the surgery needed.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Jesse Boshears - cousin of Chad Crain

Sofia Juarez

Sid Womack

Love. Share. Disciple.