**The Problem with Truth**

George Orwell said, “The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.”

The writer of the Book of Hebrews in our Bibles wrote, “…we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, or we will drift away from it.” The author uses a nautical term here for “drift.” It’s the image of a ship, drifting away from its anchor—and about to wreck on the rocks.

I once read a short, short story of a ship in the dark on the high seas. The captain saw a light in the distance and had his signalman flash a message to that light. The message said, “Veer off to port.” (That is, for us landlubbers, “turn left.”) But the light flashed back, “You veer to starboard.” The captain told his messenger, “Tell him I’m a battleship.” So he did. Back came the message, “I am a lighthouse. Veer to starboard.”

The problem with truth is that it doesn’t change. It is real, and it is absolute. I was once asked by a student in my class, “Do you believe in absolutes?” I answered, “Absolutely!” I had thought she was kidding. But she tossed her head and started away and said, “Well I don’t!” I said to her, “Wait a minute. Let’s discuss this.” So I gathered the rest of the students. I asked them to sit down and I wrote on the board, “There is no truth.” And “There are no absolutes.” Then I asked them, “What’s wrong with these statements?” Almost immediately they saw that if either statement were true, it would also be false.

Here in America we have drifted like a ship from its anchor. Like the Orwell quotation above, many in America hate those who speak truth. “Political correctness” has become the rule of the day. It has caused our nation to turn from the truth to neutral statements void of meaning. We are afraid to speak the truth. We are afraid of being politically incorrect.

For example, all the terrorists who hijacked planes and killed about 3,000 Americans on 9/11 were young Middle Eastern men. But when we go the airport, we see old women and people in wheelchairs being searched, but Middle Eastern males are often left alone. Even my mention of this truth here is seen by some as dangerous. We fear to name names, and to point out obvious facts, because that makes us appear “intolerant.” We refer to it as “racial profiling.” But the fact is, there is only *one* race, the human race! There are just several ethnic groups in the human race.

Tolerance has become the order of the day. We must accept all beliefs, all religions, all thoughts as equally true. But they are *not* equally true. This is the problem with truth. Truth is truth. Truth is sometimes painful and sometimes definitely not “politically correct.” For something to be true, it must *agree with reality*.

The Apostle John records that Jesus claimed to be “the truth.” The word used there by John is a word that means, “ultimate reality.” As C. S. Lewis said, Jesus either has to be who he said he is, or he has to be a lunatic. If he is “the truth,” we must deal with his claims. When I read about him in the four gospels, I have to decide whether what he says and does is reality or myth. I have to decide if the eye-witness accounts of the gospel writers are true, or if they are false. They cannot be both.

Since we Americans have essentially removed God and the Bible from our schools, we have murderers going to school. Since the horrible Sandy Hook school shootings, in our country there have been thirteen other school shootings and at least one stabbing. I think we should invite God back into our schools—and into the public square.

The problem with truth is that we have to decide what to do about it.