

Some Observations on Truth and Life and that Special Word Discernment

The law came into the world through Moses; truth and grace came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17). Let's focus on some truths of life that seem to be screaming out today. Even so, they evidently are not seen or understood by many in today's confused world.

- Nothing is less important than whether someone is a democrat or a republican. It is amazing to watch people get so carried away with being one or the other. On the other hand, nothing is more important than being a believer or not a believer in Jesus. Why can't people get carried away with that great truth?
- Galveston – By now you may have seen people interviewed who say they have lost everything (as a result of the hurricane Ike). All they have left is their life. Certainly we all can understand their great pain and suffering, especially if you have ever endured a similar event. I remember living in a suburb of Houston in 1983 when Alicia hit, a category 3 hurricane. We had no power for days. Trees were on or through every house. We evacuated our house in the middle of the storm. It was a miserable time, but nothing like the people of Galveston are experiencing. Even so, and please not at the expense of these hurting people, this is a good opportunity to make a point:
 - Life is everything, real life.
 - Americans live in things. But things - while helpful and at times even necessary – are insignificant. Real life is everything. By that I mean – zoe, that Greek word – full life with Jesus and the Father. Everything else is comparatively meaningless, even if you are wandering around working and eating and going here and there. Meaningless.
 - The writer of Ecclesiastes had it right. Life is meaningless, ...that is, on its own, the worldly life. Meaningless. Real life? With God? Meaningful beyond description, beyond measure.
- It is really all about Jesus. If you don't get that, you don't get anything. Without Jesus, God has to destroy you. He can't stand evil, anything not holy, sin. Jesus as our substitute gives all who believe in him life eternal, a full life even now.
- We really are living in the days of the return of Jesus. A majority of those living now will be here when he returns – this afternoon, next week, next month. And the world will be changed forever. A minority of people who truly believe in Jesus will meet him in the clouds when he calls, as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and also in Matthew 24:30-31 and Mark 13:26-27. He himself said it would be a small number. Where? In the Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 7:13-14. You do want to be one of those in that small number.
- Sunday after hurricane Ike, the Houston Astros – Chicago Cubs baseball game scheduled for Houston had to be played in a neutral site. Major league baseball picked Milwaukee. The Chicago pitcher threw a no hitter. There was a big celebration. How many considered that the Houston players and staff may have

had other things on their minds – like the safety of family and friends back in Houston and how are they getting water and food, like the condition of their homes? Maybe they weren't thinking about hitting a baseball. Besides, no doubt they had all been up all Friday night during the hurricane and who knows what they had been doing Saturday. I understand they arrived just hours before the game. Are Americans really as dim and unthinking as they appear to be at times? Well, no, not all the time at least, thank God, no. Many have good hearts and help others often. But major league baseball whiffed on this one. And so did anyone celebrating a no hitter. That no hitter gets an asterisk in my record book.