

## **Chapter II.** **“The Truth Rejector”**

Why is this happening in our world and our country? I submit unto you that it is because we have left the fundamental precepts of the word of God in all segments of our society. The godless precepts of sodomy, lesbianism, body mutilation, cannibalization, tattoos, heathenism and lies have infiltrated everywhere. Isaiah complained about this in his life all the way back in the death-throes of the nation of Israel almost 700 years before Jesus was born into this world.

Isaiah 59:14-15 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

In the world in which we live, we read of people becoming victims of accidents, robberies, plane or auto accidents and wars. In the reports about these events, the reporter may speak of casualties referring to the injuries and/or deaths involved. Certainly casualties are a common lot of mankind, and often people reading the reports are heartbroken over the casualty reports. I can remember how my heart sank as I heard about the casualties of the firefighters being lost in the fires which have plagued America over the past years. We often are subjected to the reports of casualties of the wars that our military is involved in at various spots of the globe. However, perhaps the most devastating casualty that mankind has experienced in its history is the casualty of truth.

Here in Isaiah 59:14-16 we read of God’s condemnation of the nation of Israel because they had left the truth. What a sad commentary from God on the degradation of the nation of Israel as they had left the truth of God’s word, and as a result were destined to experience the judgment of the Lord. In America today we are constantly reminded of the tragedies that have befallen us over the past few months/years. Columbine, Sandy Hook, etc., etc. were certainly tragedies of great significance. Yet, I submit to you that in our country, in our lifetime the greatest tragedy of all is that, like God says to Isaiah ...truth has fallen to the streets. God goes on to say in verse 15 that ...truth faileth. The word ‘faileth’ carries with it the connotation of lacking, or missing. One might say that truth is missing in action. Yes, it has fallen in the streets; it is not on the battle field. God tells us in, Zephaniah 3:5 The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

So, what does this mean? He never fails, and He is the ultimate source of truth, yet Isaiah complains that truth has fallen, faileth. How can this be? I believe that the answer is to be found throughout this chapter of Isaiah 59.

Isaiah 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Why was there no man? Look at the early parts of this chapter. Wickedness reigns. Evil reigns. Why? Because, truth has fallen. Judgment is gone. Why?

Isaiah 59:7-8 Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

When truth is fallen, when truth is missing in action, wickedness rules. Where do we find judgment/justice? From the ultimate source of truth – God and His word. I am reminded of the vignette in the life of allegedly one of the most brilliant minds ever to reside in man. The following was copied from an internet email submission. I do not know who submitted it, and I am not sure that it ever really happened, but the truth illustrated within is timeless and very applicable today.

“Let me explain the problem science has with religion.’ The professor of philosophy pauses before his class and then asks one of his new students to stand.

‘You’re a Christian, aren’t you, son?’

‘Yes sir,’ the student says.

‘So you believe in God?’

‘Absolutely.

Is God good?’

‘Sure! God’s good.’

‘Is God all-powerful? Can God do anything?’

‘Yes’

‘Are you good or evil?’

‘The Bible says I’m evil.’

The professor grins knowingly. ‘Aha! The Bible! He considers for a moment. ‘Here’s one for you.. Let’s say there’s a sick person over here and you can cure him. You can do it. Would you help him? Would you try?’

‘Yes sir, I would.’

‘So you’re good...!’

‘I wouldn’t say that.’

‘But why not say that? You’d help a sick and maimed person if you could. Most of us would if we could. But God doesn’t.’

The student does not answer, so the professor continues. ‘He doesn’t, does he? My brother was a Christian who died of cancer, even though he prayed to Jesus to heal him.. How is this Jesus good? Can you answer that one?’

The student remains silent.. ‘No, you can’t, can you?’ the professor says. He takes a sip of water from a glass on his desk to give the student time to relax. ‘Let’s start again,

young fella. Is God good?'

'Er..yes,' the student says.

'Is Satan good?'

The student doesn't hesitate on this one. 'No.'

'Then where does Satan come from?'

The student falters. 'From God'

'That's right. God made Satan, didn't he? Tell me, son. Is there evil in this world?'

'Yes, sir...'

'Evil's everywhere, isn't it? And God did make everything, correct?'

'Yes'

'So who created evil?' The professor continued, 'If God created everything, then God created evil, since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then God is evil.'

Again, the student has no answer. 'Is there sickness? Immorality? Hatred? Ugliness? All these terrible things, do they exist in this world?'

The student squirms on his feet. 'Yes.'

'So who created them?'

The student does not answer again, so the professor repeats his question. 'Who created them?' There is still no answer. Suddenly the lecturer breaks away to pace in front of the classroom. The class is mesmerized. 'Tell me,' he continues onto another student.

'Do you believe in Jesus Christ, son?'

The student's voice betrays him and cracks. 'Yes, professor, I do.'

The old man stops pacing. 'Science says you have five senses you use to identify and observe the world around you. Have you ever seen Jesus?'

'No sir. I've never seen Him.'

'Then tell us if you've ever heard your Jesus?'

'No, sir, I have not..'

'Have you ever felt your Jesus, tasted your Jesus or smelt your Jesus? Have you ever had any sensory perception of Jesus Christ, or God for that matter?'

'No, sir, I'm afraid I haven't.'

'Yet you still believe in him?'

'Yes'

'According to the rules of empirical, testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your God doesn't exist... What do you say to that, son?'

'Nothing,' the student replies.. 'I only have my faith.'

'Yes, faith,' the professor repeats. 'And that is the problem science has with God. There is no evidence, only faith.'

The student stands quietly for a moment, before asking a question of His own.

'Professor, is there such thing as heat?'

'Yes.'

'And is there such a thing as cold?'

'Yes, son, there's cold too.'

'No sir, there isn't.'

The professor turns to face the student, obviously interested. The room suddenly becomes very quiet. The student begins to explain. 'You can have lots of heat, even more heat, super-heat, mega-heat, unlimited heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat, but we don't have anything called 'cold'. We can hit down to 458 degrees below zero, which is no heat, but we can't go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold; otherwise we would be able to go colder than the lowest -458 degrees. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-458 F) is the total absence of heat. You see, sir, cold is only a word we use to describe the absence of heat. We cannot measure cold. Heat we can measure in thermal units because heat is energy. Cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it.'

Silence across the room. A pen drops somewhere in the classroom, sounding like a hammer.

'What about darkness, professor. Is there such a thing as darkness?'

'Yes,' the professor replies without hesitation.. 'What is night if it isn't darkness?'

'You're wrong again, sir. Darkness is not something; it is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light, but if you have no light constantly you have nothing and it's called darkness, isn't it? That's the meaning we use to define the word. In reality, darkness isn't. If it were, you would be able to make darkness darker, wouldn't you?'

The professor begins to smile at the student in front of him. This will be a good semester. 'So what point are you making, young man?'

'Yes, professor. My point is, your philosophical premise is flawed to start with, and so your conclusion must also be flawed.'

The professor's face cannot hide his surprise this time. 'Flawed? Can you explain how?'

'You are working on the premise of duality,' the student explains... 'You argue that there is life and then there's death; a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science can't even explain a thought.' 'It uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen, much less fully understood either one. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the opposite of life, just the absence of it.' 'Now tell me, professor.. Do you teach your students that they evolved from a monkey?'

'If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, young man, yes, of course I do.'

'Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?'

The professor begins to shake his head, still smiling, as he realizes where the argument is going. A very good semester, indeed.

'Since no one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavor, are you not teaching your opinion, sir? Are you now not a scientist, but a preacher?'

The class is in uproar. The student remains silent until the commotion has subsided. 'To continue the point you were making earlier to the other student, let me give you an example of what I mean.' The student looks around the room. 'Is there anyone in the class who has ever seen the professor's brain?' The class breaks out into laughter. 'Is there anyone here who has ever heard the professor's brain, felt the professor's brain, touched or smelt the professor's brain? No one appears to have done so. So, according to the established rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol, science says that you have no brain, with all due respect, sir.' 'So, if science says you have no brain, how can we trust your lectures, sir?'

Now the room is silent. The professor just stares at the student, his face unreadable. Finally, after what seems an eternity, the old man answers. 'I Guess you'll have to take them on faith.'

'Now, you accept that there is faith, and, in fact, faith exists with life,' the student continues. 'Now, sir, is there such a thing as evil?' Now uncertain, the professor responds, 'Of course, there is. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.'

To this the student replied, 'Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. (Emphasis mine) It (evil) is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.'

The professor sat down.

(End of article)

This little story illustrates quite clearly that the problem we have is the absence of truth in our world since God and His word have been effectively eliminated from our everyday lives.

We are reminded of Pilate's question to Jesus in,

John 18:38 - Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

The very embodiment of truth, the Word of God, was standing right in front of him. Pilate, like the majority of people in our world today, turns and walks away. He never waited for an answer. He turned to the people and left THE TRUTH standing alone. John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

So I confront you today with this question – Do you know THE TRUTH? Do you know Him? Or will you turn to the beggarly elements of this world for answers?

Look at Pueblo's local Saturday newspaper. The Pueblo Chieftain. There is a religious section, but most of the time you will find no semblance of truth in the religious articles written there.

So my question to you all is this – Have you embraced the truth, The Truth of eternal life? "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Has there been a time when you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour?

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. God is very exclusive in his path to eternal life. It is only His way and no other. There is only one way to Heaven, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is only One God and Saviour.

Titus 2:13-14 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Notice the words found in the middle of this verse, "...the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;..." the use of the definite article defines God and His Son without giving a person any other alternative. Jesus Christ is "THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR." This leaves no room for the Mormon Jesus or the Islamic Allah, or any of the other false gods found in the religions of this "...present evil world."

Have you embraced the truths of God's word? John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Do you understand that anything that does not conform to the word of God is a lie? Atheism, Agnosticism, Islam, Evolutionism and the other religious beliefs that are out there are lies. The philosophies of this world that do not conform to God's word, the Holy Bible, are lies. When a woman says that God wants her to be the pastor of such and such church, truth has fallen.

When a church says that you must join it and follow its teachings in order to enter into a right relationship with God, truth has fallen.

We probably understand those principles, but how about more subtle teachings of the father of lies?

1. "I was born as a man physically, but I should have been a woman. After all, since God is in control of conception, he certainly must have made a mistake." Or, vice versa. Where is the truth?

2. "It is OK for a man to marry a man or a woman to marry a woman. After all, we must be tolerant of their views." We are admonished to be tolerant of perversions, but not of the truth of God's word. Don't bring that Book in here, this is a school and we must have separation of church and state! Doesn't it say that in the US Constitution? Well, the truth is that it doesn't even come close to saying that. That is a perversion of a statement made by Thomas Jefferson writing to Baptists in Danbury, CT.

3. How about this lie? "It is OK to remove that little blob of tissue from my womb. Just pull it out part of the way and stick a pair of scissors in the back of its skull and

then suck out its brains." Oh yeah, that's certainly humane, isn't it? Don't pay any attention to its screams and struggles. Kill it. Protect those little snail darters though. They might become extinct. Truth is missing in action.

We could go on and on with the insanity of the devil and his lies. He is a counterfeiter and a destroyer. His program is to destroy you and anyone else who is not a child of God. If you have never investigated the word of God honestly and thoroughly you are missing the greatest truths and the greatest Book ever written. Yes, in some streets, there is no truth, it has fallen, but you can find the truth in God's word, the Holy Bible, the KJV. Without the truth of the Bible, God is displeased. "...the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment."

Yes, Truth had fallen and God was displeased. In view of this thought we should be consumed with this question -How can we please God?

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. It takes faith to please Him, and we get faith from His word.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Jesus posed this question in Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? It is a rhetorical question which could very easily be answered, "No." You expect the lost world of people to reject God's word, but the most discouraging aspect of our world today is the rejection of the word of God by God's people

**Dr. Robert Bliss**

**Old Paths Baptist Ministries**

**1482 N. Ramah Dr. Pueblo West,**

**CO 81007**

**719-248-9036**