

## Easter Sunday 2023

At his trial Jesus told Pilate that he *came into the world to testify to the truth* (John 18:37b). In John Chapter 8 Jesus said, *...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*, (8:32) and John 14:6: *I am the way, the truth, and the life*. Psalm 51:7 says of God: *You look for truth deep within me...* Today, what is your truth?

Assume truly true truth is not a definition or conscious thought. Your deepest truth births all you do, say, and think. What motivates, excites, fills you? What can you not do without? What demands your time and energy? Maybe you assume the expressway of thoughts, emotions, and moods, your mind's relentless analysis, commentary, and reactions to life are your truth. That inner, unrelenting monologue is not your deepest truth; it is more akin to weather swirling around a great mountain. What churns around and in you is not your deep truth.

Finding and knowing your deepest truth is difficult because it cannot be bought, sold, marketed, manipulated, or exploited (although greedy exploiters try). Indeed, your deepest truth is the cure for greed, lust, envy, gluttony, pride, anger, violence—everything that exploits, dehumanizes, and destroys. You are not the changing weather around a great mountain, you are the mountain. Psalm 125 testifies: *Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever* (v. 1). It is by surrendering our emotional tempests, our spiritual storms, the flood of swirling inner chatter that allows the sacred within gradually to reveal itself as a simple, fundamental fact. Here is your deepest truth: God cherishes and adores you. You are the delight of God's heart, the apple of God's eye, already surrounded on every side, above, beneath, within with God's passionate love.

Paul wrote of this deepest truth: *in God we live and move and have our being* (Acts 17:28); and from today's Epistle: *...your life is hidden with Christ in God* (2b). The consequence of sin is not abandonment by God (a ridiculous notion on the face of it!); the result of our sin is spiritual insanity. Assuming the storms that batter us are life's deepest truth we try to be our own gods, believing the absurdity that if we just had the right opportunities or luck, right information or power, enough money, prestige, or possessions life would be happy, we could escape life's wounds. St. Augustine, after years of restless searching for the truth, surrendered to Jesus. He wrote, God is "closer to me than I am to myself...O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, you were within, and I was outside myself" (The Confessions). A thousand years later an anonymous writer put it this way, "God is your being, and what you are, you are in God" (The Cloud of Unknowing).

The joy of Easter is living the truly true truth of God's eternal love for oneself and for everyone, God's always-presence with everyone, made definite and eternal in Jesus. Who for us and for our salvation was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; who, for us was betrayed, tortured, and killed; who, for our salvation, got up on the Third Day; who, for us and for our salvation, is our Way, our Truth, and our Life. To live this deepest, truly true truth brings new meaning, new depth and height, new joy to life. God is with us, in us, for us. God already cherishes you. We but need surrender our pathetic attempts at being our own gods, and give our lives day by day, moment by moment to our Resurrected Lord Jesus who loves us with unspeakable passion, who became as we are so we may become as he is.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! *The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*