

6 Sunday after Pentecost The spiritual peril of denying the truth of God

Jeremiah 18:18-22

Psalms 35:11-18

Hebrews 10:26-36

Mark 3:19b-30

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we gather on this 6th Sunday after Pentecost to reflect on a profound and vital theme: "The Spiritual Peril of Denying the Truth of God." This theme is not only relevant to our personal walk with God but also critical in understanding the broader implications for our spiritual community and the world at large. We will explore the meaning of denying God's truth, the spiritual dangers it entails, and the theological implications of such a denial. Our reflections will be grounded in the Holy Scriptures, drawing from Jeremiah 18:18-22, Psalm 35:11-18, Hebrews 10:26-36, and Mark 3:19b-30.

Understanding the Denial of God's Truth - Jeremiah 18:18-22

Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, faced immense opposition and betrayal as he faithfully delivered God's truth. The people plotted against him, saying, "Come, let us make plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet" (Jeremiah 18:18). This verse highlights a critical aspect of denying God's truth: the deliberate rejection and opposition to divine counsel and prophetic truth. To deny God's truth is to reject His guidance, commands, and revelations. It is to turn a deaf ear to His voice and to choose our own ways over His. This act of denial often stems from pride, fear, or the desire to conform to worldly standards. It is a conscious decision to ignore the divine wisdom that God graciously provides for our well-being and salvation.

Imagine a ship's captain who receives multiple warnings about an approaching storm but chooses to ignore them, believing he knows better. The result is inevitable disaster. Similarly, when we deny God's truth, we set ourselves on a course toward spiritual peril, ignoring the divine warnings and guidance meant to protect and save us.

The Spiritual Peril of Denying God's Truth - Psalm 35:11-18

In Psalm 35, David laments the false accusations and treachery he faces from his enemies. He cries out to God, seeking deliverance from those who repay him evil for good. "Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know" (Psalm 35:11). This passage reflects the deep anguish and sense of betrayal that accompanies the denial of truth.

The spiritual peril of denying God's truth manifests in several ways:

- **Loss of Divine Protection:** By rejecting God's truth, we step out of His protective covering, exposing ourselves to spiritual attacks and deceptions.
- **Broken Fellowship with God:** Denial of truth severs our intimate relationship with God, leading to spiritual dryness and a loss of peace and joy.
- **Hardened Hearts:** Continuous rejection of truth hardens our hearts, making it increasingly difficult to repent and return to God.

Consider the parable of the prodigal son, who denied his father's wisdom and chose his own path. His decision led to a life of misery and destitution. It was only when he acknowledged the truth of his father's love and wisdom that he found redemption and restoration. Similarly, denying God's truth leads us away from His blessings and into spiritual desolation.

The Theology of Denying God – Hebrews 10:26–36

The Epistle to the Hebrews issues a stern warning against wilfully denying God's truth after receiving the knowledge of it. "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment" (Hebrews 10:26–27). This passage underscores the gravity of apostasy and the consequences of turning away from the faith. Theologically, denying God and His truth is an act of rebellion against His sovereignty and love. It is a rejection of His grace and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This rebellion leads to spiritual death, as we cut ourselves off from the source of life and salvation.

Think of a swimmer who drifts away from the shore. The farther he goes, the more difficult it becomes to return. Similarly, the more we deny God's truth, the farther we drift from His presence, making it harder to find our way back to Him.

God's Truth in the Gospel – Mark 3:19b–30

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus addresses the teachers of the law who accuse Him of being possessed by Beelzebul. Jesus responds with a profound truth: "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand" (Mark 3:24). He warns against the unforgivable sin of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, which involves a wilful and persistent denial of God's truth and work. This passage reveals that God's truth is not just a set of doctrines but the very person and work of Jesus Christ. To deny God's truth is to deny Christ Himself and the salvation He offers. It is to attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to evil, thus closing our hearts to the redemptive power of God.

Consider how some people, despite witnessing miracles and hearing the Gospel, remain unmoved and unchanged. Their persistent denial of the truth blinds their minds and hardens their hearts, preventing them from experiencing the transformative power of God's grace.

Conclusion

In conclusion, dear friends, the denial of God's truth is a perilous path that leads to spiritual ruin. It cuts us off from God's protection, breaks our fellowship with Him, and hardens our hearts. Theologically, it is a grave rebellion against God's sovereignty and grace, leading to spiritual death. However, there is hope. Just as the prodigal son returned to his father, we too can return to God, embrace His truth, and receive His abundant grace and mercy.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, acknowledging the times we have denied Your truth and strayed from Your ways. Forgive us, Lord, and draw us back to You. Open our eyes to see Your truth, soften our hearts to receive Your grace, and strengthen our spirits to walk in Your light. May we always stand firm in Your truth, experiencing the fullness of Your love and the joy of Your salvation. Comfort and encourage each person here today, filling us with the hope and assurance that comes from knowing You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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