

Living in Truth series.

Truth and the wisdom of this age by Fr Benedict Groeschel CFR

Long ago wisdom used to mean what was wise; now, in the media, it refers to whatever prevailing attitudes the media wish to foster on the public. It is not wisdom at all; much of it is nonsense and some of it is self-destructive. The one thing it has nothing to do with is truth.

Truth looked at philosophically is an adequate assessment of reality according to the mind. Since truth may be taught to others, it is also an adequate expression of reality that others can share in a meaningful way. Reality is, in fact, what God has made. The real world is the world as God sees it. Consequently, truth is our participation in the reality that God himself knows.

Of course, if people do not believe in God, they cannot believe in truth. If they are doubtful about God, they will be doubtful about the possibility of ever knowing the truth. Almost a hundred years ago two young students, a husband and wife, went to the Sorbonne University in Paris in order to learn what was real, to learn about truth. When they were taught by the professors that no one can know the truth, that there was no such thing as truth, they resolved to commit suicide together. They met another young student, Leon Bloy, a rather tough-minded thinker and a Christian. He told them to go home and pray. They didn't believe in God, they said. He answered: "I don't care what you believe or do not believe. Go home and pray.

Thinking they had nothing to lose, they went home and tried to pray. They came to believe and to know the truth. The man was Jacques Maritain, who later became the greatest Catholic philosopher of the twentieth century.

Addressing young people, John Paul II said:

"When we discuss the question of education, study, learning and school, there emerges a question of fundamental importance for the human person, and in a special way for the young person. This is the question of truth. Truth is the light of the human intellect. If the intellect seeks, from youth onwards, to know reality in its different dimensions, it does so in order to possess the truth: in order to live the truth. Such is the structure of the human spirit. Hunger for truth is its fundamental aspiration and expression.

Now Christ says: "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8: 32) Of the words contained in the Gospel these are certainly among the most important. They explain what the dignity and greatness proper to man are built upon from within, in the human spirit. The knowledge which frees man does not depend on education alone, even of university standard - an illiterate person can have it too; though education, the systematic knowledge of reality, should serve the dignity of the human person. It should therefore serve the truth." (*Letter to young people*, 12)

Dear young people, we are all called to seek truth and when we find it to serve truth with our whole lives!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to know from deep down in my bones that the plans of the Lord stand firm forever. In the midst of a cultural context where nothing lasts - neither products, styles of clothing, nor music, neither relationships nor hardly anything else - create within me a hunger for "4-ever". Let the purposes of Your heart energise me and instruct me in the everlasting ways of the Father. Lord Jesus, when You knew that the time had come for You to pass from this world to the Father, You loved Your apostles to the end; You loved Your disciples to the end; You loved all peoples to the end; You loved me to the end. May this love "to the end" - "all the way" - burn in my heart, to purify my heart and condition my whole person to walk in the everlasting ways of Your love. Help me to rediscover the meaning of life and death in the perspective of eternal life. Free me and keep me free from being a prisoner overwhelmed by fear, so that the personal and collective pathologies incarcerating the world through the culture of death can be overcome by my commitment to life, and by my defence of life, through my contributing towards building the culture of freedom, the culture of peace, and the civilisation of love. Yes, Lord Jesus ... Amen!

U got to believe by Fr Stan Fortuna CFR
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