

Taking a Fresh Look @ Christmas

WEEK ONE: TRUTH

LUKE 1:1-4

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

Truth is Challenged from Two Different Perspectives

1. *“What you claim isn’t true”*
 - 1 Peter 3:15
2. Truth is relative (*“I respect that it’s true for you”*)
 - Christianity is exclusively true

Look at the Evidence

- vs.1
1. Christianity is just a result of people enhancing a story with myths
 2. Early Christians were sincere, but deluded
 3. Material presuppositions

Examine the Witnesses

- vs.2
- 1 John 1:1-2
- Luke certifies the witnesses

Investigate Intelligently

- vs.3
 - God (Theo) Lover (Philus)
1. Investigate in the context of the day
 2. Avoid conspiracy theories
 3. Read the Bible for what it claims to be

Believe, Believe, Believe

- vs.4
- Luke is writing to people who have been taught
- Romans 10:17
- Settledness and Growth

Full of Grace and Truth, Like Jesus

Below are some thoughts about grace and truth and our need for both, in an age where some are all truth and no grace and others are all grace and no truth. (In fact, grace without truth is NOT biblical grace, and truth without grace is NOT biblical truth.)

Truth hates sin. Grace loves sinners. Those full of grace and truth—those full of Jesus—do both.

“Hate the sin, but love the sinner.” No one did either like Jesus. Truth hates sin. Grace loves sinners. Those full of grace and truth—those full of Jesus—do both.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11).

Attempts to “soften” the gospel by minimizing truth keep people from Jesus. Attempts to “toughen” the gospel by minimizing grace keep people from Jesus. It’s not enough for us to offer grace or truth. We must offer both.

When we offend everybody, we’ve declared truth without grace. When we offend nobody, we’ve watered down truth in the name of grace. John 1:14 tells us Jesus came full of grace AND truth. Let’s not choose between them, but be characterized by both.

Some Scripture that pertains:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17).

