

In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War a band of allied soldiers discovered words written in blood on the wall of a Nazi jail cell in the city of Cologne, Germany. The one responsible for the striking words was a French Communist, who, regrettably, took his own life. What was written surely astonished the soldiers. "Jesus, you are the only one who has not deceived me!" At the hour of his death, the Communist conceded that, time and again, he had been disappointed by his political comrades and that only Jesus was truly trustworthy, and incapable of telling lies. He may have received a revelation at the end of his life. The words of Jesus that he likely learned in childhood came back to haunt and possibly inspire him: "I am the way, the truth and the life" (Jn. 14:6).

In Jesus Christ, God, the Truth, entered the world. In Jesus we can recognize the truth because the eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He is the truth insofar as he reveals God in his person, words and actions.

In John's account of Our Lord's Passion and Death, the religious authorities who brought Jesus to Pilate after his arrest said, "If he were not a criminal we would not have handed him over to you" (Jn. 18:30). In Christ, truth is on trial and eventually will suffer the verdict of guilty and be condemned to death "I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth", cried Jesus, "and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice" (Jn. 18:37). According to Pope Benedict, " 'Bearing witness to the truth' means giving priority to God and his will over against the interests of the world and its powers". When Jesus stands before Pilate, he is the truth. The truth is quite literally staring Pilate in the face and speaking to him. Yet Pilate does not see or hear the truth. He can only manage a weak reply: "What is truth?" (Jn. 18:38) And such are the words of a skeptic and unbeliever. What Pilate rejects is the truth, which is God's revelation in Christ.

Sadly, it is no different today.

In an age of moral relativism, we can sometimes have difficulty distinguishing between truth and falsehood. The main stream and Social media are mostly responsible for sowing confusion in the minds of too many of us in our secularized Western culture. In our information age, we can easily be overwhelmed by the countless number of voices -- not all of them reliable-- we hear every day. Can we trust anybody today? Are we cynical of our most important institutions? Do we have more faith in opinion polls than in the Words of Christ, who is the Eternal Word? Is truth subjective, a matter of one's personal opinion? We may wish to consider the many that bear the name of Christian who are dragged into a court of law to defend themselves of the crime of witnessing to their Christian faith. Only recently a small group of Pro-life activists protesting quietly in the vicinity of an abortion 'clinic' were arrested and obliged to appear in court. Again we hear the words of the adversaries of Jesus: "If he (or she) were not a criminal we would not have handed him (or her) over to you".

Although Jesus, Truth Incarnate, is rejected and eventually condemned to an unspeakably cruel and brutal death, He will prevail on the third day, the day of his Resurrection. On Easter, Truth is vindicated despite every effort to silence and smother it. God's revelation is the source of truth. Truth may disappear for a time but never perish.

Christ reigns from the cross. The cross is his throne. Inasmuch as truth has its origin in God Himself it could not be dethroned on the day of Christ's crucifixion. Truth will never die. God's truth as revealed in Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ endures forever!