



Jesus is Reality

John 18:38, Colossians 1:15-20, & 1 Corinthians 3:21-23

05.07.2023

Dave Lomas

John 18:38 [NASB]

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on

earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

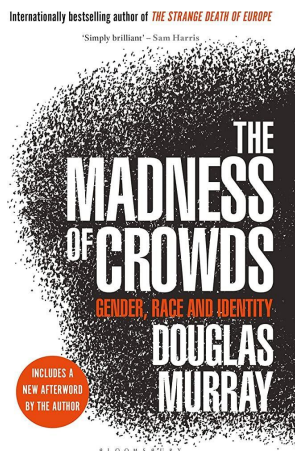
1 Corinthians 3:21-23

So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

Part 1: The Universe & a Juice Cleanse

Universe:

1. The totality of known or supposed objects and phenomena throughout space
2. The whole world, especially with reference to humanity



“People in wealthy Western democracies today could not simply remain the first people in recorded history to have absolutely no explanation for what we are doing here, and no story to give life purpose. Whatever else they lacked, the grand narratives of the past at least gave life meaning. The question of what exactly we are meant to do now—other than get rich where we can and have whatever fun is on offer—was going to have to be answered by something.”

- Douglas Murray, *The Madness of Crowds*



“We can see, for example, that the language of ‘energies’ and ‘toxins’ promoted by contemporary wellness culture—which locates evil and sickness within the pharmaceutical-industrial complex and a society bent on destroying our ‘natural,’ ‘authentic’ selves—is, while not dealing with deities as such, nevertheless a foundational theodicy. It explains why there is evil and suffering in the world (or at least in our own bodies) and gives us a series of rituals—exercise, skin care, jade eggs—to help us supposedly counteract them. It transforms the seeming randomness of cell decay, mutation, and death into an illusorily controllable system...The energy you tap into in a yoga class and the energy you get from drinking a Moon Juice concoction and the energy you get from positive thinking are at once unifying spiritual constructs—the world is an inherently meaningful place with energy running through it—and gauges your personal material contentedness. The world revolves around you. The existence of a higher power and the dewiness of your skin (or balance of your bank account, or circumference of your waist) are inextricably intertwined. It's the best of both worlds. It combines moral relativism with a comforting veneer of metaphysical universalism: an inherent meaningful world where you can still, ethically, do whatever you want. Wellness begins—and ends—with the self.”

- Tara Isabella Burton, *Strange Rites*

Religions offer: Meaning, Purpose, Community, Ritual

John 18:33-38

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

Part 2: The Ground of All Reality

"Water is H₂O, hydrogen two parts, oxygen one, but there is also a third thing, that makes it water and nobody knows what that is."

- D.H. Lawrence

John 1:4-5

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Truth is that which corresponds to reality.

Goodness is that which aligns to its nature and its teleology.

Beauty is that which awakens.

Colossians 1:16, 19-20

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together...For God was pleased to have all

his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

“Christian tradition insists that all that is true, beautiful, and good finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. By encountering Truth, the human intellect is awakened to the infinite wisdom of God revealed in Christ; by encountering Goodness, the human volition is directed to act in accordance with the divine purposefulness of creation and our own created nature renewed in Christ; and by encountering Beauty, the human soul is awakened to the inexhaustible wellspring of divine love revealed in Christ. In short, the Christian vision of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty is an invitation, a divine call, to awaken the fullness of our humanity as the entire cosmos is incorporated into the transformative life, death, and resurrection of Christ.”

- Stephen Turley, *Awakening Wonder*

Part 3: Use Your Imagination

1 Corinthians 3:21-22

So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas...

1 Corinthians 3:21-22

All things are yours whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas *or the world...*

1 Corinthians 3:21-22

All things are yours whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world *or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.*