The Six Great Ends of the Church

Learning Mini-Series

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**DISCUSSION OUTLINE: GREAT END #4**

**The Preservation of the Truth**

*Presented by The Reverend Becca Messman*

**Series Information:**

This learning mini-series is sponsored by The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. It consists of seven videos in the “Ted Talk” presentation style. A discussion outline accompanies each of the Six Great Ends presentations. The presentations and presenters are:

* **Series Introduction:** *Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson*
* **The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind:** *Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson*
* **The Shelter and Nurture and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God:**

*Rev. Emilee Williams*

* **The Maintenance of Divine Worship:** *Rev. Dr. Jacob Bolton*
* **The Preservation of the Truth:** *Rev. Becca Messman*
* **The Promotion of Social Righteousness:** *Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey*
* **The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World:** *Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr.*

**Discussion Outline:**

1. What is Truth? – questions from Pilate to Jesus; John 18:36-38a
2. Does the Truth need protection/preservation?
3. In what way(s) is the Church “preserving” the truth?
4. like a museum keeping artifacts safe for history and the future? The Book of Confessions – our history museum of when the church spoke truth to power.
5. like a chemical preservative to keep it from getting stale (like food)? Aren’t we called to be “the salt of the earth”? Salt is an ancient preservative.
6. like an animal preserve – as a place for truth to be safe from predators who would use it inappropriately? The word Sanctuary – doesn’t it suggest a safe location?
7. Are some truths “self-evident” like in the Declaration of Independence?
8. See the Gospel of John – note that “the truth” is mentioned more than in other gospels – 48 times; compared to 10 times in all three of the other Gospels combined. Why could that be?
9. At minute 4:15 of the video – What is this truth that we are preserving?

John 8:12-47

John 14:6

1. How is Jesus the Truth? (not a what, but a who?)
2. Do you think Becca’s example of the Book of Confessions as “speaking truth to power” is appropriate?
3. The truth is that we understand the Bible better when we are together than when we are on our own – discuss this.