



The Six Great Ends of the Church

Learning Mini-Series

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:

- I. What is Truth? – questions from Pilate to Jesus; John 18:36-38a

- II. Does the Truth need protection/preservation?

Discussion Outline: The Preservation of the Truth

- III. In what way(s) is the Church “preserving” the truth?
1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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?
- IV. Are some truths “self-evident” like in the Declaration of Independence?
- V. 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?
- VI. At minute 4:15 of the video – What is this truth that we are preserving?
John 8:12-47
John 14:6
- VII. How is Jesus the Truth? (not a what, but a who?)
- VIII. Do you think Becca’s example of the Book of Confessions as “speaking truth to power” is appropriate?
- IX. The truth is that we understand the Bible better when we are together than when we are on our own – discuss this.