

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth” 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 6

At a prayer meeting last night we were talking about the darkness of the world and the plight of people who are suffering in that darkness in so many ways. The darkness of the world is produced by a darkness in people's individual lives. It's a spiritual darkness that comes about because people reject God's legitimate rule over their lives, demanding to rule in his place. That's the source and essence of evil, and why people delight in it. If people rule their own lives, then they spend their lives serving themselves, and the truly wicked are those who have given themselves over completely to the indulgence of self, even at the expense of the well being of others through oppression, corruption, manipulation, control or exploitation.

It is no wonder that those who seek the truth and rejoice when they find it take not delight in evil. It is hateful to them because of the suffering it causes, not only to its victims, but also, in the end to its perpetrators. In the truth they find life, a chance to recentre their lives on God rather than themselves. That comes as a huge relief. It takes a lot of effort to maintain a proud independence. When we understand the truth that our lives were meant to be lived under God's beneficial rule, care and guidance, we can rejoice because that is how we were meant to live.

When we know the truth, that we can live meaningful and fruitful lives in the real expectation of eternity when we come to relationship with God through faith in Jesus, then not only do we live in hope ourselves, but also we have a message of hope to offer to people living in the darkness of sin. You'd think that everybody would grab the opportunity like a drowning person would grab a lifeline. But no.

More and more in our increasingly secular world we find people indifferent, resistant and hostile to the message of truth. Jesus himself tells us why. Speaking to the secret believer Nicodemus he says, “The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. But anyone who lives by the truth comes into the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.” The truth of God reveals the truth about us.

Prayer.

Father, your truth is a light which illuminates the truth about sin and evil, even in me. Thank you that, although that is hard to endure, it is ultimately liberating. Please grant me your strength, endurance, patience and grace to continue holding out your word of truth and life to those who are living in darkness, and by your Spirit make my life fruitful for the salvation of others. In Jesus' name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.