

## THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus said: “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, he will testify to me...and he will guide you to all Truth.”

John 20: 19-20

It has been said that one of the first casualties of war is the Truth. We are not in the throes of a combat war or even a Cold War but nevertheless my sense right now is that the Truth has become a casualty. There is a cynicism abroad in the land of this great country right now. The cynicism puts forth two complementary viewpoints. The first viewpoint kind of hints that maybe there really isn't anything that is genuinely and authentically true, like objectively true. There is what you consider to be true and then there is what I consider to be true. Of course, you are entitled to your view of the truth but I tend to favor my own view. And if I happen to hold some leverage over you guess whose “truth” is going to win this one?

Second viewpoint is allied to the first. There may actually be something that is true out there but we live in such a complex world that we can never really know it for sure, or know that we know it. It's almost as if there really isn't any truth. Now why would a person or an organization put forth such viewpoints? Well it's because they know this will create a vacuum. People yearn for the truth or what they believe is the truth. If there is no truth what can we rely on? Funny you should ask. Well, I happen to have a narrative, a story line, that actually sounds pretty plausible and authentic. If I can get you to listen—and accept or agree—then that narrative will become a really good substitute for what the truth used to offer us. And many have gone down this path.

Jesus of Nazareth said: I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. He also said that he would send the Advocate, the very Spirit of Truth, to us, to those who believe in him. And the Spirit of Truth will lead us to all Truth. Two things on this Pentecost Sunday. Jesus says that there really is Truth. And He is that Truth. And Jesus says that his Spirit will lead us to that Truth and that we can know that Truth. And thus conduct our lives in accordance with it. So. There are two narratives at odds in our world today. Which do you think holds the greater meaning and the reliable accuracy for us human beings? Which only cares about what really is and has been made by the Father? And which only cares about coming out on top in the struggle that life is, in other words, winning? They're the questions for this week.