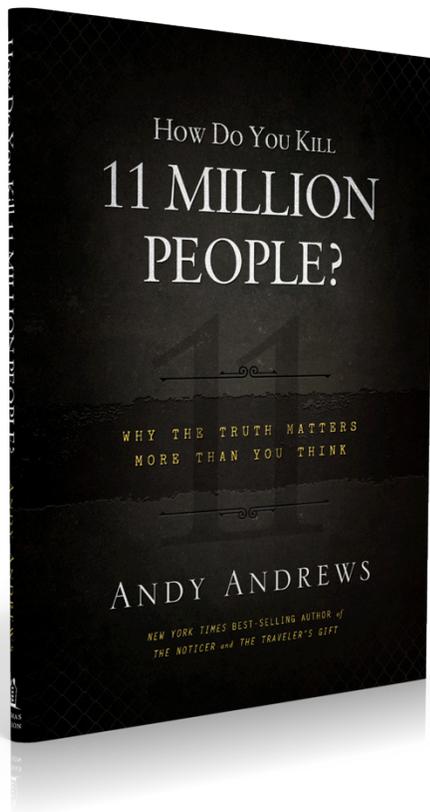


How Do You Kill 11 Million People?

by Andy Andrews



Sermon Series - 1 Truth Matters

*“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him,
‘If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine;
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’.* “

- John 8:31-32, NASB

The truth can set us free. Lies can ensnare us, create bondage, and steal away the possibility of freedom. Therefore, it is essential that we intentionally pursue truth with discernment and an open heart. The most important issue in any discussion of truth is its source. As a building is only as stable and durable as its foundation, so any claim to truth must have an authoritative, trustworthy, and durable source. God's Word to us, the Bible, is singularly that trustworthy source. In our foundational passage Jesus herein identifies Himself / His word as the pathway to ultimate truth, and thus to freedom.

I.

The genesis of truth is God Himself.

- A.** The Old Testament affirms the nature and character of God as the source of life and truth. Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:13-14; Psalm 119:142, 151-152, 160
- B.** The New Testament affirms that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are co-equal and that truth is inherent in each. Titus 1:1-2; I John 1:5-6, John 1:1 and 1:14; John 14:6, 16-17; John 17:17
- C.** Truth about God: Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8
 - 1. God is truth; truth is rooted in the person of God.
 - 2. Every ideal of truth points back to an ultimate standard; God is that standard.
 - 3. God is unchanging, thus truth is a fixed and absolute attribute of God.
- D.** God's truth speaks clearly and compellingly to the reality in which we live. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 4:12
 - a) The need for and path to right relationship to God and man (righteousness).

- b) The need for and path to right living before God and man.
- c) The need for and path to the commitments that govern our lives.

II.

The God of truth is good; His goodness assures His truthfulness.

- A.** God is consummately wise. Psalm 16; Psalm 103; Isaiah 55:8-11; I Corinthians 1:20-31
- B.** God is consummately just. Jeremiah 21:8-12; Zechariah 7:8-14; Romans 11:33-36
"The justice of God means that God is entirely correct and just in all His dealings with humanity; moreover, this justice acts in accordance with His law. The justice of God, therefore is related to man's sins. Since God's law reflects God's standard, then God is righteous and just when He judges man for His violation of God's revealed law."
Paul Enns, The Moody Handbook of Theology (Chicago, Moody Press). 196

"But the character of God is the guarantee that all wrongs will be righted someday; when 'the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed' (Rom. 2:5) arrives, retribution will be exact, and no problems of cosmic unfairness will remain to haunt us. God is the Judge, so justice will be done... As Judge, he is the law, but as Savior he is the gospel. Run from him now, and you will meet him as the Judge then—and without hope. Seek him now, and you will find him (for "he that seeketh findeth"), and you will then discover that you are looking forward to that future meeting with joy, knowing that there is now 'no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus' (Rom 8:1)." J. I. Packer, Knowing God (Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity Press), 143, 147
- C.** God is consummately loving. Isaiah 1:18-20, 53:12, 55:1-3; John 3:16, II Peter 3:9

III.

God's goodness is intended to lead man to His grace, life, and freedom.

- A.** He designed to demonstrate His wisdom, justice, and love for us at exactly the right moment in human history. Galatians 4:3-7
- B.** His plan for redemption met all the demands of His character. II Corinthians 5:21
- C.** The atoning work of the Son, Jesus Christ, makes it possible for anyone to receive God's grace. Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 10:9-13; Revelation 22:17

- D. We have access to the truth of God through Jesus our Lord. An abiding relationship to Jesus enables our growth in truth, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding and is our pathway to freedom.

Conclusion:

- All truth is rooted in the Person of God; it is fixed, absolute, and trustworthy because God is its source.
- God is good, wise, just, loving, and merciful.
- God's goodness can lead us to His grace in Christ Jesus.
- Because God makes Himself available to us in Jesus, we can know and grow in His truth.

God's truth is not simply theological or philosophical, and is not abstract. It is alive, connected, and relevant at the deepest levels with humanity, and profoundly consequential for every man. God has given man the choice to believe and live in His truth, or reject it for some other so-called "truth." Know this: the journey to knowing the truth of God begins with engaging a relationship with the God of truth through His Son, Jesus Christ. In that relationship the TRUTH will set you free.

Sermon Content created by Rick and Jan Loy

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