



## Myth Made Fact with Dr. Louis Markos

### Lesson 2: The Only Complete Truth

#### Outline:

Christianity is not the only truth, but it is the only complete truth.

- If we can understand the difference between the two we can move a great way towards understanding why Athens and Jerusalem can be brought together.
- People are capable of doing good and virtuous deeds.
- We accept the commonsense fact that there is goodness, truth, and beauty all around us. Only in Christ himself do we find truth in its absolute and perfect form.

#### The Christmas Story

- Who were these Magi? They are not Jews. They have a yearning for truth and a knowledge of the stars.
- They have studied to stars seeking after goodness, truth, and beauty.
- Following this limited wisdom, they are led to the Christ child.
- The Magi recognized that Christ was the truth. They gave their gifts and the worshipped the baby.

#### Story of Cornelius, Acts 10

- Peter shares the gospel with Cornelius and Cornelius and his family are baptized.
- When it is presented, Cornelius recognizes that this is the culminating point of his journey.

#### The difference between general revelation and special revelation.

- General revelation is the way that God speaks to all people generically.
- Special revelation is when God speaks directly, supremely in Christ himself.

#### Romans 1

- Paul says the pagans are without excuse because they can know about God through his creation.
- Creation doesn't teach them the gospel message, but it is going to show them about God's power, standards, and holiness.
- God speaks through nature (general revelation).

#### Romans 2

- The Gentiles, who are without the law are a law unto themselves for their conscience now accuses or condones them.



- God speaks through conscience (general revelation).

C.S. Lewis, on Psalm 19

- The first half is all about the beauty of God as seen in Creation.
  - Adonai, Elohim is used, to speak generically.
- The second half of the Psalm switches and starts talking about the law.
  - Yahweh is used, God's personal name.

Even though the pagans can't give us the full answer, the higher pagans ask the questions in a very powerful way.

- There is a yearning we need to follow that ends in Christ.

Who is Vergil talking about?

- In the Middle Ages people were so amazed by this pagan prophecy of the Christ that they would put on enactments of Bible stories. They would read from Isaiah or Psalms (prophecy) before the nativity.
- Vergil himself would sometimes read this poem.
- God used Vergil to prepare the pagan world for the coming of Christ.

Acts 17, Mars Hill

- Paul was in the marketplace and he noticed that there were idols everywhere.
- Paul noticed there was one altar to an unknown God.
- Paul is given a chance to address the pagan, stoic and epicurean philosophers of his day.
- "Now, therefore, what you have worshipped in ignorance, I will proclaim to you as known."
- Paul was quoting two different pagan poets. They couldn't figure it all out, but I am here to finish the story.
- At Mars Hill, Paul is showing us that he can quote pagan poetry as containing real truth to point the way to God.

Jesus reaches a hand to the pagans, John 12.

- Jesus is speaking at Passover.
- The Greeks go to Philip and say they want to see Jesus.
- Jesus says, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it will remain a single seed, but if it dies and is buried, it will bear much fruit."
  - That metaphor of the seed that dies is not a Jewish metaphor. Why does Jesus use it? He uses it to speak directly to these Greeks.
    - They could have been Greeks who worshipped the cycle of the wheat.
    - Jesus is taking those with a limited knowledge and lifting them up into the only complete truth.