

The Most Beautiful Word in Greek

Written by Bill Perkins

"I came into the world-
to bear witness to the truth."
- John 18:37

When I studied Greek,
I cherished one word.

A word so beautiful,
my wife and I would have given it to a daughter
had God blessed us with one.

Haletheia.

Truth.

It means reality over illusion.
Honesty over deceit.
Light over darkness.

And it sounds beautiful
as it requires a breath to say it.

Haletheia.

It is the word Jesus used
when He stood before Pilate.

The Jews brought Jesus to him at dawn,
insisting he deserved death,
but offering no evidence.

The crime-insurrection-
had teeth, but no proof.

Pilate asked one question
that might explain their fear.

"Are You a king?"

Jesus didn't flinch.

"For this reason I came into the world:
to bear witness to the truth.
Everyone who is of the truth
hears My voice."

Sadly,
Pilate didn't hear His voice.

He cynically asked,
"What is truth?"

Not a question.
A dismissal.

And so Pilate walked away,
leaving the answer
standing in the quiet.

But what if Pilate had heard Him?
What if he had asked,
"What do You mean?"

You may not know this about Jesus,
but He might have said:

"I am the truth you were made for.
I am Truth made flesh.
I am the plumb line
that reveals every crooked line.
I am the weight in the scales
that exposes every false balance.

I am the light
That exposes what's hidden.
I am the clarity that
no shadow can distort.

I am the promise keeper.
I am perfect love.
I am perfect forgiveness.

I am the Rock that does not move
when the storm rises.
I am the standard
by which every word,

every motive,
every verdict
is measured.

I am truth-
not the idea,
not the argument,
not the philosophy-
but the living reality of God."

But Pilate never asked.
He never waited.
He never stayed long enough
to hear the answer
he claimed to seek.

Where might I walk away too quickly
before Jesus can speak truth?

Truth is Someone I stand before.
When I linger
illusions fall away,
motives are exposed,
and the path becomes clear.

Father,
teach me to stay
in the presence of Your Son.
Silence my cynicism.
Help me hear
His voice of Truth.
I ask this in Jesus' name,
Amen.