

SERMON – THE 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER – 13 APRIL 2008
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

We prayed in our Collect this morning.

Almighty God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness.

What we are looking at this morning are two truths, God's Truth with a capital T and our truth, the truth about ourselves, with a small t.

God's Truth is unchanging. The truth about ourselves is ever changing. The truth about ourselves is ever changing as we draw closer to or draw further away from God's Truth as we journey through this mortal life.

God's Truth is unchanging. God is unchanging. God is ever the same from ever past to ever future. God exists in the ever present, timeless now.

As the Psalmist wrote, *Psalm 90:2 (KJV) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

And again in *Psalm 93:2 (KJV) Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.*

We, on the other hand, exist in an ever-changing universe, in an ever-changing world of time.

God is ultimate Truth. Man is but vanity *Psalm 39:5 (KJV) Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.*

Our task then is to transform ourselves into God's Truth, to allow God to come into our lives and to change us into His image. That is our life-long task, our journey, our

pilgrimage.

We are not just supposed to be on a short neighborhood walk with God. What we are called to do is to take on a task that is spiritually comparable to hiking the Appalachian Trail from Alabama to Maine with all its steep paths, dangers and difficulties.

We prayed also this morning in today's Collect, *Grant unto all those admitted into Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same.*

We are not talking about doing our job right or practicing our professional life in a correct manner, but, rather we are saying that we should remember our baptismal vows and follow them, to take those vows seriously.

In order to accomplish the responsibilities that come with those commitments that we made or were made for us which we confirmed later, we have know ourselves, we have to know the truth about ourselves.

As long as we travel along with God using our masks, using the defenses that we have built up throughout our lives, using the excuses that we have been making for not fully giving ourselves to the will of God, we will never know the true joy that He can provide.

As long as we avoid facing the truth about ourselves we will never fully know His love.

We are to learn ourselves, who we are and what makes us tick. We are to throw away the masks and go to God without anything that could be a barrier between us and Him.

What I am talking about can be and probably will be a scary thing. None of us really wants to face the demons of our lives, those things that we are afraid to disclose even to God.

But the funny thing is that God doesn't care what we have been are what we are, but rather He is concerned about who we want to be. We will find that God, no matter what, still loves us, warts and all.

His love is so great that He became incarnate, lived among us as one of us, and died for us on the Cross.

Through our baptism we died with Him. Through His Resurrection we have risen with Him.

But if we have not truly taken on Him and are still the lackadaisical Christian that we have always been, we are not being true to either God or ourselves.

Our truth will not match His Truth.

And as we pray, *Almighty God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness*, let us all resolve today to begin that inward journey with Him that will strip away all the pretenses, all the defenses, all the shadows that darken our lives and live in the Light of His Love.

Amen.