So the wise men from the East travel to Jerusalem and inquire of Herod the King, “Where is He who is born King of the Jews?” (Matthew 2: 2) Herod turns to his high priests and scribes and asks them what the Bible says and they report back to him that according to the Prophet Micah the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2). They search the scriptures to find their answers. Herod doesn’t know his scripture; the wise men don’t know their scripture. But Micah the prophet was correct: Jesus as Messiah is born in Bethlehem. The Word of God is true. It is truth yesterday, today and tomorrow and forever. And the wise men go to Bethlehem and there they discover the baby Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made flesh, the Word of God born in a manger. The written Word reveals the Living Word. The BIBLE reveals JESUS. The wise men discover what they have long sought. They have searched man’s wisdom, to no avail, and they have searched the stars but they discover the answer to their quest through the Word of God. They have SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGH. The answers to the questions in their heart. They have EPIPHANY. By the way, Herod didn’t like what the Word of God said, but the fact that he didn’t like it didn’t make it any less the TRUTH.

I want to go on a little “sermonic riff” here a little bit. It is to unpack the difference between the subjective and the objective; subjective truth versus objective truth. The subjective truth is what I may personally like and what I personally think applies to me. By contrast, the objective truth applies to me whether I like it or not. Subjective truth is that something gets 614 “likes” on Facebook versus something that only gets 10 “likes” and so somehow the 614 likes have greater validity than the one that received only 10. But the one that received 10 likes may be TRUE and the one that received 614 may be false. Subjective truth is an opinion poll. It doesn’t matter whether 52% of people agree with something; it may still be wrong; it may be a lie; it may be utter injustice. Our liking something, our agreement with something doesn’t make it true. “Oh, that may be true for you but that’s not true for me.” That’s subjective truth not objective truth. Something that is true is true yesterday and today and tomorrow and forever. It is “True TRUTH”. It is not changeable; it is immutable. It does not waver in the winds of public opinion. It relies not upon the will of humanity; it relies wholly on the promise of God. It is true in every time and season or it is not true. It is true in every culture or it is not true. It is true in every language or it is not true. The Bible as the WORD OF GOD is true in its entirety, or if not, IT IS FALSE and invalid and should not be read nor followed. The Apostle Paul in his farewell to the Ephesian elders is summarizing his ministry to them and declares that he has sought to always preach the Gospel. He has sought to always preach the truth. Our scripture for today: “I did not shrink from declaring the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20: 27) The Bible is “the whole counsel of God”. The Word of God in the Bible is everything necessary unto salvation. The Word of God is true as the confessions attest because it is The Word of God. These words are God’s Word. This Word points to the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the One true and Living God. To which nothing may be added. And nothing may be subtracted. It is true in its entirety or it is not true; we may not
cherry pick our truth from its pages; liking this Bible verse and so it has validity; disliking that Bible verse and so it is not true. That is not TRUTH. The Bible is the whole counsel of God. It is true and valid for you and for me. The wise men would not have found Jesus without it. And neither will we. That is the EPIPHANY, the spiritual breakthrough, I would ask you to have today...

If we believe the Bible is not true then obviously we will not read it, and many people do not read the Bible because on some level they think there is nothing held within it that has validity for them. But when I read the Bible there is never a day that goes by when I do not read something that I believe personally applies to me. God uses the written Word to speak the Living Word into my heart on a daily basis. I need my faith to be strengthened; I need to believe in the objective promises of God; I need to believe that the promises held in scripture are there for me. They are objective; they stand the test of time; they do not change nor waver; they are true for me today and yesterday and tomorrow and forever. When we read our Bible in faith the Holy Spirit comes and opens our eyes to the TRUE TRUTH on every page. God uses his Word to speak to His children. And we have spiritual breakthroughs in our lives. And Jesus comes alive for us, as Savior and Lord and Messiah and Living Word spoken. We find the answers we seek. We have EPIPHANY. Just like the wise men of old — No Epiphany without the Word of God...

I don't know about you but I need scripture to be true and I need the promises of God to be sure and certain. When it says, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” I need that to be true. I need that to be true especially when I’m not “feeling” like God is walking with me. When the Bible quotes Jesus saying, “Lo, I am with you always…” I need that to be true. I need to think that on my worst day, when God may seem very far away indeed, that nevertheless Jesus is still walking with me every step along the way. When the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, states and it is recorded in the written Word, “I am the resurrection and the life...whoever believes in me will never die.” I need that to be true. I need that to be a TRUE TRUTH, an absolute truth guaranteed by a Savior who is the same yesterday, today and forever. But then you hold up the rest of the Word of God and you say, “Oh, but the rest of this may or may not have validity to me, may or may not be true, I like or I may not like.” Don’t you see how you undermine the truth and the validity of a True Truth like “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” by undermining the truth of the whole rest of scripture? Like it or not, the Word of God is the whole counsel of God. That’s what God says about it. It is true in its entirety, in every time and place and culture, to every people group and language, or it undermines the objective truth of the statements I need to get me through life. The Bible IS the Word of God. May it be the Epiphany we have today, even as it was the Epiphany that led to the discovery of Jesus as Messiah and Lord, to the wise men on that first Epiphany so long ago. True Truth will never fail you. And will always get you to Jesus. Epiphany. Today. In Jesus’ name. Amen and Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!