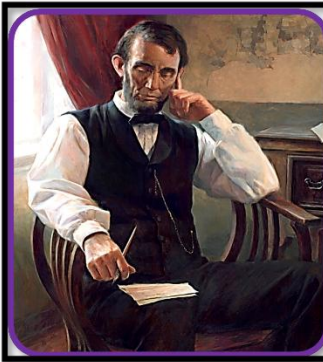




On Wednesday evenings, President Lincoln would go to listen to the sermons of Dr. Phineas Gurley. The President discreetly and quietly entered church through a side door. One evening, after the sermon, an aide asked President Lincoln his appraisal of the sermon. The President replied, "The content was excellent...he delivered it with eloquence...and he put a substantial amount of effort into his message." His aid remarked, "Then you thought it was an outstanding sermon?" "No!" Lincoln answered. "But you said that it was excellent, eloquent and showed a substantial amount of effort. So, I don't understand your assessment." Lincoln replied, "*His sermon utterly failed because he did not ask of us something great!*"

Dear Friends, I want you to know that I am most grateful to God for your friendship and for your partnership in the ministry He has graciously entrusted to us. I am pleased to send you this update to share what God is doing and where He is leading us.

ORIGINAL VISION: I want to remind you that one of the most important ministry distinctives of Legacy of Truth is to identify and mentor student leaders. This objective was the central part of our original vision based on 2 Timothy 2:1-2. As I reflected on this particular ministry distinctive, I was reminded of a story about Abraham Lincoln (included above). Lincoln's assessment as challenged me for a number of years and , as for me, I think if I did not ask some of my potential student leaders to do something great, under God, I would "utterly fail" as a teacher.

DO SOMETHING GREAT: In the fall of 2019, I asked a student, under God, to "do something great." During that time I was in the process of mentoring Drew, a high school senior, who just graduated and was heading off to the University of Georgia (Athens). Before he left for college, I encouraged Drew to launch a Socratic Club at UGA. Drew took the challenge and assembled a team of like-minded students to work on this endeavor. I met with his team virtually for training and discussions during 2020.

UGA SOCRATIC CLUB: The club has been operating for three semesters and in his last report, Drew said that they have "members from most major world views and in terms of conversations we cover a range of topics including truth, logic, purpose, politics, family, culture, and more." Moreover, Drew and his team initiated a more personal extension of the club titled, "Socratic After Hours." He said that they did this in order to be able to "become personally invested in each other's

lives. We are excited to see what else God will do and as we are having the adventure of a lifetime.”

FUTURE HOPE: I must tell you that some of the young adults that I have had the privilege to teach, give me hope for the possibility that God will use them to influence their peers and professors. With this in mind, I have included (below) the testimonies of two students (Summer and Tyler) who just graduated high school. These students represent the kind of young adults our ministry was designed to help. As you read their testimonies I hope it will encourage you as much as it has encouraged me.

THANK YOU: for your financial contributions, whether great or small, for it is the heart that is seen by God and credited for the true spirit of generosity. The summer months are almost always a difficult time to receive contributions. So, if you would prayerfully consider making a donation, I would be most grateful!

By God’s Grace Alone - Pete

SUMMER’S FAITH JOURNEY: As a junior in high school, I was experiencing a crisis in my faith. I struggled with doubt about God’s truth, and the enemy was deceiving me into believing false things about God. So, I signed up for Mr. Bocchino’s Critical Thinking 1 course (CT1). Taking that class changed everything for me and shifted the trajectory of my faith journey back on track. The class topics dealt with questions that many people ask about their faith. The CT1 course was designed to teach students how to think for themselves in order to evaluate and navigate the sociocultural landscape that promote doubt and uncertainty.

The reason why this course makes a tremendous impact on students is because students are not instructed about what to think. Rather, there is an intellectual investment being made that teaches us how to think about any subject. It shapes your worldview and shifts the way by which you go about life, first understanding other worldviews and then being able to intellectually challenge the different ideologies circulating throughout society.

After taking CT1, I decided to sign up for Critical Thinking 2. CT2 takes students through Mr. B’s book, Unshakable Foundations) and the academic

issues discussed in this courses gave me a rational foundation to determine what is true and what is false. It also taught me that these critical thinking skills can be applied in academic argumentation and in discussions concerning differing belief systems. In CT2, we covered numerous topics, including the Nuremberg Trials following World War II. That study has become a topic of great interest to me because the precedent established at Nuremberg is quite significant in current times regarding the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. *(Summer set up a mock radio interview with me on the Nuremberg Trials and I will share it in a forthcoming special update).*

Finally, no words can express my appreciation for the time and resources these two courses have afforded. Taking them has helped me think for myself and the experience has changed my life. ***With gratitude, Summer***

TYLER'S OVERVIEW OF THE CT CLASSES: I enrolled in both critical thinking courses at the beginning of my senior year. All of my expectations of the class turned out to be different than I had imagined. We were not just learning about concepts of facts, truth, or reality....we were applying them to real-world applications and using these experiences to mold what we know we believe in, whether it be science, religion, human rights, or social trends. The theological components of these courses were extremely valuable. I found it very difficult in the past to simply believe something for the sake of it. As someone who has always wanted to be sure of my exact religious beliefs, these courses were beyond helpful. Moreover, I learned to have much more faith in what I believe God to be, while also knowing that I have the ability to rationalize comfortably and logically what I believe to be true. This level of solidity has made it so much easier for me to explain what I believe to others. Most importantly, these classes encouraged me to actually stand behind my beliefs. For a few years I struggled with the correlation between faith and logic. When I had questions about the Bible, the answer always seemed to be the same: just believe it to be true. It was during the first few weeks of taking the critical thinking classes that I was disturbed to learn that it was very difficult for me to explain the reasoning for my beliefs. However, taking these classes motivated me to understand and deduce concepts I had never actually challenged in my life.

As a result, I have learned how and why my beliefs are most reasonable and I have a great amount of peace knowing that I am not regurgitating what I have been taught since my childhood. Rather, I am thankful that I continue to learn and analyze new aspects of my faith every day! ***Sincerely, Tyler***

SEVERAL WAYS TO DONATE: Since the summer months are financially challenging, a donation would be most appreciated! Other ways to support our efforts would be to make a monthly contribution or to help us through AmazonSmile (Amazon contributes to us when you purchase). For more information on how to donate, please visit our website at: www.legacyoftruth.org/giving/