

Valiant for Truth #4 – Christ as Light and Truth

Jer. 9:3 – “And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not **valiant for the truth** upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.”

We can't expect to be called valiant for the truth, if we are not so in fact. **How can we be valiant for truth?**

To start with, we need to be clear about who Jesus is. In previous lessons we saw Christ as the Word (the eternal Logos), as Creator, and as Life. These are clearly spoken of in John 1, where we also see him as the Light of the world, and Truth.

Jesus is the Light of the world

Isa. 9:2 – “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” (9:1 - the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, “in Galilee of the nations”).

Isa. 60:1-3 – “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

Jn. 1:1-9 – “...In him was life, and **the life was the light of men**. And **the light shineth in darkness**, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, **to bear witness of the Light**, that all men through him might believe, He was not that Light, but was **sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.**”

Jn. 8:12 – “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

2 Cor. 4:6 – “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give **the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**”

There is a relationship between light and truth. Light reveals truth, it shows the way things really are. This is true of physical light, but especially of spiritual light. But to those who are blind, the Light means nothing – they cannot comprehend it (Jn. 1:5 and 1:10-11). Apart from God lifting the veil, we have sin-darkened eyes.

Ps. 43:3 – “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.”

Jesus is Truth

Jesus is the revealer (and the actual revelation) of truth).

Jn. 1:14 – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Jn. 1:17 – “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

All truth is in Christ. He is the truth.

Some people are valiant for truth in things of this world, like whistleblowers who expose corruption or evils going on in government or business, unknown to the general public. But what we mean is much deeper than just exposing bad things, or truth in advertising, or being honest. We are considering, not just truthfulness, but Truth itself, which is only found in one man, Jesus Christ.

Jn. 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

How is God's truth manifested toward mankind? Toward the unrepentant and rebellious it is harsh judgment, but to those who receive Christ and his sacrifice on our behalf, mercy.

1. God's truth in judgment

Dt. 32:4 – “He is the Rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”

Because God is a God of truth, nothing is hidden from his eyes. Not only every evil deed, but also evil thoughts and desires are open to his sight, and must be judged. He will not just pass over sin as if it doesn't matter. Sin is an affront to his name and to his holiness. If he were to just ignore sin, then his truth and justice would mean nothing. In that case, there would have been no point in the eternal Logos becoming a man and dying on the cross. He did that because it was the ONLY way for sinful man to be reconciled with his maker. If we could save ourselves, Christ's sacrifice would be unnecessary.

God's judgments are in the earth already (famine, drought, pestilence, wars and invasions, individual death or sickness, etc.). Such judgments may or may not be recognized as such. Sinful man may just chalk them up to bad luck or bad circumstances, but in the final judgment there will be no escaping the awful reality, as men stand before the great white throne and answer for their sins. That judgment is absolute, unavoidable, and absolutely final.

In the great Day of the LORD, men will vainly try to hide from God, and will realize that gold and silver are utterly meaningless in that day. Isa. 2:10-21 Zeph. 1:14-18 Rev. 6:15-17

Because of God's absolute justice, ALL sin must be completely dealt with and punished – either in our own person (in the hellfires of Gehenna), or vicariously by the sufferings of Christ.

Mal. 4:1 – “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2. God's truth in mercy

Mal. 4:2 – “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall.”

God delights in mercy and forgiveness, but only as it has been atoned for in the sacrificial death of Christ. He bore the penalty of our sins, so we could be justified properly and fully. Our debt has been paid, and upon believing on Christ, we have been adopted as God's sons. He remembers our sins no more.

Ps. 103:8-14 Mic. 7:19 Jer. 31:31-34 (Heb. 8:8-12)

a. God is a God of mercy and truth

In his mercy toward in Christ, he is being true to his holiness and the absolute requirement for sin to be judged. Sin has really been dealt with, legally and in full satisfaction of the just requirements of God's law and his just nature. For him to “justify” us by mere fiat, just by saying “I ignore your sin and you are now righteous”, with no penalty paid, would be a lie, and a violation of truth.

It is mercy that God allows us to see and recognize the truth. Lk. 10:21-24 Mt. 13:10-17

Ps. 85:10 – “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

Ps. 86:15 – “But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

Ps. 98:3 – “He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

b. As God's people, he expects us also to be filled with mercy and truth

We should be merciful to others, and characterized by truthfulness. If he who is truth dwells in us, then our lives should show that effect. To acquiesce in lies is not merciful.

Prov. 3:3 – “Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.”

Prov. 20:28 – “Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.”