

## Valiant for Truth #1

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.”

One of the characters in Pilgrim’s Progress is named “Valiant for Truth”. I always thought that if I could be named by a character trait, that would be my desired name. **But we can’t expect to be called Valiant For Truth, if we are not in fact, valiant for the truth.** What does that even mean? **How can we be valiant for truth?** A short answer is that we need to recognize and know the truth, love and value it, live by it, and defend and uphold it even at personal cost. “Valiant” implies valor or bravery.

In the last days there will be great delusion on every hand. 2 Thess. 2:8-15 Most people will fall to those lies and delusions, and in fact it says God himself will send them strong delusion to believe a lie. Why? v. 10 – “because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved”, and v. 12 – “who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”. On the contrary, how are we really saved? v. 13 – “God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” Because of that, we are told to “stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle” (v. 15).

Satan is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44), and he uses all his influence to spread lies in the world, from the Garden of Eden until now. We are surrounded by lies on every side, because he is trying to condition us to fuzzy thinking, so that we cannot clearly distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong, truth and error. We MUST learn to use discernment in everything.

- Political lies
  - That the people going to Washington DC on Jan. 6 2021 were attempting a violent insurrection, and that President Trump was responsible for it.
  - Legislation is commonly given misleading names, like the “Inflation Reduction Act”, or the “Affordable Care Act”. This is on purpose, to mask the true intent of the legislation. They also use false justifications, like “If it saves one life, it is worth it”, “or “Do this for the children”.
  - Leftists constantly accuse their opponents of what they are most guilty of.
  - People are called racist simply because they are white.
  - Leftists say they do not want to take away our guns (they really do). They say that rising crime is caused by insufficient gun control laws, and that Chicago murders are caused by Indiana gun shows and dealers. They even say it is easier to buy a gun than a book, which is ludicrous.
  - They make up statistics, or quote absurdly large numbers, knowing that the news media will never call them on it.
- Sociological lies
  - That gender is subjective.
  - That students should be provided a cat box instead of being treated for mental illness.
  - That schools are better at raising children than parents.
  - That men are all worthless beasts and the cause of all worldly problems.
  - That “working women” are happier and more satisfied and valuable than mothers.
  - That abortion is not murder, but should be made safe, affordable, but rare.
  - We cannot speak against sexual perversions without being labeled “homophobic bigots”.
  - We are told that a college education is necessary for almost everyone.
  - That kids shouldn’t be told that  $2 + 2 = 5$  is wrong (or that basic math is racist!).
- Economic lies
  - That riches will make you happy. (Mt. 13:22 – the “deceitfulness of riches”)
  - That you can get rich by gambling or get-rich-quick schemes, instead of by real labor.
  - That the rich are not paying “their fair share”, that prosperity will be increased by more taxes (especially on those “evil rich”), and more government control of our lives.
- Scientific lies
  - Global warming and rising sea levels
  - Evolution
  - Masking as an effective strategy against man-made viruses

- That electric cars are feasible as a replacement for petroleum-based vehicles.
- That wind and solar power generation is feasible for complete replacement of traditional power plants.
- That carbon dioxide in the air is a bad thing.
- Religious lies
  - That it doesn't matter if we believe Gen. 1-11 (Creation, Flood, tower of Babel) to be just myths.
  - That the Bible is "homophobic" and "patriarchal", and needs to be updated to modern sensibilities, even to replace references to God with gender-neutral pronouns. Or that a real Bible is too hard to understand and so it needs to be reworded to make it more understandable (and less objectionable to sinners).
  - That the church should perform gay marriages, allow premarital sex and other (shameful and unnamed) practices, and allow homosexual leaders in the church. We are literally seeing the doctrines of Jezebel and Balaam in some churches today.
  - Some churches deny the fundamentals of the faith – revelation and inspiration of scriptures, the deity of Christ, the personality of the Holy Spirit (or denial of the triunity of God), denial of the virgin birth or sinless life of Christ, or the substitutionary atonement, or the literal, bodily resurrection of Christ, the second coming of Christ, the eternal nature of both heavenly reward and punishment in hell, salvation by grace not works, etc.
  - That we cannot win young people to the church unless we become just like them. We dare not teach the Bible too plainly because people will be offended and leave. That real worship is a matter of lights, smoke, oppressive volume, gyrations of guitar players, and performance by a few (whether the "worship team" or a traditional choir) instead of participation by all. That real church success is determined by numbers and by being recognized as "the place to go".

Is everything a lie? No, but almost! What can we stand on in confidence? The Word of God, and to some extent, just common sense. Stop allowing yourself to be gaslighted. Gaslighting is the practice of feeding people with false information, trying to get them to doubt their own beliefs, observations, and even sanity. They are attempting to make us doubt what is apparent, and afraid to speak obvious truth (like the "emperor has no clothes" story).

We must be very careful with what we allow into our minds. If people constantly listen to CNN and MSNBC, it is no wonder that they have a warped and erroneous view of reality. We should quite literally have no more faith in these sources than the Russians had in Pravda and Tass back in the days of the USSR. People recognized that they were just getting party propaganda and lies.

Are you getting lies from the regular news media? Stop listening. Are you getting lies from the schools? Get your children out. Lies from the pulpit? Flee.

We are not concerned with mere truthful statements, like mathematical, chemical, or mechanical facts, but truthfulness in behavior and interpersonal dealings, morality, and truth in the abstract – that all truth is found in God, and specifically in Christ. He IS truth.

**How is the word *truth* used in the Bible?** (Hebrew אֱמֶת (*emet*), and Greek ἀλήθεια (*aletheia*))

**1. What is true, as opposed to false, fictitious, or feigned, either in speech or action**

Zech. 8:16-17 – "These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD."

Eph. 4:25 – "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."

1 Jn. 3:18 – "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and in truth."

**2. What is true of God and discernible by human reason, for which even the unsaved are held accountable**

Rom. 1:18 – "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

Rom. 1:25 – “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator”

### **3. Truth as ultimate reality**

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.”

Jer. 10:10 – “But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.”

Jn. 18:37-38 – “... Jesus answered [Pilate], Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? ...” (Pilate was questioning whether truth is even knowable.)

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.”

### **4. Truth as related to judgment, justice and righteousness**

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.”

Zech. 7:9 – “Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:”

Mal. 2:6 – (of Levi) “The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.”

### **5. Truth as wisdom**

Prov. 8:1, 6-8 – “Doth not wisdom cry? And understanding put forth her voice? ... Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness: there is nothing froward of perverse in them.”

Prov. 22:20-21 – “Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?”

How could wisdom even exist without truth? If there was no real, objective truth, then all human existence would be meaningless and wisdom a joke.

### **6. Faithfulness and reliability**

Ex. 18:21 – “Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them, *to be* rulers of thousands, *and* rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:”

### **7. Sincerity, integrity, freedom from pretense or deceit; living in agreement with divine truth**

1 Cor. 5:8 – “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

1 Cor. 13:6 – (love) “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth”

Eph. 6:14 – “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness”

3 Jn. 4 – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

### **8. The whole body of doctrinal truth which has been revealed in the Word, through Christ and the prophets, and which is preached, taught, and passed along for faithful dissemination to each generation.**