

Valiant for Truth #9

Jer. 9:3 – “... they are not **valiant for the truth** upon the earth ...” **How can we be valiant for truth?**

In previous lessons we saw Christ as the Word (the eternal Logos), as Creator, as Life, as the True Light, and Truth itself, and that we are guided by the Holy Spirit into truth. Then, that we must love and seek the truth, be sanctified by it, live by it, and hold fast to it. We also covered the necessity of teaching the truth.

Ps. 119:30 – “I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.” We must consciously choose the way of truth, especially in a world characterized by deception. But to be able to choose truth, we must be able to recognize the lies, which are usually “in camo”. We must sort through what we see and hear and have the discernment to know what is true and what is not, and then have the courage to reject the lies.

Truth is Often (Almost Always) Perverted by the World

Idolatry, “Mother Earth” worship, New Age movements

Occult, witchcraft

Promiscuity, pre-marital sex and marital infidelity

Homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, incest

Transexualism accepted as normal

No distinction of dress or behavior between the sexes

Denial of Genesis 1-11 (Creation, the Flood, scattering of the races by language)

2 P. 3:3-6 – “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts ... For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water, and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished”

Lies concerning over-population, climate change, scarcity of resources, etc.

Government dependence instead of individual responsibility and voluntary charity

Denial of an afterlife, or belief in reincarnation

Truth Perverted by the Church (or Israel)

Jer. 7:8 – “Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.”

Ignoring or Modifying Clear Teachings of the Bible

Fundamental doctrines – Virgin Birth, Revelation and Inspiration of Scriptures, denial of Trinity (Deity and Eternality of Christ, Deity and Personality of the Holy Spirit), Hell as eternal punishment, Second Coming

Rejection of miracles and supernatural gifts of the Spirit (for today)

Saying that “There are many ways to God” (but Jn. 14:6)

Living in a morality that is no better than the world, having no concern about holy living

Women pastors or teachers (1 Tim. 3:2 and 2:12)

Responsibility to work

Responsibility to marry and bear children

Child training and discipline

Family structure - husband as the loving head, provider, and protector of the family, wife in loving submission to husband, children honoring and obeying parents

Introduction of Extra-Biblical Authority

Jer. 5:31 – “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?”

Mk. 7:6-13 (“making the word of God of none effect through your tradition”)

Catholic teachings and pronouncements as coequal or even superior authority to the Bible

Church “rule books” to enforce church members’ behavior

Denominational control by “headquarters”

The “Shepherdship” movement and its twisting of “headship” and “covering”

NCC and WCC (National and World Councils of churches)

Addition of Extra-Biblical Doctrines

Communististic and Marxist philosophy (common in the Catholic, and liberal Protestant churches)

Purgatory, transubstantiation, celibacy of priests, confession to priests

Clergy vs. laity distinction

Monasticism (monks, nuns)

Infant baptism

Unbiblical or Unethical Practices

Church rules for dress, prohibitions against various activities (movies, cards, hair cutting, etc.)

Ordination of unbelievers, and even homosexual or transexual ministers

Homosexual and other non-traditional marriages

Worship as entertainment

Incorporation of extremely offensive, worldly actions and atmospheres as “worship”

Church “empires”, pastors elevated to cult status

Financial fraud and charlatanism

Truth perverted by false teachers and false prophets

Jer. 14:14 – “Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.”

Calling good evil, and evil good, or making everything “gray”

Isa. 5:20 – “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

Promising peace to unrepentant sinners

Jer. 6:13-14 – “For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.”

Replacement theology (that the church has replaced Israel as God’s chosen)

Rejection of the OT as a current authority

Teaching that Christ already returned in 70 AD

Teaching that Christ died spiritually on the cross and had to be reborn in hell

Sunday school teaching notes are available at: <https://howardslackteachings.com>