

Valiant for Truth #6

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.”

The Unregenerate World is Characterized by Untruth

(lies, deception, false dealing, idolatry, covetousness, error)

For this we have no great need of proof. These are things we see around us every day, and against which we must continually be on guard. Against these we have commandments (not to bear false witness), examples throughout the Bible, Proverbial statements of how God hates lying and injustice and the “false balance”; we have many NT admonitions to truthfulness and to speak the truth with one another (e.g., Col. 3:9), and finally, the warning of eternal judgment on all liars (Rev. 21:8)

Hos. 4:1 – “Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.”

We live in a world of falsehood, not only in individual relations, but in the media, government, science, education, business, and medicine. Jn. 8:31-36 says “... *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*” It is obvious that this world in its current course will never be free of lies and deceptions. The freedom that Christ promises in this current world is for us as individuals, and as members of his body, the church. We cannot reform the world at large, but we can gain personal freedom in Christ, and pass that along to others, individually, as they hear and respond to the gospel. The lies of the world will be dealt with in judgment at Christ’s coming.

So as Christians, we have a duty, and the God-given ability, to rid our minds of the lies that surround us, and which we used to hold, and to live the truth in the midst of a lying world.

Rom. 12:2 – “And be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

2 Cor. 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.”

Eph. 4:22-25 – “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.”

Must Love and Seek the Truth

Truth will not come to us accidentally, or without effort. The only way we will come to know the truth is by the Word (Bible), and by the illumination of the Holy Spirit. We can’t expect God to just “download” truth into us, if we do not take the trouble to read his revelation, and to follow the leading of his Spirit.

Seeking and loving the truth are simultaneous activities that feed on each other. The more you seek the truth, the more you will love it, and the more you love the truth, the more you will seek it.

Loving the Truth

A great warning is in 2 Thess. 2:10-12 – “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

But our experience should be in Ps. 119:97 - “O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” 119:72 – “The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.”

Those who receive not the love of the truth will fall for a lie. Have you ever shaken your head in wonder at how anyone can believe something as stupid and irrational as they do (or as we did)? For one thing, it is

because they are operating under a totally different world view than Christians, but at the root it is because they have no love of real truth. They love whatever reinforces their preconceived notions.

To love the truth means that you put a high value on it.

Prov. 4:7 – “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.”

Prov. 23:23 – “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”

Seeking the Truth

To seek the truth is to seek God, because he is the truth, and the ONLY truth. I sought God for years in high school and early college, and wished that God would speak out loud or something. It didn't seem like I was getting closer, and reading the Bible (or what I thought was a Bible at the time) didn't give me answers, but I kept seeking. It was in spurts, but God was answering and leading me to the truth. It was really him putting that drive, that “want to”, in my heart. Even though I didn't really know what it meant to be a Christian, nor how to become one, I thought that there had to be a reality to it that could be found.

We know from Romans 3 that there are none that seek God, we are all turned out of the way. (Ps. 53:2) Yet I was seeking God and he eventually revealed himself to me. This is not a contradiction. If left to myself I truly never would have sought God, but unknown to me, it was him working in my heart, putting in me a hunger to know and experience the truth. It was also his desire to reveal himself to me, but he allowed me to go through several years of searching, questioning, praying, and reading, to build up my hope and expectation and hunger so that at the right time I would be ready to receive. *Jn. 6:44 – “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

God gives us promises that are meant to encourage us to seek him, to seek wisdom, to seek the truth.

Prov. 8:17 – “I love them that love me: and those that seek me early shall find me.” (of Wisdom)

Isa. 55:6 – “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:”

If God is dealing with your heart, giving you conviction of sins, fear of judgment, and a hunger to be forgiven and cleansed from your sins, THAT is the time to respond – don't put it off.

Jer. 29:13 – “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Mt. 7:7 – “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

Seeking God and Truth also has Promised Blessings

- You will find him.

Dt. 4:29 – “But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”

2 Chr. 15:2, 12 – “... The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.”

- God will give you mercy and righteousness.

Hos. 10:12 – “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”

- God will provide your daily needs.

Ps. 34:10 – “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.”

- You will be kept from the judgments coming upon the world.

Zeph. 2:3 – “Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment: seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.”