

Valiant for Truth #3

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.”

What does that even mean? **How can we be valiant for truth?** First of all, we need to stand firm on who Jesus is. In the previous lesson we saw him as “the Word of God”, especially from John 1. In the same place he is described as the Creator, and life itself.

Jesus is the Creator

Jn. 1:3 – “**All things were created by him**; and without him was not anything made that was made.”

There are scriptures that attribute the creation also to the Father and the Holy Spirit. These are not contradictions, but evidence of the triunity of God. He is one God, the sole creator of the universe, but in that creation all three of the “persons” of the Godhead were involved.

Eph. 3:9 – “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.**”

Col. 1:16-17 – “**For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him**: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Heb. 1:1-2 – “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds.**”

Jesus is Life

Jn. 1:4 – “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Jn. 5:26 – “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself”

So Jesus does not just “have life”, he is not just “alive”, but he is himself LIFE. As such, he is the original and the ongoing source of all life – physical, mental, and spiritual.

Jn. 6:32-35 – “... but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ... I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

As the Creator, Christ is the giver of physical life, but he is also the giver of spiritual life.

On the 5th and 6th days of creation, he made “the moving creature that hath life” in the waters and the air, and “the living creature after his kind” on the earth.

Gen. 1:26-27 – “And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them.”

Gen 2:7 – “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”

God created plants, animals, and man to have physical life, and for man and the higher animals, included mental faculties sufficient to maintain that life. But man is unique in creation, in that he is made “in God’s image”. Man has a spiritual nature which goes beyond issues of survival, comfort, and reproduction. We have rational minds, conscience, and abilities in ethics and morality, for invention, abstract thought, art and music, etc. All this is true even for unregenerate man, but because of sin, that image has been darkened and marred. In terms of real spiritual life though, we are not just marred or diseased, but dead.

Gen. 2:16-17 – “... Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Adam and Eve obviously did not die physically right away, but spiritually they did, and

death started working on them physically too, so that no matter how long we live, we all die eventually (except for Enoch, Elijah, and the raptured, of course).

Rom. 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

But 6:23b shows that Christ is also the giver of spiritual life, to dead and hopeless sinners.

Jn. 1:4-5, 12-13 – “In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ... But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

God does not just forgive us for our sins and leave us in the same spiritual state! He gives us life.

Eph. 2:1 – “And you hath he quickened [*made alive*], who were dead in trespasses and sins”

Eph. 2:5 – “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ ...”

Col. 2:13 – “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses”

1 P. 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 P. 1:23 – “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

1 Jn. 5:11-13 – “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

Jesus is the providential sustainer of life.

Col. 1:17 – “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” i.e. by him all things hold together. Jesus is the fountain of life, the source of the “river of God”. He births us anew and then gives us life, continually. The life he gives is not a one-time “jump start”, but an ongoing source and flow of life.

Jn. 15:1-8 is his parable of the Vine and the branches. “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ...”

Jesus is the only way to life.

Jn. 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

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

Questions to consider:

1. Are you treating God like a jump starter, or an alternator? (one-time shot of power, or ongoing regenerative life)
2. Do you have a daily and moment by moment “abiding in the vine” experience with God through Christ, or is yours merely a self-led life, punctuated by a series of religious experiences?
3. Are you seeking God daily, to know and obey him, or are you just “going with the flow”?

Beware of “the flow” – Mt. 7:13-14

4. Are you a hose, or a sponge? (passing his life on to others, or just a receiver)