

TRUTH TELLERS

The subject of today's message is about 'telling the truth' being a **'truth teller.'**

We believe that Jesus Christ is truth

therefore, we should tell others about Him:

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

We believe that the ENTIRE Word of God is truth

Jesus Christ, who IS the truth, also said that God's Word is truth

therefore, we should tell the Word of God to others:

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

We believe that we must rightly divide the truth

therefore, we should tell others about the dispensational differences in the scriptures.

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

That means for us to divide parts of the truth --- from other parts of the truth.

So, as we desire to be a **truth teller** let's make sure we are

- speaking the Word of God
 - about His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
 - that is appropriate for today, the age of grace, in which we live.

In order to do that --- we need to recognize the UNIQUE ministry

that God committed to the apostle Paul.

Paul boldly proclaimed that he spoke the 'words of truth':

Acts 26:24-26 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus;

but **speaking forth the words of truth** and soberness.

26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

The things that had happened to Christ

- His death
- and resurrection were widely known.

King Festus himself even believed the prophecies.

Yet he was not persuaded to embrace Christ, though he knew Paul's words were true.

How sad to realize the truth and then reject it.

The apostle Paul repeatedly staked his claim on the TRUTH.

He was confident of his commission from God.

So much so --- that he demanded the prophets of his day recognize it also.

THEY must regard his writings as SCRIPTURE:

1 Cor 14:36-37 What? came the word of God out from you?
or came it unto you only?

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that
the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Paul knew God had entrusted a message to him, and he was duty-bound to get it out!

1 Cor 9:16-18 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of:
for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward:

but if against my will, **a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.**

18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the **gospel of Christ without charge**, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Paul had not charged anyone for the message! He gave it to them freely. They had not PAID him for the truth.

Throughout his writings to the Corinthians,
Paul continually reminded them that he was giving them TRUTH:

2 Cor. 7:14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.

Later on, in chapter 11, Paul basically boasts again of God's truth being IN him:

2 Cor 11:10-12 As the truth of Christ is in me,
no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.
11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.
12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

Paul again, in chapter 12, insists that he is telling the truth:

2 Cor 12:6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

As Paul begins his epistle to Titus, he assures him that he is a 'Truth Teller':

Titus 1:1-3 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect,
and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;
2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching,
which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

The 'acknowledging of the truth' that Paul spoke of was that 'special commission' that God committed to him it was the 'acknowledging of the MYSTERY':

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Paul firmly stated his authority as God's spokesman. He wrote what God commanded.

Paul guaranteed the Romans he was a **Truth Teller**:

Rom 9:1 **I say the truth in Christ, I lie not**, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Paul writes to Timothy that he is a **Truth Teller**:

1 Tim 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle,
(**I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;**)
a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Here is an important thing to consider.

Because Paul preached the **unique message God gave him**, the Jews, who were **such religious people**, constantly **stirred up** the people in persecution against him.

Acts 13:50 But **the Jews stirred up** the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, **and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas**, and **expelled them out of their coasts**.

Acts 14:2 But **the unbelieving Jews stirred up** the Gentiles, and **made their minds evil affected against** the brethren.

Acts 17:13 But when **the Jews of Thessalonica** had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and **stirred up the people**.

Acts 21:27-28 And when the seven days were almost ended, **the Jews which were of Asia**, when they saw him in the temple, **stirred up all the people**, and laid hands on him, 28 Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where **against the people, and the law, and this place**: and further **brought Greeks also into the temple**, and hath polluted this holy place.

They tried to KILL him, from the beginning of his ministry:

Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled, **the Jews took counsel to kill him**:

Even through the late chapters in Acts, they were STILL trying to kill him:

Acts 26:21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to **kill me**.

If YOU talk to people about salvation and right division

(which are the 2 VERY things that God wills for us to do)

you are most likely going to be REJECTED.

Paul himself experienced that to the ultimate:

Gal 4:15-16 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

If YOU Tell the Truth to your family members they may treat you like their enemy.

They might tell you not to talk to them anymore about spiritual things.

If YOU Tell the Truth to your friends you may become their enemy.

They may not invite you to their home anymore. They may 'cross the street' on you!

Telling the truth will bring you persecution:

Gal 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

Gal 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

Will anyone tell the truth about CIRCUMCISION? Both of those verses mention it.

In our society, physical circumcision has become almost routine.

Although people NOW claim to do it for cosmetic purposes, or hygene

the TRUTH is God never instituted it for either of those reasons.

God initiated circumcision as a MARK -- or TOKEN -- to identify Abraham's physical seed, which became the nation Israel (Gen. 17:10-11).

There was a **big meeting called** in Acts chapter 15 about the issue of circumcision

so that the TRUTH would be told about it:

Acts 15:1-2 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had **no small dissension and disputation** with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

They concluded NOT to put the Gentiles under the ritual of circumcision!

Yet, many Gentiles are circumcising today to their own confusion!

They read verses like:

Gal 5:2-3 Behold, I Paul say unto you,
that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised,
that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

When a man reads instructions like that in his Bible --- and he knows in his britches

HE is circumcised --- it is quite LOGICAL that he would be puzzled!

My message is not about circumcision but the point is:

We ought to be BOLD and **tell the truth** about 'what GOD says' about circumcision.

It was a SIGN for the JEWS. Therefore, we have no business doing it!

1 Cor 7:18 Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised.
Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

Being a **Truth Teller** is a **personal CHOICE** - IF you WILL do it, you WILL suffer for it:

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that **WILL** live godly in Christ Jesus **shall** suffer persecution.

Not saying anything not ever talking about it avoiding the subject

THAT is NOT being a **Truth Teller**. That's not being any kind of teller at all!

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Being silent when you should speak up is not right. Don't be afraid of confrontation!

If you believe something,

that strong conviction ought to prompt you to say something about it:

2 Cor 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith,
according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken;
we also believe, and therefore speak;

Hopefully, after you take your stand for the truth, and probably suffer for it,

a fellow saint will come along to encourage you, like Timothy did:

1 Thess 3:2-4 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ,

• to establish you, • and to comfort you concerning your faith:

3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions:

for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

You might as well expect trouble, if you're gonna be a Truth Teller.

4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

There are some things the scripture teaches us to AVOID, but the TRUTH is not one of them:

In **2 Tim 2:23** we are to AVOID foolish and unlearned questions.

In **Tit 3:9** we are to AVOID foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

In **1 Cor 7:2** we are to AVOID fornication.

The scripture does NOT teach us that we are to avoid the SUBJECT of the TRUTH!

In fact, THAT is what we're supposed to be speaking up and DEFENDING:

Phil 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Being a **Truth Teller** has always been accompanied by problems, even in Jesus' day:

Mark 6:4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

Unfortunately, often times, it is your **own family** that won't listen to you:

Matt 10:34-36 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Paul wanted to get the truth to **his own people** so they could be saved:

Rom 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

They were **religious**, for sure, but they did NOT follow the revelation that God gave to Paul:

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Instead of resting in the finished work of Christ, they kept trying to please God by their works:

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Paul was even moved to tears and CRIED wanting people to hear the TRUTH of grace:

Acts 20:31-32 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years **I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.**

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Would to God that WE were that concerned to **Be A TRUTH Teller !**

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"