

What is your ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE Defense of TRUTH?

Introduction:

- A. As we noted in our study of the book of Acts - the defense of the truth is not met with a very positive reaction most of the time.
 1. From imprisonment, face slapping and even the death of Stephen - we see that defending truth comes at a price.
 2. For us today - we may not endure the same level of physical hostilities - but none the less defending the truth often leads to a hostile environment.
 - a. This is true with any truth - be it politics, neighbors, work places - etc....
 - b. What is it about truth that has such a reaction?
 3. Simply put - TRUTH EXPOSES.- **John 3:18-21** (NKJV) — 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”
 - B. Now for the Christian, who does not have the attitude of the world - truth should be a welcoming environment - but such is not always the case.
 1. Many a Christian has demonstrated their weaknesses by their reaction to TRUTH.
 2. But, for the mature Christian TRUTH is ESSENTIAL.
 - C. OUR ATTITUDE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH - **2 Timothy 4:1-3** (NKJV) — 1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ---- **2 Timothy 4:5** (NKJV) — 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. -- must be “GIVE ME THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH”
 1. “WE SHOULD DESIRE THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH IN ALL THINGS”
 2. And let me just state - that as Christians/children of God we should be supportive of everyone who stands up to defend the TRUTH of God’s Word.
 - D. Let us now begin our study of this vital attitude towards TRUTH!
- II. “WHAT IS TRUTH?” – **John 18:38** - this was Pilate’s question to Jesus as he questioned him - but we see that he did not really stay around long to have this wonderful question answered. Neither did he respond positively to the truth he discovered in Jesus.
- A. Truth COMES FROM GOD’S WORD – **John 17:17** (NKJV) — 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
 1. It does Not Come From:
 - a. Some Burning Sensation
 - b. Some Feeling That Are Better Felt Than Told
 - c. The Religion Of Our Parents, Friends or Family
 - d. Or Traditional Practices
 2. One must fully acknowledge that the WORDS of life are contained in the Holy Writings of God’s Word.
 - a. Jesus said - “I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE....” **John 14:6** (NKJV) — 6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- b. NOTE - that Jesus did not say “a Truth” as if there are other truths out there in the World - He Said He Was “THE TRUTH”.
- B. This type of TRUTH has the opposite effect than what man thinks:
1. It does not bring men into Bondage but rather:
 2. THE TRUTH SETS ONE FREE – **John 8:31–32** (NKJV) — 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
 - a. Many reject THE TRUTH for this very reason - In a country where FREEDOM is a key factor - it amazes me that folks have this attitude towards Truth.
- C. It is also important to note here - that ONCE YOU HAVE HEARD THE TRUTH you can not un-hear it.
1. You can reject it - scoff at it or ridicule it - but you can't UN-HEAR IT.

III. WHY is this TRUTH IMPORTANT - because FALSE TEACHERS ABOUND! - **2 Timothy 4:3–4** (NKJV) — 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

A. These Have Worked From The Beginning - **2 Peter 2:1–2** (NKJV) — 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

B. False Teachers and Deceivers Abound Today:

1. Our Duty Is To:

- a. Know
- b. Teach
- c. And Follow Truth

2. **Eph. 4:14-15; Col. 1:9-11; 1 Tim. 6:20-21**

a. **Ephesians 4:14–15** (NKJV) — 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

b. **Colossians 1:9–11** (NKJV) — 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

c. **1 Timothy 6:20–21** (NKJV) — 20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

C. “WE DEMAND THE WHOLE TRUTH” – **2 Timothy 3:10–17** (NKJV) — 10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in

Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. ---- even when it makes us uncomfortable.

1. Partial Truth Is Dangerous:

a. **Acts 15:1-2** (NKJV) — 1 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

(1) **Acts 15:5** (NKJV) — 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

b. **Galatians 5:2-3** (NKJV) — 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

2. Rat Poison Consists Of 99.995% fillers and grains that the rat normally eats.

a. It is the .005% poison that destroys the rat.

3. Partial Obedience Is Not Acceptable – **1 Samuel 15:20-23** (NKJV) — 20 And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.” 22 So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

a. Illustration: Car Shield Insurance or “Bumper to Bumper Warranty” - what does it mean to you and to them - is it not in the wording of the fine print.

b. No one like to have the wool pulled over their eyes - so lets demand the whole TRUTH even when we do feel uncomfortable.

D. We need (notice - the difference here between wants and needs) the WHOLE TRUTH.

1. EVEN When IT May Hurt: - better to hurt here when we can change.

a. **Acts 20:26-27** (NKJV) — 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

b. **Matthew 19:1-9** (NKJV) — 1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there. 3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” 4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” 7 They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” 8 He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your

hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

(1) **Matthew 19:10** (NKJV) — 10 His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”

(2) I was blown away in the early 1990's on the topic of --- Marriage and Divorce — faithful men who preached the gospel for years on end - took positions that were unbelievable.

(a) As a young gospel preacher engaged in my 1st full time work - I could not believe what I was hearing and reading.

(3) Another such controversy arose in that same decade over the meaning of the Hebrew word “Yom” - with some advocating long periods of time (era's) verses a literal 24 hour period.

(a) Are such subjects and others not clearly defined by God in His Word?

(b) Is God the author of confusion? **1 Corinthians 14:33** (NKJV) — 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

i) With all the denominations and the infightings - you would think that God is just as the Muslim says of Christianity - confusing and divided.

ii) I would point out here that Islam is not a unified religion - but a divided one.

(c) NO confusion and division..... simply comes down to what our attitude towards the TRUTH is!

i) You can get mad and angry or you can bow the knee - that simple.

c. Rich Young Ruler --- **Matt. 19:16-22, 23-24**

(1) **Matthew 19:16–22** (NKJV) — 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” 17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” 18 He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ 19 ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” 20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, **“If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”** 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

(2) **Matthew 19:23–24** (NKJV) — 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

d. The TRUTH will be given On all the subjects/topics that I will cover on Attitudes this year - TRUTH IS TRUTH whether we like it or not..

(1) I know that it will make some uncomfortable - I know that truth has made me uncomfortable.

(2) It is the reason that you and I are Christians today - truth convicted us of SIN, righteousness and the Judgment to come.

2. If there is anything we learn about TRUTH from - **Luke 16:25–29** (NKJV) — 25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ 27 “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would

- send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 **Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'**
- a. No One Will Go And Teach From The Hadean World When They Have The Truth on Earth.
 - b. The RICH man desired TRUTH be told his brethren - because he knew the importance of truth too late.
 - c. Many will cry out in Hell - for another chance to repent - but sadly the Journey has ended and they choose error over truth.
- E. We have a CHOICE NOW while we are still alive and We MUST have nothing but the TRUTH - I find it amusing when I hear the "incredible burger" ad - according to my brother in Law - John - we have had soy burgers in South Africa since my childhood. He said on his first visit to S.A. that he could not wait to get back to the USA to have a real hamburger.
1. We Don't Need The Additions Of:
 - a. Creeds
 - b. Manuals
 - c. Decrees From Councils or Synods
 - d. Works Of Men – ie. Book of Mormon ; or any other work of men etc.
 2. THE SCRIPTURES ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT – **2 Timothy 3:16–17** (NKJV) — 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- F. NOW here is a WARNING to US and our ATTITUDE TOWARDS TRUTH - Beware of changed truth.
1. It goes without saying that changed truth is NOT TRUTH. It comes from within, it comes from hearts not in tune with God - and it sacrifices ones soul for the comfort of the LIE.
 2. **Galatians 1:6–9** (NKJV) — 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
 - a. Another Gospel Condemns
 - b. Those Who Bring Another Message Are Condemned
 - c. Those Who Follow Such Are Deceived And Will Be Lost Too.
 - (1) THIS IS THE SIMPLE TRUTH of this message brethren - If the Gospel is not trampling on our toes and causing us to be better people from day to day - then there is something wrong with the message being given - and dare I say something wrong with the Messenger.
 - (2) You have heard me say in the past and I say it again - when people like the sermon because it has tickled their ears - the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.
 - (a) A good sermon or teaching is one that drives us, motivates us to be better today than I was yesterday.
 - (b) Too many "FEEL GOOD" sermons are being preached and the Lord's body is suffering.
 3. **2 John 9–10** (NKJV) — 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

- a. Without The whole Doctrine Of Christ
 - (1) You Don't Have The Father
 - (2) Nor The Son
- b. Last time I checked the WORD of GOD is not offered to us as a BUFFET BAR - choose what you like and leave the rest behind.
- c. COUNTERFEIT religion, is just as valuable as counterfeit money.
 - (1) Which would you have a million or a pallet of?

IV. In Conclusion:

A. LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU....

1. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE To:

- a. STUDY --- **2 Timothy 2:15** (NKJV) — 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- b. GROW --- **2 Peter 3:17–18** (NKJV) — 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.
- c. HAVE INTEGRITY --- **Titus 2:7** (NKJV) — 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,
- d. AND ...
 - (1) ADORN THE DOCTRINE --- **Titus 2:10** (NKJV) — 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.
 - (2) NOT TO ADD To NOR TO TAKE AWAY --- **Revelation 22:18–19** (NKJV) — 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

B. DO YOU LOVE THE TRUTH?

- 1. Is this the TRUE attitude we have for the TRUTH?
- 2. Then and ONLY then will we fully understand the POWER of the Sword - **Eph 6:10-18** esp. **vrs 17.**
 - a. **Ephesians 6:10–18** (NKJV) — 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

C. So in closing - WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS TRUTH and those who defend it?