

Proclaiming Truth to a Fallen World

Before we move onto our next series, the Spirit of the Lord gave me this word to share with you. To edify the body of Christ concerning the deceptions of the enemy and how we must Proclaim the Truth to a Fallen World

- Throughout the whole NT, we see the enemy at work. Sometimes it comes blatantly obvious and other times the enemy is a wolf, disguised in sheep's clothing
- If 2020 did anything for us, it brought clarity to the schemes of the devil and manifested our enemy more than we have seen in the history of America.
- As Christians, we are in this world, but are not of this world. We are ambassadors for God to proclaim the Truth, Jn 17:16; 2 Cor 5:20
 - Today we will be looking at a lot of Scripture keeping three things in mind:
 - How to know who the enemy is
 - How to respond
 - And our promise of victory over this fallen world

Let's start from 1 John 2:26

1 John 2:26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.

- Ever since the fall of man, we have had one enemy, that is the devil
 - Satan, or Lucifer, exalted himself above God in pride and jealousy and he was cast down to the earth with his fallen angels, Is 14:12-15; Rev 12:4
 - Since then, he walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, 1 Pet 5:8
 - If you ever watch a cat hunt his prey, they are very sneaky, quiet and deceptive
 - In the garden we also see Satan disguised as a snake, Gen 3
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3-*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*
 - This is our enemy- he would rather you think he is your best friend and get you to trust him rather than come at you in terror
 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15-¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*
- I feel that there is a big deception on who the enemy actually is and who are his vessels that he is using
 - As I said earlier, we are gaining more clarity on this, now more than ever, but we need to know how to identify those who are trying to deceive us.
- The root of the enemy is Satan and his team of fallen angels and demons; not flesh and blood people
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.*
 - Ephesians 6:12 *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 wickedness in heavenly places. ...*
 - This means that the war is rooted in the spiritual realm and our battles happen in the spirit, but the enemy will manifest itself in the flesh through the works of ungodly people.
- This is what the first century church was experiencing, and it is what we experience today
 - Paul made this apparent in his epistles and we see it all through the NT
 - It is in Romans 1 that Paul explains the vessels who have given themselves over to the darkness
 - But before he begins describing these haters of God, he shows his commitment to the gospel

Romans 1:16–32-¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.* ¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

This is Paul telling us that no matter how bad things get,
our duty is to proclaim the Gospel without shame-
*For it is the power of God to salvation
to all who believe.*

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,* ¹⁹ *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.* ²⁰ *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,* ²¹ *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* ²² *Professing to be wise, they became fools,* ²³ *and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

²⁴ *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,* ²⁵ *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

²⁶ *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.* (withdrew His restraining and protective hand allowing the consequences of sin to take their destructive course both physically and spiritually. God is not cursing them, He is just letting them go to their own passions and lusts) *For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.* ²⁷ *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.* ²⁸ *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;* ²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,* ³⁰ *backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,* ³¹ *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;* ³² *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.* (these are those who have rejected God. They are the vessels of the enemy who have completely given themselves over to the darkness)

Now I want to take you over to First John

- The whole premise of First John is that he is giving us the means to identify our enemy and the vessels the enemy is using in his tactics against God
 - Because much like today, the enemy is disguised as a friend and of the brethren
 - John is giving us as Christians the tools to distinguish between our brethren and the enemy.
 - The enemy are liars and the truth is nowhere in them, because they are rooted in the father of lies

John 8:44–45-⁴⁴ *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no*

truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵ *But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.*

- You can't believe what the enemy says, they will lie right to your face, so John tells us to look at their fruit.
 - There is no condemnation in John's words. Instead, he is teaching his brethren how to know the enemy through their manifested deeds in the flesh
 - The battle is in the spirit, but the fruit is manifested in the flesh
 - We spoke about this last week. Our good works is a result of being a Christian. It is how the world knows we are Christian because we bear the fruit of righteousness
- John boils this fruit down to the love of the brethren.
 - 46 times John uses the word agape, ἀγάπη, not in condemnation, but to distinguish between the true brethren and the enemy.

1 John 3:23- *And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

1 John 3:13–15-¹³ *Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.* ¹⁴ *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.* ¹⁵ *Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

1 John 3:18–19-¹⁸ *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.* ¹⁹ *And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.*

1 John 3:7–8-⁷ *Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices, poieo, ποιέω, commits his heart to righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.* ⁸ *He who sins, poieo, ποιέω, commits his heart to sin, is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* ⁹ *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, poieo, ποιέω, commit his heart to sin...*

¹⁰ *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice, poieo, ποιέω, commits his heart to righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

1 John 4:1–3- ¹ *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* ² *By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,* ³ *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

⁶ *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error* ⁷ *For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

But John gives us encouragement

1 John 3:1- Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John 4:4- You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 5:4-5-4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world?, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

- Next, I want to take you to the book of Jude

- I actually felt like Jude when I was preparing my lesson this week. I wanted to talk to you about the authorship of Hebrews, but the Spirit had something different in mind
 - Jude begins his epistle by saying, “*I wanted to write to you concerning our common salvation, but I found it necessary to write to you, exhorting you to contend earnestly (in defense) for the faith...*, Jude 3
- Jude was compelled by the Spirit to build and edify the body of Christ
 - We can take what we learned in John about recognizing the enemy and then Jude tells us what we need to do because of it.

Jude 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain (one who departs from the Truth and the Way of God), have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit (those who love wealth and prestige over faithfulness), and perished in the rebellion of Korah (apostate rebels of pride and selfishness). 12 These are spots (hidden reefs) in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water (apostates who claim to bring spiritual blessing but never deliver), carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit (those who never bear the fruit of righteousness), twice dead, pulled up by the roots (dead at the core and disconnected from the life source); 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

(this describes the manifested vessels of the enemy who have given themselves over to the darkness)

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all (it is God and Him alone that will judge the wicked), to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” 16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions (hidden reefs at the love feasts), not having the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude doesn't stop there. He says because you are:

- looking to Jesus for eternal life,
- being built up by prayer
- and keeping ourselves in the love of God.

We have a duty to proclaim the Truth to the lost that perhaps there may be a remnant that will be saved from eternal damnation

²² *And on some have compassion, on those who are wavering; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling (snatching) them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.*

- He says, *have compassion on those who are wavering* and proclaim the Truth that some might be saved.
- God put this picture in my heart showing me the compassion He has on the lost. Those who are wavering and enslaved to death and sin
 - When we see the lost, our response needs to be to share the Light of the Gospel to them
 - *We must be gentle to all, exhorting people in the Truth, that perhaps they might know the Truth and come to their senses, and escape the snare of the devil and be saved, 2 Tim 2:24-26*
 - It is our duty to shine the Light of the Gospel on those who waver, that they might see the goodness of God and it bring them to repentance, Jn 3:17; Rom 2:4

Ephesians 5:8–14-⁸ *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴ Therefore He says: “**Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.**”*

- That is what we need to be proclaiming to the lost, “Awake and arise and Christ will give you eternal life!”
 - However, when we do this it exposes their evil deeds and many times **they will hate us**
 - Only God knows who will accept Him. This is not our concern. We are only to proclaim the gospel to a fallen world that some might repent and be saved.

Matthew 5:16- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

John 3:19–20-¹⁹ *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.*

Matthew 5:11–12-¹¹ “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely **for My sake**. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:44- *But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

Romans 12:19–21-¹⁹ *Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.***

- But don't let persecution deter you. Paul encourages Timothy in his 2nd epistle on this matter
 - It is our job to pray for them and proclaim the Truth
 - It is their choice if they receive it or not
 - Let God handle their judgement and punishment, we just need to shine the Light
 - I want to read this discourse from 2 Timothy as we move into this book next week

2 Timothy 2:3-4-³ *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* ⁴ *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

²⁴ *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,* ²⁵ *in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,* ²⁶ *and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

³¹ *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:* ² *For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,* ³ *unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,* ⁴ *traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,* ⁵ *having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!* (don't have fellowship with the darkness) ⁶ *For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,* ⁷ *always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* ⁸ *Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;* ⁹ *but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.*

- Remember, Jude started his epistle by saying, “*We must contend earnestly in defense for the faith*”, Jude 3
 - We proclaim the Truth to all, and by doing so, there just might be a remnant who will *come to their senses, and escape the snare of the devil and be saved*, 2 Tim 2:26
 - Most will resist the Truth and, in the end, be judged by God
 - But our duty is to proclaim the gospel, let God deal with the judging
 - And when we contend for the faith we must *avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife*, 2 Tim 2:23
 - It doesn't do any good to argue with people who don't want to hear the Truth
- There is a distinction between the lost and wavering and those who have been completely given over to sin
 - We are instructed not to invite these haters of God into our lives or get entangled with them in the world or their apostacy. *We must not fellowship with darkness*, Eph 5:11
 - We speak the Truth and let them make their decision

Romans 16:17- *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

2 Thessalonians 3:6- *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.*

2 Thessalonians 3:14- *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

1 Corinthians 5:9-9 *I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.*

1 Timothy 6:3-5-3 *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*

2 Timothy 4:14-15-14 *Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.*

- As fellow-workers with God we must proclaim the gospel to the lost and in doing so persecution will arise

2 Timothy 3:10-12- 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.*

4:1 *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.*

- Paul is telling Timothy, it is in longsuffering, love, and perseverance for the Gospel and proclaiming the Truth to the lost, that in doing so, we will suffer persecution
 - But rejoice and be exceedingly glad that we might be counted worthy to suffer shame for His name, knowing that we have a great reward in heaven, Acts 5:41; Matt 5:12
- Our victory is in Christ unto eternal life with Him. Whether we live or die has no bearing on the outcome of our victory. Our the duty is to proclaim the Truth.

Revelation 12:11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives even unto death.*

John 16:33- *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

Look to Jesus, Love the Brethren, Preach the Word, and

Shine the Light of Truth to this Fallen World