

Fight with the Sword! 2

Absolute & Transcendent Truth

(preached 9/19/21)

Please turn to *John 6*.

Sermon #1: Words Matter

- The Church is meant to be the conscience of the state and society, yet we've been cowed by the same to sit down and shut up. No more!
- There is all manner of wickedness going on withing both government and society that God, in His Bible, calls sin and if the church is truly the light of the world, then we cannot be silent about it.
- Is that being a political partisan? Only if we cleave to the doctrine and platform of a party or conservative/liberal thought/philosophy.
- When a Christian speaks from a Biblical perspective, however, it's not being partisan or political at all...it's being Christian.
- God isn't calling is to take up pistols or AR-15's, but the Sword of the Spirit, which is the spoken word of God.
- The words contained within the Bible contain the person, character, will, and plans of God.
- These words are living and active, God-breathed, going forth into the souls and spirits of others to affect them directly.
- They pull down spiritual strongholds, cast down mental arguments and false opinions, and even take our own wandering and confused thoughts into the obedience of Christ.
- When we speak from an earthly opinion or from our preferred party platform, all we're doing is "strengthening our base" like a politician.
- In other words we'll get applause from people who agree with us, and be ignored or reviled by those who don't...yet what good is truly accomplished?
- When the Word of God is quoted, however, those words act as a sword to divide light from darkness and truth from falsehood.
- Jesus isn't separate from His Word, He IS the Word!
- Words matter as much as actions, perhaps more!
- James reveals that the tongue is the "rudder" to our "ship" and the direction of our lives is decided by it. As the Scripture says "life and death are in the power of the tongue."
- *So it's time for the Church to 1) stop sitting on the sidelines and being silent and 2) to replace opinions and party doctrine with the Word of God when we speak, whether we quote directly, make a reference, or a combo of both.*

TODAY. The Word of God is transcendent and absolute truth.

Transcendent & Absolute means it's above this world and everything and everyone in it.

- It's above people's opinions.
- It's above people's experiences both past and present.
- It's above nature, nurture, and choice.
- It's above political party and doctrine.
- It's above liberal, conservative, libertarian, and authoritarian thought.
- It's above governments including their laws.
- It's above kings, presidents, emperors, congressman, and governors.
- It's above religion and their books/teachings.
- It's above science.
- It's above any human idea, thought, doctrine, fact, discovery, or revelation.
- ***It applies to everyone, all the time, regardless of circumstances, birth, belief, background, race, or culture.***

HEAVENS & EARTH SEPARATE. In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth. The Heavens, plural, and the Earth are two separate places.

YOUTUBE. When was the last time you went on Youtube to look up something? Whether it was a "how to" video, to listen to music, hear a sermon, watch a movie...the content you're viewing was created by someone else and you and I are merely accessing it.

CONTENT IN HEAVENS. So it is with all knowledge, facts, truth, sayings, doctrines, news, etc.—the content is created, put out into the world in some fashion or another, then we access it.

WE ACCESS. Content is created in the heavenly dimensions and here on earth we search for it, find it, view it, and usually share it in one way or another. We choose to believe it or not.

BEFORE CHRIST the world was divided into 70 nations and God gave rulership over those nations to powerful angels called principalities. Said angels rebelled, sided with Lucifer, became completely corrupted, but continued to rule over the nations and people that had been assigned to them. They became "the gods" the Lord refers to in the first commandment.

There is no truth in them:

John 8:44 (ESV)

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

WHY DIFFERENT RELIGIONS? The answer to the question of why there are so many different religions in the world, each with their own “scriptures” that outline their history and teachings, is exactly this. These false angelic gods forced people to worship them and, since there was no truth in them, *they concocted false histories and reprobate teachings that they passed down to their human worshippers*. They often stole parts of the truth and history from Yahweh God to give themselves more credibility.

GOD KEPT ISRAEL. Yahweh God, the real God, kept the nation and people Israel for Himself. He revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 tribes of Israel as their God. In the Torah God was specific for Israel to not mix—in any way—with Gentile nations. He commanded them not to form peace treaties with or marry into them and here’s why:

Deuteronomy 7:4 (ESV)

⁴ for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods.

IT HAPPENED. Sure enough, that happened over and over!

STOP AND CONSIDER: EVERY TIME GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO SOMEONE, BEFORE THE ADVENT OF JESUS, THEY FINALLY HAD TRUTH.

BC WE HAD FALSEHOOD. RELIGION. Up until God revealing Himself, all humanity had from the heavens were the false revelations, teachings, and history from fallen angels calling themselves gods. Thus “religious” humanity fights with each other over which one is right, even to the point of war and forced conversions.

ATHEISTS. Atheists have even less. Denying the existence of anything spiritual, they only thing they have are human opinions gleaned from experiences and mindful contemplation. Despite their claims otherwise, its NOT true that “more people have been killed in the name of religion.” The 20th century was the bloodiest of them all, and the wars & efforts of genocide taking place during that time were mostly waged by atheists attempting to enforce one version of Marxism or another.

GAVE ISRAEL TRUTH. Thus when God chose Israel, part of His covenant with them was giving them Truth. *Not His opinion, not a set of doctrines, not a system of religious teachings or rites, not one path of many to choose from:*

GOD GAVE ISRAEL TRUTH

Romans 3:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?

² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Verse 2 states the Jews were ENTRUSTED with the ORACLES of God.

ENTRUSTED. PET SIT. Entrusted means God committed to and had faith in the Jewish people to receive and hold on to Truth. You're going on vacation but have precious pets at home that need to be taken care of. Who you gonna call? Someone you know you can trust will take good care of your fir babies! Thus God did the same with "the oracles"...what are these oracles?

Oracles means speaking, utterance.

In other words, God entrusted Israel to hear, receive, and take care of His Word.

HOUSE SITS. If someone house sits for you, you want to see your home in the same condition you left it in when you come back. If someone is babysitting your kids, you want your kids to be alive and in good health when you return.

Jesus is coming back soon! Who has He entrusted the Truth to and what condition will it be in when He returns?

Romans 9:4 (ESV)

⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

OC FULLER MEASURE. GENTILES DIDN'T HAVE. When God made covenant with the entire nation of Israel starting in Exodus 20, a fuller measure of Truth came directly from the Creator to the Israeli people and ONLY to them. They alone possessed it, entrusted to it by the Lord of Heaven Himself. **The Gentile nations and people did not have it, because it can only be given by God.** Again I say: there is not truth whatsoever in the Devil and his angels, they are nothing more than liars and murderers.

ONLY TO SONS. Jesus made it clear in John 8:44—God only entrusts His oracles to His sons. Jesus told the unbelievers in His day that their father was the devil which meant they didn't know Truth.

OUTLANDISH CLAIMS. Then comes Jesus, the Messiah, Who makes 3 outlandish claims. "Controversial" doesn't cover what He said, but a far stronger term was needed because Who He claimed to be and where He said He came from immediately provoke a JDS so powerful that it lead to multiple attempts to murder Him:

John 6:35-40 (ESV)

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Here are His outlandish claims:

- *"I am the bread of life."* The Jews knew this was an allegorical reference to the Word of God. By saying this, Jesus isn't quoting the Bible, ***He's saying He is the Author and Embodiment of the Word!***
- *"All that the Father."* Jesus is saying God is His Dad, which is blasphemy punishable by death. In ancient Jewish society, a son who comes of age is equal to his father and inherits everything from dad. ***By saying God is His Father, Jesus is claiming to be God.***
- *"I have come down from Heaven."* Jesus is reiterating that He's God by saying this because no human spirits went to Heaven back then.
- What's more is by being the bread of life, which is the Word of God, Jesus is telling them ***He's bringing a fuller manifestation of the oracles of God to the people.***

We call it "The New Covenant."

MIRACLES. In the OC God revealed Himself, from Heaven, to Israel only. He did so by speaking to them and performing miracles.

What is a MIRACLE? It's when Heaven comes to Earth.

THE WALL. Here's our problem and why there's so much confusion in the world: after Adam disobeyed a wall appeared that separated God from man and divided the heavens from the earth. Do you remember Stephen's last moments in Acts 7? As stones are flying at his head, this happens:

Acts 7:55-56 (ESV)

⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

MEANT TO SEE. Wow! The wall I just referred to was, for one instant, rolled back so that Stephen could see the way humanity was meant to see—standing on earth but seeing all the way to God, sitting on the throne, in Heaven.

This is what the Kingdom will be like!

WHAT STOPS? *What is this wall that stops things from being like this right now?*

- What is this barrier that obscures both our physical and spiritual vision that would enable us to gaze directly upon the Lord?
- What is this fog that prevents us from hearing the voice of God more loudly and clearly than now? Here is the answer:

Isaiah 34:1-4 (ESV)

¹ Draw near, O nations, to hear, and give attention, O peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and all that comes from it.

² For the LORD is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host; he has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter.

³ Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood.

⁴ All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.

SATAN IS WALL. Satan and his fallen angels, the gods of old and modern times, surround this planet like a evil tarp in their attempts to cut us off from Christ! Think of Big Tech acting like a massive cloud in the internet sky obscuring any information that conflicts with deep state indoctrination. They'll censor and take down anything that threatens the demonic narrative!

MICHAEL CASTS DOWN. So it is with the Devil and all who are inspired by him. Yet Isaiah 34 and Revelation 12 tell the same story: a day will come when Michael and the holy angels will cast Satan and his fallen angels out of the heavens once and for all!

MUST SEEK TRUTH & TELL. Until that glorious day comes, however, we must seek out Truth and speak it to others. It's more important now than ever, because the Restrainer is loosening his grip on the dam of evil and the days are evil.

NOT A NEEDLE/HAYSTACK. “WHAT IS TRUTH?” Some people say that seeking Truth is like looking for a needle in a haystack and that’s only true when one doesn’t know where to look. Pontius Pilate once asked Jesus “what is truth?” and he said so in response to this amazing statement by our Savior:

John 18:37 (ESV)

³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

- Jesus came from heaven to earth to bear witness to the truth.
- Whenever Heaven comes to earth, it’s an invasion and it always wins. Always. When Jesus arrived here, He overcame the world.
- Everyone who is of the truth listens to HIS voice.

So what is Truth?

John 14:1-7 (ESV)

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

- The Truth isn’t a concept or set of facts
- The Truth isn’t a systematic theology or doctrine.

The Truth is a Person...it’s Jesus.

JESUS IS WORD. What did we go over last week: In *John 1:1-5* John drops the revelatory bombshell that Jesus isn’t separated from the Word—Jesus IS the Word.

BREAD/WORD. What did we just learn from the same Gospel writer? Jesus IS the Bread of Life and the Bread that gives life IS the Word.

CONFUSED HERE. Things are so confused down here on earth because both the world and the USA have denied Christ. Many people, both world leaders and common folk alike, have rejected the Lordship of Jesus and therefore have cut ourselves up from the lifeline to God in Heaven and the Truth.

ATHEISTS. Some people live like atheists, acting as though all we have is human opinion, research, experience, and experimentation. Even Christians can live like atheists, forgetting we have a Lord in Heaven Who gave us the Bible so that we have easy access to Truth. Instead they cling to political party doctrine and partisan philosophical thought.

RELIGION. Others have clung to other spiritual/religious beliefs which were created by fallen principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places. Sometimes even Christians fall into this deception reading their Horoscope, attending psychic parties, or clinging to the Apocrypha.

“Pastor Scott, are you saying that all the other religions including the New Age come from a demonic source?” YES!

WOKE SNOWFLAKES. What’s even worse are woke, snowflake Christians & pastors who have listened to seducing spirits and compromised God’s Word with the teachings of the world, like CRT, Marxism & LGBTQ.

BROWNIES. If I baked a batch of brownies made from the finest ingredients, yet mixed in a teaspoon of poop, wouldn’t that spoil the entire batch? Didn’t Jesus say that just a little bit of leaven spoils the whole loaf? Leaven is the doctrine of demons.

The SBC just voted to officially include Critical Race Theory from its pulpit!

HEAR HIS VOICE? Are you of Jesus or aren’t you? If you TRULY are of Christ, you will hear His voice and you’ll stop listening to the voices of the world which want us to mix a dollop of feces with the brownies.

John 10:24-27 (ESV)

²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me,

²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

We either are or are not of Christ—there’s no compromise, no gray area, and no half-way. If we truly are one of His sheep and we really do hear His voice, then we hold His written word as truth because He is the Word.

NEXT WEEK I will give live examples of what happens when we hear or read something in the Bible that clashes with our beliefs and lifestyle—you cannot miss that sermon!!!

The Word of God doesn’t change. The world and its values have changed dramatically, even from when I was younger.

- In 2015 the USA legalized same sex marriage and now openly embrace the LGBTQ lifestyle.
- Abortions went from being against the law to being performed up until the moment of birth.
- We once fought against Marxism, recognizing it for the Satanic system it was and is, but now more and more people believe it will be their salvation.

Jesus is the Word of God and He hasn’t changed. The absolute and transcendent truth penned in this book called the Bible has not conformed itself to the modern beliefs of this world and never will:

Hebrews 13:7-9 (ESV)

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

A true disciple of Jesus conforms themselves to the Word of God regardless of how the rest of society lives or what they believe.

- Is that you?
- Do you regard the Bible as the written word of God?
- Or is it just another religious book written by man?
- Do you believe the truth within is absolute and transcendent?
- Or do you feel that truth is relative—that “my” truth is different than “your” truth and both are equally valid?

MAKE YOUR CHOICE BECAUSE WE'RE LIVING IN A TIME OF SPIRITUAL WAR AND PEACETIME IS OVER.

You'll can stand and fight using the weapon God offers—the Sword of the Spirit—and be part of the army of God.

Or you'll compromise with the philosophies of the world that come directly from Satan...which means that YOU are compromised.

If what I'm saying is cutting into you a bit GOOD—the Sword of the Spirit is sharp and it pierces into us, revealing what we truly believe and separating the brownie batter from the crap that was mixed in.

Don't miss next week's sermon!