

“Good morning.

We're going to go right into the preaching this morning. If that's all right with everybody. John chapter 14.

I'll get to the announcements at the end of the service, and some prayer requests that we have. But in John chapter 14, it says, Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comeeth to the Father but by me.

If you remember back, and maybe we're here, maybe not, chances are you don't remember, but in the past few messages, we've been talking about the I am's of Christ. And we've already talked about Jesus being the way. He is the door.

He is the only way. And we've talked about Jesus being the life. We've already discussed that.

How that He is the resurrection of the life. He is the bread of life. And different things that we've talked about.

Well, today, as part of this I Am of Christ that He said, we're going to look at truth. What is truth? That's a big question in it.”

“What is truth? And I don't know that I can fully answer it for you today, but I'm going to try to look at scripture and try to partially look at what is truth and how do you find truth? How do you know what truth is?

We're going to try to look at that in the day a little bit. And if I was to ask you, you don't have to answer this morning, but what would you say was the biggest, longest battle that is in the Bible or that in our time or time before us? And you might have some different ideas of what the biggest, longest battle was, but the battle that I'd like to suggest to you that is the biggest and the longest battle, we find in Ephesians chapter 6, verse number 12.”

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, and it's in your papers, in the bulletin, if you got one, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness, wickedness in high places. It's the spiritual battle that's gone on from the very beginning, and it still goes on, and it has gone on from the beginning, and it goes on in all of our lives. There is a spiritual battle that goes on in each and every one of our lives.

Satan is trying to... You're out of place.

I try to avoid that area over there because she doesn't like me coming here. You're in trouble.

You won't do that again, will you?

There is a spiritual battle.

Satan is trying to pull us out of following God. God is trying to direct us to following Him in a path that leads us to a home in heaven. So when we think about this battle, we may have arguments with people here on earth.

We may have something bad that happens. But that's not the real battle. The real battle is the spiritual battle that is behind it.”

“And we have to be aware of that this morning. So I'd like to go from Christ saying, He is the truth, to Ephesians chapter 6. And when we look at Ephesians chapter 6, we see where Paul is actually in prison.

And he begins to write to the Church of Ephesus, and he starts talking to them about the full armor of God. And starting with verse number 10, he talks about, from verse 10 through 14, he talks about stand. And so many times he mentions it.

He tells us to stand and to stand. And I believe that's what God wants us to do, is to stand our ground. He doesn't want us to retreat.

He doesn't want us to back down. But we have to be prepared to be able to stand our ground. So Paul, he told us.

In Ephesians chapter 6, how to be prepared? The very first thing that Paul mentioned, in Ephesians chapter 6, verse number 14, once again he says, stand firm then, with the belt of truth. This is the NIV, with the belt of truth, and bulk it up around your ways, with a blessed breastplate of righteousness in[...]"

"Paul says to take the belt of truth and wrap it around us. Now, let's talk about the belt for a few minutes. This Roman belt that they would put on, it would have places in it for them to hold their sword, their dagger, it would hold, it may be a place that they could rest or shield on.

It was designed to keep everything together. It was designed to hold everything in its place, so that when they went out to battle, that they weren't trying to hold 15 different things and still trying to fight.

I'm in trouble, Sherry.

They're still trying to fight with all these things in their hands. It wouldn't work. It's kind of like, you know, for the day, wearing a carpenter's belt and having your hammer and your square and your pencil and nails and all of that.

It's all organized where you want it so that you can work, so that you can do. So it kept everything in its place. Well, when we think about the truth, the truth, when we look at that, it's going to keep everything in its place."

"When we follow the truth, when we listen to the truth, the truth, it's going to keep everything organized in our life. Now, there's still going to be chaos around us, but just because there's chaos around us, doesn't mean that your life has to be chaos, because you can be organized. You can be, when you're listening to the truth, you can have organization with God.

The second thing that I believe it did, it was a little bit wider belt, kind of like maybe a weight lifter's belt that would keep them stabilized, and keep them upright, and straight, and be able to fight, and be able to do the things that they need to do. So, when we think about this belt, keeping things organized in place and keeping them stabilized, why, as Christians, are we not stable? Why are we so wishy-washy if you want this morning?

Let's look.

In Matthew chapter 6, 24, Jesus said, no man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and man."

"You cannot serve God and man. He says, you cannot serve two masters. It doesn't work.

It keeps you split. It keeps you, it keeps your mind split and where you can't be focused on God. James chapter 1, verse number 8.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. For when we, when we try to listen to God, when we try to listen to the Holy Spirit, and, and, but yet in the background, we hear Satan talking to us. And, and, and then when Satan starts tempting us, when Satan starts getting our attention, and, and he starts throwing us off, and, and, and getting our attention, then we become unstable.

Because now we have no longer got things for us to be. We are no longer balanced, but we are unbalanced. And so it gets us to the point where we don't know which way to go.

We don't know what to do.

So we, as Christians, should be stable.

We should be organized.”

“We should be prepared for battle. They wore, I believe, what was called a tunic, and it was kind of a loose fitting, what we would call today maybe a drench. And when they would take this belt, they would put this belt on, and it would bring everything in tight, and they would, as King James says, gird up your loins.

They would pull it all in so that they were prepared to fight. And that's what we've got to be today. We've got to know the truth, but the truth this morning is absolute, okay?

If there's something true, that means there's got to be something false. Look at me, if you would, on your papers. Characteristics of absolute truth.

It's unchanging.

It remains, listen to this, it remains constant and does not change over time or with varying circumstances. Does this sound like God? God doesn't change.

He said, I'm saying today, yesterday, and forever more. This is the God that we serve this morning. It's universal.

It applies to everyone, everywhere, at all times. This is what Christ is, the truth.

It's objective.”

“It is independent of individual minds, feelings, and perceptions. And it is unconditional. It does not depend on any external conditions or requirements to be true.

So this morning, when we think about this truth, we live in a day where everybody has their own truth. Okay? I've always said that it's your truth, my truth, and the real truth.

But I'm going to change that now. That's the best message today. I'm going to say it's your truth, my truth, and God's truth.

Because that is what we have got to listen to, is God's truth.

The truth.

We've got to listen to Christ. You know, and I can say that I'm right, you can say you're right. I can say that this is the way it's supposed to go.

You can say that's the way. And you know what? We can get on the news, and we can turn on whatever channel you want, and you can hear this report, or you can hear that report, and you can talk to a dozen different people, and you can get whatever answers you want."

"But you know what? That is not what we're supposed to be focusing on. We are supposed to be focusing on God.

And so when we talk about focusing on God, you know what? We can know what the truth is. There's no doubt about it.

Have you ever played this game? It's where you start over here with Dena.

I'm about to get you up.

But you tell Dena something. Dena, it's sunny outside. It's not going to rain today.

And I'm going to have grilled chicken when I get home.

You know what? By the time we get back to it, over there in the back corner, it's cloudy outside, it's coming to flood, and the preacher's having fried chicken.

Yeah.

Because it went from that person to that person to that person to that person, and it changed. Just a little bit each time. So how do we know the truth?

Well, let me tell you how you know the truth. You stay close to the source. If you want to know the truth, come to the source where it started at."

"Come to the source, because that is where you're going to find it. And this scripture that I want to read to you this morning is out of Hebrews chapter 1. And when I, you know, it's one of those scriptures that you read, you study, maybe even preach on, but it's like, wow.

Okay? Hebrews chapter 1. In the past, God spoke to our ancestors, to the prophets at many times in various ways.

But in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son, who He appointed heirs of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory. And listen to this.

Yours should be, if you read it out of here, it should be in a different color. And the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word, after He had provided purification for sins, He stepped down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven. We have the exact representation of God.

Jesus came to the earth. He gave us His words, the source of truth. He said, I am the truth."  
"So if you want to know the truth, and you can know the truth this morning, then you've got to come to the source. You've got to stay close to the source. You can't get off in that back corner when the source has started up here, or it's going to change.

It's going to get different, because of all the different things that we hear and listen to. Jesus is that exact representation, and we've got to stay close to Him. I was talking to Kyle this morning in my office, and he said he was listening to some kind of podcast, and I thought, wow, this is really good.

And so, you're driving down a road, a mile of road. You drive a mile of road, and guess what there is?

There's two miles of ditches. But there's a mile of ditch on each side.

So where are you going to drive? You're going to do your best to stay on the road. You don't plan on driving off in the ditch."

"You're not going to drive over there in the ditch, but you're going to stay on the road. So why, why this morning would we allow ourselves to get off in the ditch when it comes to our very long relationship with God this morning? We start listening to all this other stuff.

We start hearing all these other voices. And when we should be staying in the ditch, John 14, 6, that we read, I am the way, the truth, and the life. You remember back years ago, it's been, I haven't heard much about this lately.

But for a long time, there was, you see bracelets, you see signs, you see the four letters, WWJD.

What would Jesus do?

We've gotten away from that. We need to get back to that this morning, church. We need to be thinking about what would Jesus do?

And if we stay the source, we will know what He would do. This morning, think about, you know, when you saw that, I remember most of you know Alan and Jenny Brush. They had a field beside their house."

"And one year, big, great big, in this field, Alan mowed that in his yard. You know, and I think, wow, it's neat. We need to remember that.

What would Jesus do? So, the next thing about truth is sometimes truth hurts. We like to think about the Holy Spirit interceding.

Scripture talks about how the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray and what to say that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. We like to think about the Holy Spirit as guiding us. He's going to guide us in the direction that we need to go.

We like to think about the Holy Spirit. It talks about how the Holy Spirit is a comforter, and He is all those things, and many more. But you know, there's one thing this morning that the Holy Spirit does?

The Holy Spirit also convicts us. You know why? Because of that conviction that He gives us is because He is trying, the Holy Spirit is trying to keep us in tune with God.

That relationship with God this morning."

"It's John 16, 8. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. He being the Holy Spirit.

This morning, that is what, if we want to know the truth, we've got to stay close to the source, and we've got to listen to the Holy Spirit.

The next thing that it does is it freezes.

The truth will set you free. You know, we get bound up.

We get tied up.

We get walking in circles. We get to turn around. We don't know which way to go.

We don't know what to do. We don't know what decisions to make. It stresses us out.

We get wore out. We're tired because of all the turmoil and all what's going on in the world. John 8.32 says, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

"You see, because when we come to know the truth, and I said it a long ago, and I want to emphasize, there is still going to be problems in our lives just because we are Christians, because we are following Jesus, because we are trying to stay close to the source. The problems are still going to come. Satan is still going to tempt us.

He is still going to attack us. He is in it, and maybe even more, because we are following the truth. But you know what?

This morning, just because of that, doesn't mean that we have to have to toil more turmoil within ourselves.

That relationship we have with the Holy Spirit with us this morning, that relationship with God is so important this morning.

If we want to have peace in our hearts, in our lives this morning, the truth will make you free. Now, then, one of the greatest, and the belt really is that it's not a tool, okay? It's not like a sword."

"You can't attack anybody with it. You might be able to take it off and start beating them with it if you lost everything else. But it's one of the greatest things that we have, to defeat the enemy, the truth.

Because in John 8.4 it says, Ye are your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He is a murderer from the beginning, and he's talking to the Pharisees here, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and a father of it.

He's talking to the Pharisees when he's talking about Satan, that he's a liar and he's a father. So what is happening? Satan is lying to you, telling that God has made a mistake in creating you.

God has made a mistake in leading you. God has made a mistake in what he wants you to do with your life. God has made a mistake in the direction you're going."

"That that's not really what he means. He doesn't really mean that. And the Holy Spirit is saying, this is what is best for you.

God didn't make a mistake. God knows what is best for your life. He knows what is best for you to be saved and become a Christian, and to find peace and joy and make heaven your home this morning.

So this spiritual war that we have going on is that battle that is telling you that do this, go here. God doesn't know what he's talking about.

And yet, we know this morning that what is right doesn't give the truth. We need to speak the truth.

If we would just allow the truth to be in us and wrap that truth like that belt and wrap that truth around us, and let it stabilize us, let us keep everything organized in the ways to be, we would be able to stand and stand firm. Now then, how do we put the truth on? Greg, I think I'm getting close.

How do we put the truth on?

Well, first of all, you have to know the truth.

You have to know what it is”

“You have to know that you get that from this. You get that from spending time in prayer. You get that from that relationship with God.

You have to trust the truth. The more we know the truth, the easier it is to trust it.

And you have to obey the truth. Now then, what's getting ready to happen? Well, let me try to tell you this morning.

This band's getting ready to sing the songs they were going to sing.

There's five, four, five, six songs. I don't know.

As we sit and listen to them, this altar this morning, it's always open.

We thank this altar is for people to come and be saved, and that's the only reason it's for. Which is not true. If you had a bad week, if something happened this week, discouraging, you lost a job, or somebody got sick, or something happened, it's a place to come and pray, and for people to gather around you, and to pray with you.”

“If you know someone that, someone, a family member or a friend, that is lost, and needs salvation, someone that is sick, that needs healing, so there's so many things that the altar can be used for, and the church uses the altar. Okay? So what is here to happen?

Satan is going to...

The spiritual battle that we've talked about, the spiritual warfare, Satan is going to say, stay where you're at. Stay where you're at.

Don't go up down.

People may talk about you.

People may... Nobody may come and pray with him. You know, there's lots of things that Satan can tell you to keep you from making them lose.

Okay? The Holy Spirit is saying, you need to get closer to the source. You need to get closer to the source and come and pray and spend time with God.

And so you got...

So for the next however many minutes, I don't know how long, it's too early. For the next hour, you're going to have this spiritual warfare going on. That's saying, go, don't go.

Go, don't go. Stay in your seat. Stay in your seat."

"Go, don't go. You ever had to experience that? Sure.

We all have.

And maybe not just here at church, maybe not just here this morning, but in our life, our daily walk with God. We've had, say, don't say something. Witness, don't witness.

Call somebody, don't call somebody. It's that battle that goes on. So the question is, this morning, you're going to have plenty of time to think about it.

Four or five songs.

It won't be an hour.

Who's going to let win?

Who's going to win that battle today? Will it be God? Are you going to come to the source?

Are you going to get closer to the source so that you know the truth?

Are you going to let the faith set in back? You just assume. But you've got to figure it out.

When we try to figure it out on our own church, it's not going to win.

We've got to have God."

"We've got to have God in our lives. We've got to have that relationship with God. We've got to have that Holy Spirit leading us.

If we want to go forward, and I'm going to say win, okay? Because it is a win. To win that spiritual battle this morning.

Jesus said, I am the truth.

Paul said, put on the belt of truth.

Wrap it around you. No, the truth. The truth hurts.

It is for our goodness, morning. We're just staying with it just for one song."