

STANDING FOR TRUTH

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LESSON TWO

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- ❑ **2 Corinthians 6:4-8**...but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the **word of truth**, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;
- ❑ Truth: *aletheia*: certain beyond any doubt
- ❑ WHO DO YOU BELIEVE? WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS

- Paul commended the church in Thessalonica in three areas:
 - 1.** Work had been born from their faith; they had repented from following idols
 - 2.** Work had been born from their love for Christ; they chose to serve God in the midst of persecution
 - 3.** In their abiding faith; they had patiently born a heavy load born from biblical hope
- **1 Corinthians 13:13** But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
- The church made up of the elect; it is expressed globally as well as locally
- Divine election and human responsibility

ELECT

- ❑ **Colossians 3:12-14** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
- ❑ Chosen: *eklektos*: selected from a larger group
- ❑ The basis of selection is faith in Jesus
- ❑ **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

DECEPTION

- ❑ **1 John 2:19-20** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.
- ❑ Josh Harris, the “I Kissed Dating Goodbye” author, recently announced he is divorcing his wife and leaving his faith.
- ❑ Former Hillsong songwriter and worship leader Marty Sampson has disclosed he is “losing” faith.
- ❑ **Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...
- ❑ Testify: *summartureo*: to bear witness; corroborate the truth of something

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

- Jesus said He is the truth; the Word of God is the Word of Truth; the Spirit is the Spirit of Truth
- **1 Timothy 3:15** ...*I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
- Pillar: *stylos*: a supporting column or method
- Support: *hedraioma*: grounding, foundation
- **1 Corinthians 3:11-13** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

WHAT SHOULD A CHURCH DO?

- ❑ **2 Timothy 2:2** The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, **entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**
- ❑ Without a real relationship with Christ, there is no indwelling Holy Spirit
- ❑ Without the Spirit, truth cannot be discerned
- ❑ This is not only discerning the truth about the church and doctrine, but also the ability to discern events and teaching in the world
- ❑ The Holy Spirit's ministry impacts our worldview

HOW DID JESUS DO IT?

- He started with a large group of people (sometimes thousands) who came and listened to His teaching
- **Luke 6:12-16** It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; and Matthew and Thomas; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
- **Matthew 17:1** Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

MODELING

☐ **1 Corinthians 4:14-17** I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

- ☐ Imitators: *mimetes*: one who follows an example
- ☐ Timothy is obviously an imitator!
- ☐ Paul could confidently send Timothy

PERSEVERANCE

- ❑ **1 Thessalonians 1:6** You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit...
- ❑ **1 Thessalonians 3:1-5** Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain

PLEASURE IN WICKEDNESS

- ❑ **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12** ...and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.
- ❑ Send: *pempo*: to dispatch
- ❑ Deluding: *plane*: a wandering, fraudulence
- ❑ Influence: *energeia*: operative power
- ❑ Does God cause bad things to happen or just allow them? Does God punish people or allow the natural consequences of sin to prevail as punishment?

THE TRUTH

- ❑ Christians must be able to defend their faith
- ❑ There is deception in the world—caused by many different sources
- ❑ You can't know truth until you are in relationship with the Person who IS Truth
- ❑ The Holy Spirit only indwells believers
- ❑ The Holy Spirit enables discernment of truth, by the gift of discerning between spirits to some, and by renewing the thinking/attitude/worldview of all believers
- ❑ Every Christian should model Christ and make disciples
- ❑ Christians will be persecuted
- ❑ Christian joy isn't found IN circumstances but is evident DURING them