

STANDING FOR TRUTH

fall 2019

JoLynn Gower

493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

ABOUT THIS CLASS

You will need:

A good Bible translation

A workbook (only for students in the Sunday class; other workbooks available online)

Recommended:

A Bible concordance (keyed to your translation)

A Bible dictionary

You will get the most from the class if you work through the assigned section **before** class meetings

Audio recordings, books and powerpoint available at:

meadow.org

guardingthetruth.org

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?

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- ❑ About 1/3 of the world's people are Christians
- ❑ 80% of religious persecutions are against Christians
(Under Caesar's Sword Global Research Project)
- ❑ UN International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights:
Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.
- ❑ 24,000 killed; 18,000 women and children gang-raped; 116,000 beaten; 36,000 thrown into fire. Millions fled the genocide in Myanmar. 90% Christians

REASONING

- **Acts 17:1-3** Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."
- Reasoned: *dielexato*: to thoroughly discuss and put forward facts; involves dialogue
- Paul spoke to the religious people first – those who should have known about the messianic prophecies

WHAT HAPPENED?

- Paul was presenting truth but was received very badly
- **Acts 17:5-9** But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. When they did not find them they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

PURSUING TRUTH

- ❑ **John 8:31-32** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- ❑ Free: *eleutheroo*: exempt from liability
- ❑ Free from what? Jesus audience equates freedom with absence of slavery
- ❑ Jesus indicates that sin equates to slavery because you cannot free yourself from sin
- ❑ **Galatians 5:1** It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
- ❑ **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I **am** the way, and the **truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

MISSING THE TRUTH

- ❑ **1 Corinthians 1:18** For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- ❑ **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the **word of truth**.
- ❑ **John 14:16-17** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him
- ❑ You have to know Jesus in order to tap into the power of the Spirit and correct biblical interpretation

SPIRITUAL DECEPTION

- **2 Timothy 3:12-17** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- Deceiving: *planao*: to be seduced into the wrong way

REPETITION

- ❑ **Matthew 6:7** “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard”
- ❑ Repetition: *battalogeo*: to say something over and over again for emphasis or to develop a mindset
- ❑ Illusory Truth Effect: the tendency to believe information to be correct after repeated exposure
- ❑ **1 Peter 3:14-15**... DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

WEAKNESS IN BELIEVERS

- Defense: *apologia*: to explain what you believe and why you believe it
- **Philippians 1:14-17** ...most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.
- **Proverbs 16:2** All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the motives.

MOTIVATION

- Motives: *agnos*: with honesty or sincerity of heart
- Problem: Sincere people can be sincerely wrong in the eyes of God
- **1 Timothy 4:1-5** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.