

STANDING FOR TRUTH

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LESSON THREE

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 GROWTH

- **Matthew 16:17-19** And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
- **Church:** *ekklesia*: a gathering or assembly of people
- **Galatians 1:11-12** For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *I received it* through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

- **Philippians 3:4-6** ...although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."
- **Acts 22:3** "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today."
- Many people today have no background in Judeo-Christian values, much less the teachings

STEWARDSHIP

- ❑ **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.
- ❑ Steward: *oikonomos*: someone who manages the household and possessions of someone else
- ❑ **Matthew 25:14-15** "For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey."
- ❑ The servants belonged to the master
- ❑ The master knew their abilities
- ❑ The master had equal pleasure in their genuine effort

FAITHFULNESS

- The requirement is “trustworthy:” *pistos*: faithful
- **Deuteronomy 7:9-10** "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.
- **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.
- Entrust: *paratithemi*: commend; set before, commission

WHAT SHOULD A CHURCH DO?

- ❑ **1 Peter 2:1-3** Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.
- ❑ Malice: *kakia*: evil; profoundly immoral (spiritual)
- ❑ Deceit: *dolos*: crafty bait; stealth
- ❑ Hypocrisy: *hupokrisis*: play-acting; two faced
- ❑ Envy: *phthonos*: jealousy; strife caused by desire
- ❑ Slander: *katalalia*: speaking evil
- ❑ A nursing mother makes sacrifices for her child with patience, giving nourishment and protection.
- ❑ **1 Kings 3:16-28**: Solomon's decision

APPLICATION

- ❑ What would you sacrifice for the sake of the church?
- ❑ How do you nourish the church?
- ❑ How do you protect the church?

Sometimes by standing against accusations

Sometimes by discipline

- ❑ Jesus' instructions:

Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

□ **1 Corinthians 5:1-5** It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

DISCIPLINE

□ **1 Corinthians 5:9-13** I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

□ **Matthew 7:1-2** "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."

THEY WILL PAY!

□ **1 Thessalonians 2:13-16** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

THE UNIQUENESS

- ❑ Christianity is unique among world religions
- ❑ In other religions, people are pursuing gods trying to get those gods to do things for them
- ❑ In Christianity, God pursues us and offers us the most amazing gift we could ever receive – free!
- ❑ Not only that, God empowers His Word which He gave to people; unbelievers sense this power when they begin to hear and read God's Word for themselves
- ❑ When people speak God's Word on His behalf, there is incredible power to change and incredible power to protect
- ❑ Next week, we will consider how to stand under God's protection