

True & False Religion

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John 8:42-47
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So much of our lives are told through stories. I mean, think about it, when someone wants to know how God saved you, what do you do? You don't give a list of bullet points. You tell a story. When you want to talk about how you met your spouse or how you found your car or what your favorite sports team is, you tell a story. Worldviews and religions have stories too.

So ask an atheist how we got here, and you know what he's going to do, he's going to tell you a story. Ask a Hindu what happens when they die, and they're going to tell you a story.

Christianity doesn't come from a theology textbook. Christianity has a story too, that before there was time, there was a God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God was fully satisfied within himself. He didn't need anything because each of the members of the Trinity had full enjoyment, full satisfaction, full love amongst each other. As God, the Trinity had no needs.

So merely to express his greatness, God created all things, making Him separate from creation and really above His creation. As created, the universe is not an illusion, it's real. As created, the universe therefore had a beginning. God created humans as the only beings in His image, which places us above the rest of the created world. But it also gives us intrinsic value, which means value because of what we are, not value because of our status in life or value because of what we can do. We were created to bring God glory, to know, love and serve Him, but Satan fell into humanity with him.

The whole race at the time sinned against God, which explains the existence of death and the existence of evil and explains why all humanity without exception thinks and does evil things, ultimately acting as if we are God, seeking glory for ourselves. We are all born as rivals. Now God is a good God which explains the existence of good and right and ethics and morality. As a good God, He must punish evil. He has to. Evil unpunished is evil and we all know it.

So God must punish human evil in order to be good, but He's also loving and He is compassionate. Out of His love and compassion, He sent Jesus, His son, that first Christmas to do three things, to live a life that brings God glory, 24/7/365, something that we would never even want to do. Second, die the death we deserve as a substitute for sinners and third, rise from the dead to prove that his payment for sin was accepted and to prove that everything he did and said is true.

As truly God, Jesus could endure the infinite punishment that our sins deserve. Yet, as truly human, Jesus could do that as a real substitute for us. So today, if anyone would turn from their rebellion, their resistance, their, their apathy by believing in Jesus, God will forgive all of your sins and He will transfer Jesus' perfect life of sinless life to you. So God will treat you as if you lived Jesus' sinless life after treating Jesus as if He lived your life when He was punished on the cross.

These followers of Jesus now live to bring God glory, never perfectly, and these followers of Jesus live to tell others all around the world what Jesus did and what Jesus can do for them. Now that's where we are in the Christian story, right? But the story continues. Human rebellion will go from bad to worse and worse to unbearable, until Jesus returns, completely eradicates the possibility of evil and sets up a completely new reality where people from every tribe and language, kingdom and nation exists where God's glory is the center of all things, the source of awe and joy just like Father, Son and Holy Spirit have had for all of eternity.

Now, more than other stories that we tell, Christianity is a story about reality. Meaning it doesn't just describe our personal preferences, our opinions, our likes and dislikes. It describes the world outside of us. It describes the world even if we never existed. The question is, the real question is, is it the true story of reality? See, the goal of the message is not to answer that question exhaustively. That would take multiple months. But it is to expose you to this one line of reasoning. It is to say Christianity is the true story of reality. It's the truth. Why do I say that? Because it matches the way the world actually is.

It makes sense of the world around us. It gives the best explanation for innate realities that we all assume to be true, things like existence and truth and beauty and logic and knowledge and science and ethics and meaning and destiny. All of these things that we just assumed to be true, Christianity makes sense of. When Christianity is lived consistently, lived consistently, key words, Christianity's blessed the world with hospitals and schools and charity and prosperity and freedom and true greatness and disciplines like poetry and art, music and literature and then in addition to all of that, it's personally changed the lives of untold millions even down to this day. So regardless of what we want to be true, Christianity is the true theology. It's the true religion. Why? Because Christianity matches the world the way it is, because Christianity when lived consistently blesses the world immensely.

Third, it's true because Jesus said so. He is the truth, John 14:6. He is full of truth, John 1:14. Truth comes through Him, John 1:17. Because when he speaks, he speaks the truth. We just read it. John 8:45. He helps people know the truth, said everyone on the side of truth listens to him and asks those who reject him, verse 46, if I tell the truth, why don't you believe me? If you think about it, when Jesus says these things, he is either right or he is wrong. There's no middle ground for us. He's either right or He is wrong about all of that. If He's proven to be true with everything that He said, well, how did He prove that everything He said was true? He did this. I'm going to die and three days later I'm going to rise from the dead and then He pulled it off. That's how you know everything He did and said is true.

It's not some feeling you have inside of you, not some tingle inside of you. Jesus rose from the dead. This religion that Jesus founded is the truth. Now having said all that, there are a ton of ideologies, religions, theologies and systems that disagree with Christianity. If Jesus is the truth, there's an implication there, right? What's the implication? If Jesus is true, then everything that disagrees with Him is not true. It's false. That can be very uncomfortable in our kind of sensitive

snowflakey can't handle hearing something I disagree with culture where you might realize that Jesus is truth and that if you disagree with him you're wrong, period.

Well, it's false religions, irreligions, anti-religions, that's what I want to talk about today. Because in fact, 26 of the 27 books of the New Testament either mention or are all about the false, which means that false teaching is in the category of things like in the New Testament like Jesus, faith, love. It's in that category. 26 out of 27 books talk about this or are all about this. The reason I'm doing it is because you and I, we need discernment badly.

Maybe you're in another church, another city, another country, no matter where you are, what you're doing, you need discernment. I need discernment. We are getting bombarded by claims to truth everywhere. Things are constantly trying to disciple us in a certain direction from our TVs, our phones, our friends, family, social media and even our own hearts. I say our own hearts because it's not just from false teaching that's out there, it's from the heretic that lives right here that seeks in those secret moments, in those quiet moments to take you and swerve you away from the truth. We need the discernment that comes from truth and so that's what we're going to do today. I'm going to do that by showing you the basic characteristics that the Bible tells us about false teaching, number one. Number two, I'm going to explain how false teaching gets into your life. Then third, I'm going to end with how Christians should respond to false teaching. Make sense?

So to start, Christians are warned about men identified as false prophets, false teachers, false apostles, Antichrists who are liars, scoffers, deceitful workmen, fierce wolves and Satan's servants. That's what they're called in the New Testament. Now, why titles like liar and Antichrist used for these men? It's because the content of what they teach is lies. They promote a different gospel, ideologies that are contrary to the truth, which are called in 2 Peter chapter 2, destructive heresies built on false words. Words that are false create destructive heresies, deviations from the truth that exist to destroy you.

Now, while all of this is true for false religions like the religions of Baal and Asherah and all those false religions around Israel in the Old Testament, there's a particular distinctive about false teaching in the New Testament that is critical for you and me to understand and that particular description of false teaching is this, it poses as Christian. It pretends to be Christian. It's promoted by Antichrist. Now you and I hear Antichrist and we think what? We think against Christ but anti in Greek means in the place of, in the place of.

There are substitutes, in other words, for the real thing. That's why they're called false Christ in Matthew 24:5. That's why they're called another Jesus in 2 Corinthians 11:3. So these are wolves Jesus said in Matthew 7, disguised as what, as sheep. Sheep is a metaphor for Christians. So these are wolves disguised as Christians. They're deceivers who are trusted because they disguise themselves as true teachers. They claim to be teachers of the truth but they have no love for Christ. As such, they twist the truth that they flat out disagree with and live lives of arrogance and rebellion.

Their deception makes them the worst people described in the New Testament. You want the worst person in the New Testament other than Satan and his demons, it is false teachers. God will not let them off the hook without repentance. Using the language of the New Testament, they are accursed, eternally condemned, awaiting the inevitable, which if they don't repent, which is swift destruction and the gloom of utter darkness, which has been reserved forever for them.

You ever reserve a table at a restaurant? You ever do that? Why? So you can have a seat there when you get there. New Testaments says the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved, the worst parts of hell are reserved for them. They've got a seat waiting for them. Christians are warned that these liars are not just out in the world but they are among us and will creep in unnoticed if we are not careful. Listen to what John, Jesus' closest friend, says about them. 1 John 2:18, "As you have heard that Antichrist is coming so now many Antichrists have come." There aren't just a few false teachers out there, there are many substitutes for the real thing.

Now what happens if you're not careful? What happens if you don't know what you believe and why you believe it? What happens if this idea is not significant in your minds? Using the language of the New Testament again, you will be exploited, harmed, led astray, drawn from the truth, end up deserting God, departing from the faith all by turning to a different gospel and embracing another Jesus. That's all. That's all.

Listen, the stakes are that high. If you are truly saved, you will not lose your salvation, but you will lose a ton of blessing in this life and the next. Because the stakes are that high, I want to show you how false teachers, how these lying Antichrists, how they get into churches, schools, parachurch organizations and even into your own life because that's what they want.

How they're able to pull this off. Number one starts with supernatural opposition. Supernatural opposition, false teachings' genesis has its ultimate genesis in the serpent of Genesis, the arch-liar, the first false teacher who at the very beginning set himself up in opposition to God and opposition to the truth. Jesus calls him, we just read it, a liar and the father of lies, the source of lies who does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. He is diametrically opposed to the truth. 2 Corinthians 11:14 says, "He disguises himself as an angel of light." Not red skin and a pointy tail and a pitchfork and horns, an angel of light. Now, why do you disguise yourself as an angel of light? So that you will trust me. That's why. So that you will trust what he says, that you will trust his intentions for you. That's why. Thanks to Satan's work, false religion comes to people through deceitful spirits who promote the teachings of demons, 1 Timothy 4:1.

It's so ironic isn't it that the most enlightened among us to laugh at, "Oh, you believe in this Satan," are actually following the teachings of it being that they don't believe exists while having the same attitude toward the truth that he has. So to understand false religion accurately, you must start with the source, Satan, who Jesus just said, we just read it, opposes the truth, has nothing to do with the truth because the truth does not live in him and he uses his followers, both his visible and invisible followers, to do the same exact thing, attack the truth.

This is the very bottom of false teaching. This is the spawn of all false religion, which brings us to the second step. How does false teaching get into your life and into groups of Christian? It happens second through doctrinal deviation, doctrinal deviation. These doctrines of demons are deviations from the truth coming from false teachers who we've already seen claim to be followers of Jesus but are actually of the devil doing what the devil wants them to do, verse 43, which we also just read. They do that because they are held captive by him to do his will, 2 Timothy 2:26.

They don't understand the truth. They can't receive the truth. They refuse to believe in Jesus so they oppose the truth. They don't really believe it, but they pretended to believe it. All while distorting the gospel, twisting the truth into something that sounds true but isn't really true. They've swerved from the truth to proclaim lies that lead God's people astray from the truth so that God's people even forget who He is, Jeremiah 23:26. While claiming to be Christians, these false teachers are disqualified concerning in the faith because they don't even believe it and they contradict it with what they teach.

They're dominated by a pride that says, "I know better. I am smarter. I understand things at a far deeper level than what you have in that Bible of yours." At this point, the truth is distorted while at the same time being pushed as true Christianity. Which leads us to the third step, which I'll call truth simulation. Truth simulation. In the New Testament, there are two main demonic teachings that imitated Christianity but were anything but Christianity. The first was well called the Judaizing heresy and the second is called Gnosticism.

Both claim to offer more than just the simple Christian message. That's not enough. So the Judaizing heresy is what you find in the Book of Galatians. It consists not in a denial of faith in Jesus to save people. They would never deny that, but it denies salvation by faith alone. How? You must believe in Jesus to be saved, but you must also keep the Old Testament laws in order to be saved. That's how. That's how a person is saved this. This creates a simulation of the truth where human merit is added to God's grace, where good works are added to faith, where my contribution, my obedience is added to Jesus' life, death and resurrection, all to create my salvation. I mean, after all, obedience is important, right? It's important, it's critical. It's not optional. Obedience is necessary. It's all where you put obedience in the salvation equation. Is it put on the source side of the equation that produces my salvation? Or is it on the result side of salvation? It's evidence of my salvation. That distinction, that deviation was unnoticeable to the Galatians, a simulation of the real thing that imitated it just enough to get a foothold in that group of churches.

The same is true of Gnosticism. This was the most dangerous distortion that Christianity faced in the early days. It seems to be Satan's favorite false teaching because it's the heresy that never dies, and at the core of this evil going on in our world today is Gnosticism. This is the problem addressed in Paul's letter to the Colossians and in the book of 1 John. So among many things, here's what Gnosticism taught, that the physical creation, what you and I live in, these physical

bodies, the chairs you're sitting on, all of it is completely corrupt and evil and so corrupt and evil that it is beyond any kind of redemption.

Well, if that's the case they taught, God does not work in history. He's far too holy, He's far too high and exalted to muddy Himself with physical reality, which means that He would never unite Himself to the physical world, would He? You can see this theology and Colossians in the aestheticism that is described there and you can see it in 1 John in two ways. One, you can see it in 1 John in his insistence on obedience as the result of eternal life and his insistence on embracing the true Jesus for eternal life.

So aestheticism is extreme self-disciplines, even self-harm as a renunciation of the physical world which your body just happens to be a part of. So that was one response to Gnosticism, this proto, this early Gnosticism in the New Testament, the physical world is evil. My body is part of the physical world, therefore I must punish my body ruthlessly in order to be saved. It's evil.

The flip side though is also true in this early Gnosticism, namely whatever I do in my body doesn't matter because it doesn't touch the purity of my own soul. My soul is clean. My soul is pure. My body is corrupt, but it doesn't really matter. I can live like the devil indulging every form of debauchery imaginable, but it's not the real me, so I'm okay. Now it makes sense why 1 John 2:3, "And by this we know that we have come to know Him if we keep his commandments. whoever says I know Him but does not keep His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him."

Also, now we know why John would write this, 1 John 4:2, "By this you know the spirit of God, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God." So the Gnostic Jesus could not be a real human because God would never unite himself to this evil physical world. Do you see how that cuts to the very core of Christianity? If Jesus is not human, he cannot pay for human sin, and if he cannot pay for human sin, then we are all dead in our sins. He has to be human.

But remember, God is so holy. He's so high and exalted. This world is so evil. Look around you. Look at all the evil in your world. It's so corrupt. God can never muddy himself with that. It's evil. Do you see what they do? It sounds right. It sounds true. It's presented as the real thing. It sounds like what Jesus would say, but both were simulations. They appeared to be the real thing, but they weren't. This is what Catholicism and Mormonism and the social justice movement and other forms of aberrant Christianity do so well. They sound true, but their doctrinal deviations make them simulations, imitations of the real thing.

Well, once the simulation is in place, the fourth step is naive seduction, naive seduction. At this point with doctrinal deviation complete and the simulation of the truth is now established, the false teachers come to unsuspecting Christians and dupe them with their satanic lies. That's why over and over again in the New Testament, these people are called deceivers. Deceivers, they're liars who promote error as truth. Truth as error, good is evil, evil is good. Also, God's people, in the words of 1 Timothy 4:4, will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. They accomplished this through smooth talk and flattery. They rush in all crazy looking going,

"Hey, this is all false." Smooth talk and flattery, which is how they "deceive" the hearts of the naive, Romans 16:18, all the while hiding what they really are, satanic liars disguising themselves as servants of the truth. So here's what happens. God's people at this point no longer firmly rooted, established on the rock of that is the truth, they become Ephesians 4:14, tossed to and fro, carried about by every wind of doctrine, which is accomplished, listen to this, which is accomplished by human cunning and the craftiness of deceitful schemes.

You hear those words? Cunning, crafty schemes. It shows that there is an intentional preparation of the Christian environment by false teachers in order to seduce you with their lies. All of this then accomplishes what Paul rails against in Galatians when he asked in frustration, "Who has bewitched you? Who has tricked you? Who has hidden the truth from your eyes? Who has blown smoke in your face so that you don't see the truth anymore?" Galatians 3:3, "Are you so foolish?" These people weren't idiots. Read Galatians. It is deep theology. Paul expected that they would understand it so they're not idiots. They were hypnotized by lies, so they missed the obvious error the false teachers got in, turned off their lie detector and they didn't even notice it. See, we're commanded to beware, watch out, be on the alert, but so many Christians just aren't. So they become easy prey for wolves in shepherd's clothing to come in and devour them.

Now, once the deception puts God's people to sleep, the operation is now complete, which we will summarize my fifth point, church infiltration. Church infiltration. At this point the fox is in the hen house, the traitor is in the white house, the disguise has worked and the false teachers are now thought to be the real thing. You know Jesus told a story about this Matthew 13:24. He said, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping," you catch that, "While his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away."

Then he explains it by saying this, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man." That's him. "The field is the world and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one and the enemy who sowed them is the devil." So the false will infiltrate the true, do the work of their father, the devil, and spreading false teaching, sin and disobedience wherever they can. New Testament writers vehemently warn God's people about infiltration. Listen to Paul, Acts 20-29. "Fierce wolves will come in among you," they will. "Not sparing the flock," he continues, "And from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things to draw the disciples after them."

That's the goal. Take disciples from Jesus and attach them to the false teacher. Jude, Jesus' brother, puts it this way. Jude 4, "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for condemnation." Listen to those words, have crept in. What does that mean? It meant that they were already in the church when Jude wrote that letter to them. They were listening to it being read. Peter put it this way, 2 Peter 2:1, "False prophets also arose among the people just as there will be false teachers among you." No, that happens to other people. There will be false teachers among you. No, I'm going to be protected. That can't happen to me. There will be false teachers among you. He continues, "Who will secretly bring in destructive

heresies." Again, they're not going to say, "Here's a destructive heresy." They're going to say, "You trust me, don't you? Yeah, we have history together. You've been at this church for 20 years. You can trust what's going on here." "Secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction," Verse 2, "and many will follow them." Many will follow them. That's why we're having this conversation right now, this one-way conversation. False teaching counterfeits in other words are popular. Many will follow them. Generally, they will be more popular than the true teachers. So this is how false religion gets a hold on and infiltrates your life, your schools, churches, denominations. This is how it happens.

Satan's supernatural opposition to the truth, in that hatred for truth, he creates doctrinal deviations from the truth at the very core that are just deviant enough to be damning but not deviant enough to be noticed. This deviation then acts like a simulation and imitation of the real thing, and this simulation is then passed off as the real thing to God's people who think it's the real thing as the imitation tricks them into believing the lie. Once that happens, once it's false teachings created this simulation has entered the church unsuspectingly, entered it as truth, once the destructive heresies have been brought in secretly, once the enemy has crept in unnoticed, the infiltration is complete and God's people are in danger. Let's pray. Just kidding, just kidding, just kidding. We cannot end on that, right? So what should we do about all this? How do we respond to the infiltration that's out there? How do we respond to the infiltration that is coming for you from every direction? How?

I'm going to give you five points straight from the Bible and with this I'll close. Point #1) ***we must practice truth affection. Practice truth affection, in other words, we must know, love, believe and obey the truth.*** We must not ever take it for granted that of all the people in all the worlds who are committed to false religion, you have been shown the truth and the truth has set you free. That is a gift of God's mercy that you will spend endless ages thanking him for. Just that one thing that you know the truth and it sets you free. So love the truth.

#2) *we must practice diligent observation. Diligent observation.* This is Jesus saying beware. This is John saying watch yourselves. This is Paul saying watch out and be on the alert. In other words, how do I make that practical? Treat every Christian teacher, every teacher you come across as guilty until proven innocent, especially Christian teachers. You should test every last one of us against the truth, 1 John 4:1, which means it is imperative, essential and mandatory that you what? That you know the truth and know it well.

Why? Because you have a target on your back. Every single one of us has a target on our back, on our front, our heads, all over. We are targeted and we are being hunted to become trophies for false teachers to mount on the walls of their lives so that they can boast, "Got another one." This is true wokeness, being awake to the reality that false teaching is real. It's out there and it's coming and it's coming as a simulation of the real thing, all to seduce you, to infiltrate your life and take you away from being committed to the teachings found in the New Testament.

Third one was *practice discerning identification. Discerning identification.* We need to be clear on what it is that identifies the real from the counterfeit. What is it that exposes the truth from the simulation? In short, what identifies people as false teachers is two things. Summarize all the New Testament on how to identify a false teacher. Here's the summary statement. Two things, what they say and how they live. What they say and how they live. In other words, these liars pretending to be Christians do not confess the true Jesus, the Jesus of the Bible. They promote another Jesus, a different gospel than salvation by grace alone, through faith alone and Christ alone. They twist obvious things like the word love and use the word love to completely destroy teachings in the Bible. That's a major one in our day. Use love, use justice, use other biblical ideas, change their definition without telling you, creating a simulation and then passing that off as this is how you should live your life. Anybody experienced that recently? Yeah.

In short, they reject and ignore the Bible. They divide people from the truth. They put obstacles in people's way from embracing the truth all while claiming to be Christian leaders and perverting God's grace to justify disobedience. They become ungodly, lives filled with love for this world, instead of love for God. They are insubordinate, refusing to submit to the truth. They become hypocrites, Matthew 23, and it is by this fruit, what they teach and how they live their lives that you will identify them.

Then once they're identified, **fourth, we must practice apologetic confrontation. Apologetic confrontation.** Apologetic is a word that means to give a defense. That's not just for experts. Jude 3, "All Christians are told to contend earnestly for the faith, for the truth found in the scriptures." You see this in the life of Jesus all the time. You see this in the life of Paul in the Book of Acts. We are told, Titus 1:10, to silence false teachers, to be ready when the situation presents itself, to make a defense of the truth.

This is why it is so critical, so critical that church leaders, Titus 1:9, hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught so that he may be able to give instruction and sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. It's not either or, it's both ends. Like Paul with the heresy in Galatians, which even seduced Peter and Barnabas, two early church heroes. We must stand firm against false teaching and the false teachers who are spreading it, whether they know they're doing it or not. Why? Because it'll expose the lie, number one. But number two, it will protect other people from the lie.

It'll expose the simulation for what it is, a lie, and then maybe, just maybe God will grant those false teachers repentance, which leads to the knowledge of the truth, 2 Timothy 2:25. What if number four doesn't work? What if powerfully refuting false teachers with the scriptures doesn't have the desired effect of causing repentance? The final response we should have to this simulation of the truth being promoted as real is, **#5, we must practice decisive extraction. Decisive extraction from your life, from a group of Christians, from a church, from a denomination.** 2 Corinthians 11:4, "We are not to tolerate false teachers masquerading as Christians while spreading lies as truth." We cannot tolerate them. Instead, Romans 16:17, "We are to avoid them." 2 John 10, "We are to shun them." Titus 3:10, "We are to have nothing to do

with them." It is truth before unity. It is truth before relationship. Listen, for those who claim to teach the truth but distort the truth, preach another Jesus in a different gospel.

Now here's the thing. We typically think, "Well, that's out there. My church is a solid church. That can't happen here." Oh, it's tried to happen here. It's tried many times. We just get them in the lobby and get them out of here. But sometimes they creep in unnoticed. Like one guy who go to our men's Bible study and hang out and get involved in a small group and then a couple weeks later goes, "Polygamy is not all that bad. Did you know that? It's actually biblical. Let me show you in the Old Testament, it's actually biblical." There's another guy who love the church, love your preaching truth. Pastor is so awesome and got involved and got in a small group and then after a couple months goes, "Hey, I know John talked about the Trinity on Sunday, but you know what? The Trinity's not true. Let me show you how that's not true."

Then there was another guy, third guy, he was a former pastor who came here. He used to sit right over there. He was, "Hey, love. What's going on here? Wow, this is crazy. All this stuff going on." Got involved in a small group after a couple months, "Hey, the Bible is full of errors. You guys don't believe like the Bible's inerrant, right? Nobody believes that anymore. No, it's full of errors. Here, let me show you," to a small group here.

See, this kind of thing doesn't just happen out there. This kind of thing could be happening right now in this room. That is why we need people who love the truth. That is why at a time when backbone is at an all-time low, not just out in the world, but especially in the Christian Church, when public opinion is more important than truth, when being liked is more sought after than being faithful, when being labeled as a fundamentalist is like the worst thing that could ever happen to anybody.

In these dark days, we need people who love the truth, who have clarity, who see, who can spot, who can identify false teachers. We need people with conviction who will confront the false, lift high the truth in love, in the face of false religion. We need people of courage who will not only do the hard and unpopular thing of confronting false teaching disguised truth, but who will extract it from their lives, even though it will cost them to do so.

In these dark days, we need people, we need leaders with clarity, conviction and courage, who will do the right thing regardless of the consequences. Why? Because Christian, you have right here, you have been given nothing less than the true story of reality, a reality that will be more obvious one day because Jesus said it will be, and a reality, a truth that is worth fighting for. Let's pray.

Father, help us be those people. Father, messages like this are significant and critical because we have to be reminded at times that we live in a world of deception and that it is so incredibly critical that we are people who love the truth. So continue, please, to make us people who know and love Your truth, because when we do, we know and love You. We pray these things for the glory of Your name. Amen. Amen.