

## 9-26-21 Truth or Chaos

### Acts 19:8-20.

It seems/appear everywhere you look in America today there is chaos! From sports, politicians, families and in churches there seems to be a sense of uneasiness, frustration, anger, rage, and chaos.

No news can be trusted, history books are being changed, experts can no longer be trusted, the medical field is in a no-win situation. School boards seem to be run by lawyers and insurance companies. Parents want so badly for their child to be the star that they are physically assaulting officials that they disagree with. Churches are closing in America at record numbers, more and more people are walking away from the faith or denying the existence of God.

What are we as Christians doing about it? I can only speak for myself, little to nothing. If anything, we have gotten caught in all the chaos as well. Some of us are burying our heads in the sand. Some of us are check in every once and a while with God and with the world. Some of us are so consumed with the chaos that we are frozen in fear. Some of are trying to make it through the day doing as little damage as we can, don't rock the boat too much. Some of us are pot stirrers and we aren't advancing anything but anger and hatred. Some of us have gotten lost in the details of the chaos, trying to make it fit our biblical theology.

We as the bride of Christ, the church must address the elephant in the room. There is and always has been an assault on truth, but we appear to be in a hyperbole of the rejection of truth. Over the years I have preached about the slippery slope we are on regarding to the rejection of truth. Over the last two years the attack has doubled down and advancing at a record pace.

Remember what Pilate said to Jesus? **Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. John 18:37-38.**

Could this be the question on the hearts of many today? "What is truth?" Without truth there is and will be chaos. Once there is a loss of truth everything else will fall. And we are witnessing it happen.

Just look at what's going on today. Everyone is arguing for the advancement of THEIR truth. The truth in science is out the window. The truth in the medical field is out the window. So, I would never argue or advance my truth. But I will point, argue, and advance THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH.... GOD. The church must hang on to for dear life, return to, fight for, stake their lives on it.... God's absolute truth.

The Hebrew word for truth is *emet* and involves ideas of support and stability. From this root we derive a twofold notion of truth as faithfulness and conformity to fact. *Emet* can also mean that which is conformed to reality in contrast to anything that would be erroneous or deceitful. *Emet* can also connote what is authentic, reliable, or simply right.

**John 14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**John 4:24, God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

**Ephesians 6:14, Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

**Proverbs 30:5, Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ESV**

**1 John 1:6, If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

Church, we need to remember what we are up against! Know the enemy.

**Ephesians 6:12, For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

And how to survive each day!

**Philippians 4:8, Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5, For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**

**Read Acts 19:8-10.**

**I. God's truth will always be met with opposition.**

- Paul spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading for 3 months. What was Paul so bold about? **"Concerning the things of the kingdom of God,"** He was preaching the gospel and teaching doctrine.
- Paul was bold in pointing out not only their sins but how they missed the signs in the scripture regarding the Messiah. He persuaded his audience every time he spoke.

"Paul was a moving preacher and was a master of the art of persuasion." Matthew Henry

- Look at the progression God's Word points out in **verse 9**. First, some were hardened. The word for hardened is, Skerno, meaning a heart hardened against God. This led to **"did not believe,"** the hardened heart of some individuals led to unbelief. Many of us have come across people that respond to the Gospel and or God's truths. But sometimes we are blessed (sarcasm) to have some **"spoke evil of the Way before the multitude."**
- In these times of absence of truth, believers must be bolder, ready to reason and be ready to tend the soil in people's lives, to persuade them of God's absolute truth. His gospel is absolute.
- I believe without God's truth guiding mankind, mankind is in big trouble. We can see what happened to Israel when it tried to do things its own way. It ended up in bondage and slavery.
- When all the persecution came against Paul what did he do? Did he quit the ministry God had put him in? Nope, he moved on. He packed up his stuff, his students and found another place to minister.
- **Read verse 10.**
- Paul continued for 2 more years, so that, **"all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."**

Next week we will continue with talking about God's absolute truth.

### **Application**

How are we responding with truth being under assault?

I really liked what Peter shared the other day. "Is living more important to me than the way I live?"

What if what we are facing today is a permanent decline in America?

Will we stand up and be found faithful?

Will we bury our heads in the sand and be ignorant on purpose? (stupid)

Will we allow the work of Satan distract us?

I was speaking with my pastor's friends this last week. We all agreed that we have never seen so much divisiveness, anger, anxiety, frustration, bitterness in the body of Messiah.

What does the symptoms look like? We become more and more self-focused, we take our eyes off what God would have us do and we head towards abundance of self-care.

When we are overly self-focused, we quench the power of the Holy Spirit. We can NEVER do enough to satisfy this flesh. Its thirst is unquenchable.

The last two years have become a breeding ground for complacency, self-focused, and self-reliant. God purchased us for this time to be used.