

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:14a

Lesson #47

Truth

07/08/2018



Tiberius
(AD
14-37)

Caligula
(AD
37-41)

Nero
(AD
54-68)

Domitian
(AD
81-96)

Caracalla
(AD
211-217)

Diocletian
(AD
284-305)

These emperors all shared a similar profile.



- They turned confidence into arrogance.
- They turned general welfare into cruelty.
- They turned debate into persecution.
- They turned differences into demonization.
- **They turned truth into deception.**

Proverbs 6

¹⁶ There are six things which the Lord hates,
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:
¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a **lying tongue**, And hands
that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that
devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to
evil, ¹⁹ A **false witness who utters lies**, And
one who **spreads strife** among brothers.”

2



3

Helmet of Salvation

Breastplate of
Righteousness

Belt of Truth

Sword of
the Spirit

Shield of Faith

Sandals
of Peace

Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the full
armor of God so
that you will be
able to stand
firm against
the schemes
of the devil.”

4



Belt of Truth

John 8:44

“There is no truth
in him. . . . for he
is a liar, and the
father of lies.”

Ephesians 6:14

“Stand firm therefore,
having girded your
loins with **truth**,”

5

Ephesians 4

“¹⁵ but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ, . . . ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of **deceit**, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the **truth**. ²⁵ Therefore, **laying aside falsehood, speak truth**, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

6

“The foundation of morality is to have done, once and for all, with lying.”

Thomas Henry Huxley

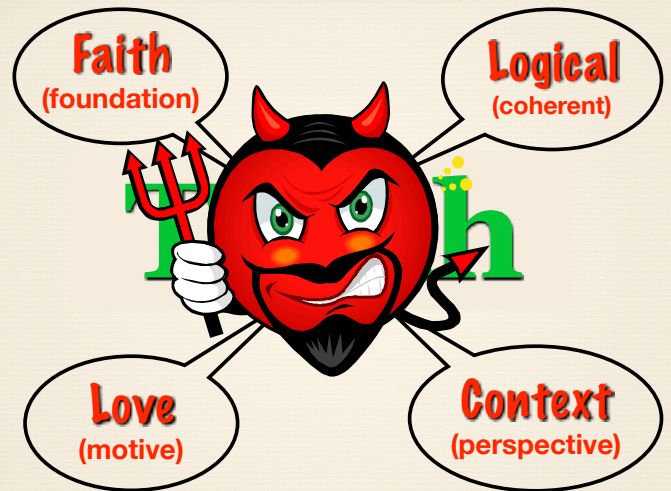


7

Temptation is always a battle over truth and trust.

To do evil, Satan simply tempts us to believe that sin will make us happy with no painful consequences.

8



9



10

Spiritual warfare takes place in the mind and is about the truth.

The greatest lies we tell are the ones we tell to ourselves.

11

Some common **fear** motivated lies we tell ourselves

- **"Bondservant"** - God promised to save my dreams with my soul.
- **"Aufulizing"** - "I am a failure" & "The sky is falling"
- **"Sugar coating"** - "our testimony" & "God's image"
- **"The Cross"** - Defensive lies.
"The glory that awaits me is not worth the pain of the cross I must bear to get there."

12



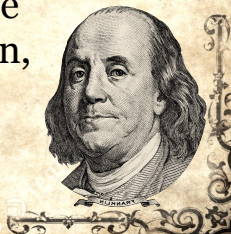
St Augustine

"The truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself."



13

"When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself so that its professors are obliged to call for the help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one."



Benjamin Franklin

14

Some common ways we can be misled.

- **"Crystal ball"** - If I have a promise from Scripture I can trust that God will honor it.
 - All Scripture is written FOR us but not TO us or ABOUT us .
 - My understanding may be wrong.
- **"Misguided trust"** - Confusing power, passion, and position with truth.

15

2 Timothy 2:15

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles** the word of truth."

- We can too easily mishandle the truth.

Colossians 2:18

"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in **self-abasement** and the **worship of the angels**, taking his stand on **visions** he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,"

Galatians 1:8

"But even though we, or **an angel from heaven**, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

- Dramatic "spiritual experiences" do not come with their own explanation.

16

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 - All Scripture is written FOR us but not TO us or ABOUT us .
 - My understanding may be wrong.
- **"Misguided trust"** - Confusing power, passion, and position with truth.
- **"Failing to listen"** - Fake news, False history, Narrow context.

17

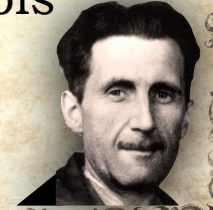
When we
REWRITE history
or REPRESS it

we are destined
to REPEAT it.

18

“He who controls the
present controls the
past. He who controls
the past controls
the future.”

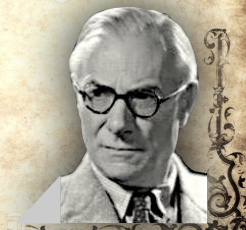
George Orwell



19

“Study the historian before
you begin to study the facts.
Find out what he has in
his bonnet. When you read
a work of history,
always listen out
for the buzzing.”

E.H. Carr
(British historian)



20

Lying is energized
by fear.

Love & faith not
only casts out fear,
they also energize
truth.

21

“We’re tired of the
national conversation
centering on “What
should we fear?”
and “Who should
we blame?”.”

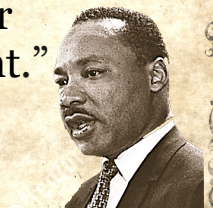
Brene Brown



22

“I believe that unarmed truth
and unconditional love will
have the final word in reality.
This is why right, temporarily
defeated, is stronger
than evil triumphant.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



23

Disagreements are
inevitable
but combat is not.

Disagreements are
an invitation to listen
& debate, not ignore
& demonize.

24

“People generally
quarrel because
they cannot
argue.”

G.K. Chesterton



25

How can we find the truth?

1. Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to react - especially to those who see things in a different way.

Listening to someone does not mean that you have to agree with them but it does mean that you must respect them to understand them.

2. If it sounds too good, too bad, too weird, or too certain, check it out before you believe it, invest in it, or spread it.
3. Follow the wisdom of a trial court. The whole story is often complicated and calls for an honest hearing of different views.

26

Acts 17

“10 And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they **received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.** 12 Many of them therefore believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.”

27