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Meeker Christian Church October 16, 2022

The Editor's Column of the Rio Blanco Herald Times October 6th edition featured this two word headline: LIAR, LIAR... Nikki unmasked the prevalence and acceptance of lying in our culture and society. It is a worthwhile column to read.

That column along with working on next weeks sermon influenced by halloween plus frequently being inundated with political rhetoric regarding November elections, the word TRUTH became the topic for today's message.

One verse summarizes today's sermon, Ephesians 6:14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place*, If you are steadfast in that, God is in control for you.

That verse comes near the end of the Apostle Paul's instruction to the Ephesian church on how to recognize and defend themselves in their culture and community. The Holy Spirit had the same message recorded and preserved in the sacred words of the Holy Bible.

Look at Ephesians 6:10-14 to appreciate the gravity of the life circumstances believers will experience according to Paul: *KJV 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,*

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Living Bible: Eph 6:11-14 *Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. 12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. 13 So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up. 14 But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval.*

This word “truth” like every word in every language takes on meaning according to the one speaking, under what circumstances it is spoken, and the customary definition of those within the culture who are listening, and of course the listeners personal “world view.”

Before I can proceed, let me pause for just a moment to remind you that our Creator God is far superior to His own creation. The trinitarian Godhead was before creation, envisioned creation, created creation and is therefore superior to that which He created!! You have all seen the picture of Christ over the earth, that is a visual of the authority of the trinitarian Godhead over everything.



With that understanding, be aware that in the context of today's sermon, the

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definition of “truth” is from Creator God. On the basis of HIS authority, HE has given us the definition of “truth” from the Holy Scripture for the purpose of giving persons who embrace “truth” the understanding for righteous living, fullness of life, and promise of a blessed eternal existence.//

“Truth” cannot therefore be situational or relative but is intelligibly defined and illustrated from Creator God’s own inspired word. (repeat)

One of satans schemes causing concern for truth goes back to the record of the events in John 18:37-38 *"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to **testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**" 38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. NIV*

According to John’s gospel record, those who listen to Jesus are on the side of truth. Later in John’s 1st epistle: 4: 6 *We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is **how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.***

The direct statement is that those who do not listen to Jesus are not on the side of Jesus and therefore not on the side of truth.

That is pretty heavy if you consider the ramifications - listening to Jesus means prayer, Bible readying/study/meditation and life action. It means a personal responsibility for every decision, it means developing discernment of what is a direct reflection of listening to Jesus //and what is not. It means a continuing and growing relationship with Jesus and in faith practice.

Eph 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

(from commentary of Barnes' Notes

4-- And from another (brown)

“The idea here may be, that as the belt was the bracer up, or support of the body, so truth is suited to brace us up, and to gird us for constancy and firmness. The belt kept all the parts of the armor in their proper place, and preserved firmness and consistency in the dress; and so truth might serve to give consistency and firmness to our conduct. Truth preserves a man from those lax views of morals, of duty and of religion, which leave him exposed to every assault. Truth makes the soul sincere, firm, constant, and always on its guard. A man who has no consistent views of truth, is just the man for the adversary to successfully assail.

Look with me at John 8:42-47 Jesus own words condemns those Jews who refused to believe in Him as Messiah: *42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. 43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? 47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”***

satan is a liar (John 8:44), but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him. The belt holds the other parts of the armor together, and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian. A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear. The belt also held the sword. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of

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truth...

“Truth” is the personification of the trinity, **God is truth:** John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Jesus is truth: John 1:17 *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

John 14:6-7 *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the **truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

The Holy Spirit is truth: John 16:12-14 *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of **truth**, comes, he will guide you into all **truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

The Bible also has explicit warnings about negligence or ignorance of truth, Here is a sample:

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Rom 1:18 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness,*

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Rom 2:8-11 *But for those who are self-seeking and who **reject the truth** and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: NIV*

1 John 1:6-8 *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live by the truth.** 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.** NIV*

John 3:21 ***But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light,***

John 5:24 *"I tell you the **truth**, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*

John 6:47 *I tell you the **truth**, he who believes has everlasting life.*

John 17:17 *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is **truth.***

My paraphrase of John 17:17 "Help people to grow up living according to the only possible source of truth, values, and hope for eternal life, by studying, understanding and celebrating life through JESUS CHRIST the LORD."

That is our invitation today.

Invitation -