

“Don’t Swap the Truth for a Lie”

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“Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days.” Eph 5:16 GNT

- **Evil days are dangerous for THE WORLD, as it falls under God's wrath.**

ROMANS 1:18-32 NLT - *“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. [They] know the truth about God [and] have no excuse for not knowing God...but wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks...As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping God...worshiped idols... So God abandoned them... As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, [and] refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.”*

“They traded the truth for a lie” and fell under God’s wrath.

Thank God, through the cross, we can all escape the wrath of God. That’s Good News!

Dangerous lies get embedded into cultures because they are deliberately promoted by Satan.

JOHN 8:44 MSG - *“[The Devil] was a killer from the very start. He couldn’t stand the truth because there wasn’t a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies.”*

The culture around us is badly infected with spiritual wickedness and moral confusion.

- **Evil days like ours are also dangerous to BELIEVERS**

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3 GNT - *“I am afraid that your minds will be corrupted and that you will abandon your full and pure devotion to Christ—in the same way that Eve was deceived by the snake’s clever lies.”*

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS LIES DECEIVING THE CURRENT CULTURE?

- **Word Twisting:** also called Linguistic Theft. Refers to Leviathan’s redefining of words to distort reality. LOVE and TOLERANCE are being hijacked to mean you’re a hater if you have a moral view.
- **Postmodernism:** A dangerous lie that says, *“The truth is, there is no truth, so do whatever you want. The truth is what I feel. You have your truth, I have mine.”* But truth is reality at all times and for all, like 2+2=4. Mob rule.
- **Moral Relativism:** *“It’s wrong to tell me I’m wrong.”* So nothing is wrong, which undermines truth and morality.

- **New Spirituality:** “I’m not religious, I’m spiritual, Just follow your heart, You are enough” and other lies. If it is spiritual but not based on Jesus Christ who is Truth itself, it is a dangerous half-truth that will damn you.
- **Progressive Christianity:** Aims to give the historic Christian faith a modern makeover, luring people away from foundational truths such as the atonement, the authority of the Bible, the literal resurrection of Jesus, the nature of sin, and the reality of hell. Progressivism dismisses anything that doesn’t feel fair or aligned to modern mindsets and sensibilities. **Another term related to this extreme makeover of Christianity is “deconstruction.”** Deconstructed Christians often reject such foundational beliefs as Jesus is the only way to God, the need for Christ’s death on the cross (“Cosmic Child abuse by God”) and the Scriptures being God’s authoritative revelation to man.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1 GNT - “The Spirit says clearly that some people will abandon the faith in later times; they will obey lying spirits and follow the teachings of demons.”

THE GOOD NEWS: GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF TRUTH

God is a God of truth. Therefore when He speaks something, we can trust what He says.

HEBREWS 6:18 CEV - “God cannot tell lies! And so his promises and vows are two things that can never be changed. We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us.”

We can follow the Author or Life or the Father of Lies.

THREE CHOICES EVERY BELIEVER MUST MAKE

1. Consider where you stand with truth.

JEREMIAH 6:16 NET - The Lord said to his people: “You are standing at the crossroads. So consider your path. Ask where the old, reliable paths are. Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it. If you do, you will find rest for your souls.”

2. Stand firm in your Biblical convictions.

LUKE 21:19 NLT - “By standing firm, you will win your souls.”

We want to demolish lies, not people.

3. Live to make a difference in the world.

EPHESIANS 5:16 JBP - “Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. Don’t be vague but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of God.”