

WHAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER

“The Pillar and Support of the Truth”

Scripture Reading: 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDE 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** I have only three more Sundays to preach the Word of God here at BGCC. I want to make it count. So I’ve titled this final sermon series *“What We Need to Remember.”* I promise you I will be Biblically correct. I promise you I will not be politically correct. The truth matters. And the truth isn’t always easy but it does matter and it will set you free.
-) **SLIDE 10.** So, I went through all my previous 716 sermons I’ve preached here and asked myself what is paramount in sound doctrine. If there is something we all need to remember as we all move forward, what is that? I have titled today’s message *“The Pillar and Support of the Truth”* (v15).
-) There is one word out of our Scripture text this morning that I want to focus on today. And that word is *“truth.”* You will find this word on the front of the bulletin. You will see this word on the Beech Grove website. You will hear me use this word often in my sermons. So why am I so obsessed with the word truth?
-) One reason is because God’s Word, the Bible, is truth. And I love this book. Another reason is Jesus says He is the way the truth and the life. And I love Jesus.
-) Jesus uses the word quite often. Seventy Nine times in the 4 gospels Jesus starts of a sentence by saying, *“I tell you the truth.”* Or if you have a KJV Jesus says, *“Verily I say unto you.”*
-) Fifteen more times Jesus uses the word another way in a sentence. *“His worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.”*

-) A total of 94 times Jesus uses the word “*truth*.” Truth must be important.
-) **SLIDE 11**. Not everyone understands truth. Not everyone cares what truth is. In JOHN 18:38 Pontius Pilate asks Jesus, “*What is truth?*” ACTS 20:30 tells us that people distort the truth. ROMANS 1:18 tells us that people suppress the truth. TITUS 1:14 tells us that people reject the truth. 2PETER 2:2 tells us that people will bring the way of truth into disrepute.
-) We live in a country and in a time and in a social environment where truth is not anywhere near the top of anyone’s priority list. The degrading and elimination of moral values we see happening around us proves that fact.
-) We have people who are confused about their gender. We have parents who say that around the age of five they will let their child decide what gender they want to be. Want to know the truth? Pull their pants down and find out.
-) **SLIDE 12**. So who are what is to blame? EPHESIANS 6:12. So we can blame it all on Satan and his demons.
-) **SLIDE 13**. JOHN 8:44. Our battle is against Spiritual forces of wickedness.
-) **SLIDE 14**. 2 CORIN 4:3-4. Satan’s lies and deception blinds men from seeing the truth. Men would rather distort the truth, reject the truth, suppress the truth, and malign the truth.
-) Tell story of the eggs on the building.
-) Truth is not part of the human condition. But it is a Christ-like characteristic and therefore it must be part of a transformed life. When we become saved, truth must become our foundation.
-) **SLIDE 15**. Why? Our answer is found in our Scripture reading from this morning. We know that we, believers, are the church. Right? And our text tells us what? 1 TIM 3:15. We, the church (believers) must be the ones who uphold the truth.

-) **SLIDE 16.** Bible commands us as the church about truth: we must rejoice in the truth, speak the truth, obey the truth, put on the belt of truth, love the truth, believe the truth, come to the knowledge of the truth, acknowledge the truth, teach the truth, be firmly established in the truth, live by the truth, walk in the truth, work together for the truth.
-) If the church is not the pillar and support and the foundation of truth, then what will? The government? Our public education system? The bartender? Oprah Winfrey? The View? CNN?
-) If we, the church, are going to be the foundation and pillars of the truth, it's important to know that there will be consequences for doing that. Are we ready to accept this challenge? Are we ready to speak truth or will we compromise? Are we ready to rock the boat for Jesus and make waves in our society? Are we properly equipped to move forward?
-) Tell story of Northern Virginia church. *“Be careful what I say to the congregation. 1) I don't want to offend anyone and 2) the government may take away my non-profit status.”* Explain.
-) Why do we become at odds with some people when we speak the truth to them?
-) **SLIDE 17.** HEBREWS 4:12.
-) **SLIDE 18.** The truth will **JUDGE**. How? Truth looks at the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. And the heart is us. And God knows every hair on our head. Right? Explain.
-) **SLIDE 19.** JOHN 3:19-21.
-) **SLIDE 20.** The truth will hold people **ACCOUNTABLE**. How?
1) Truth has now become a higher standard than what they have set. Explain. 2) Truth exposes their evil deeds. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 21.** LUKE 12:51-53.
-) **SLIDE 22.** The truth will **DIVIDE**. Explain.

-) When we speak truth (not if) then get ready for some people to call you judgmental. When we speak truth (not if) then get ready for some people to disagree with you. When we speak truth (not if) then get ready for a possible division between you and them. Because that is what truth is capable of. It judges. It hold one accountable. It divides.
-) **SLIDE 23.** JOHN 8:31-32.
-) **SLIDE 24.** When received with the right heart and conviction, the truth will set you **FREE.**
-) What do we need to remember? The TRUTH matters! I've been saying it for over 15 years now. And I'll say it until the day I die.
-) As we all move forward in our lives, I want to see the true church of Jesus Christ take a stand for the truth. And I want that stand to start with us. I want us to be the pillar and the support and the foundation for the truth regardless of how much others may call us judgmental; how much others may disagree with us; or how much others no longer want to associate with us.
-) It is time for the true church of Jesus Christ to quit being passive, complacent, and compromising. As Charles Stanley says: "*Obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.*" Let's do that.
-) **SLIDE 25.** MATTHEW 5:11.

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