

Be an Overcomer #2 You CAN Handle the TRUTH

But we're glad that you're here. Glad that those are online, have joined us, and I always pray that God will work through this message and any message that he has put on my heart or Pastor Branson's heart. So, if you weren't here last week, we started a new series about overcoming obstacles in life and letting Jesus fight your battles. Tonight, we will continue. Okay? And I've said it before, the world is difficult and getting harder. It sometimes feels like things are falling apart, and every time we feel like we can't go on, we need to know that we have a choice in how to respond to the worldliness in situations around us. A lot of times, do you have to put a good attitude on during the week? I mean, it's like we have our worship mood automatically on Sundays and maybe Wednesdays if you come, but it's like you have to put, can't it just stay on?

Can't you have a mood of worship Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, whatever you're doing? I think we can because you and I can either accept defeat or live in the victory that God has already promised, and he didn't design. Like I said last week, he didn't design any of us for defeat, but for victory. And even like we said last week, you may say, well, it's no choice. I choose victory. But the question posed last week was, why are you living like it? Because I know a lot of Christians, a lot of people I know that come to church regularly that to watch them walk around, I don't really see a victorious life. I see like an ion.

So how do you fight against your fear and overcome the struggles of life? How do you overcome all of the falsehoods that are out there? And you and I live in a world where I can't even count all the falsehoods that are out there. How do you overcome falsehood out there with truth? Well, thankfully you're here tonight because that's our topic. We're going to talk about overcoming falsehood with truth in what we've called be an overcomer. And so tonight I'm going to set up, you can see the title in your, I had a little fun with the title tonight. And you can see that most people have seen the movie A Few Good Men. Yes. Even if you haven't, you're familiar with the quote, you can't handle the truth. Does a good Jack Nicholson? Okay, you can't handle the truth. He belts that out to Tom Cruise who absolutely wants to and needs to hear the truth, or he faces a court martial. He's demanding the truth and it's a great scene followed by an even greater speech. But the one line has echoed that ripple across spirituality. And what I mean by that is the week after Passover, the people demanded a murderer be released over the Messiah. Why? Because they couldn't handle the truth. Okay? Why are churches closing and some pastors are not teaching what they should, they can't handle the truth. Even in the Book of Acts, look at this.

Steven gives a speech very similar to Nicholson. It's not like when he said it, I'm going to sound like Jack Nicholson. No, when Steven is speaking to the high priest, so look at Acts seven 51 through 53. I love the way this starts. You stiff necked people. I mean, can you imagine in the gruff of Nicholson, you stiff necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears. You always resist the Holy Spirit. When I read that portion there, I can imagine talking to some people that want to have nothing to do with Christianity or the Bible, and I can see after they tell me how much they don't want to, I can say, well, you're just a stiff neck person and your heart and your ears, your hearing, you're always resisting what I'm telling you about the Holy Spirit. You can put that in. He says, you're always resisting the Holy Spirit as your fathers did.

So, which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? I love, this is one of my favorite speeches in the Bible, which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute and they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the righteous one whom you've now betrayed and murdered you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it. You can't handle the truth, right? In fact, they thought they, well, they killed the truth, but they thought they did. Well, since you and I are here tonight to talk about truth over false, as I'm telling you that you can handle the truth because it's been asked and it will continue to be asked, well, what is truth? Pilate asked that very profound and familiar question almost 2000 years ago. And so, in John 18:38, PIL said to him, which he said to Jesus, what is truth?

We don't know if Pilate was being serious and truly wanted to know or who truth was, or was he being sarcastic? What is truth? Right? Right. We don't know. But what we do know, what we do know is fact is that after that conversation, he turned Jesus over to the crowd, wiped his hands of it. And like I said earlier, the crowd chose a murderer over the Messiah because the truth was too much for them. It was just too much to look at our sin, to look at their sin, to go inward and do a self-check of, are you following God? They couldn't handle what they were. They knew that they would be exposed all the lies, and all their filthiness would come out. So, they chose a murderer. And so sometimes to look at our sin, it is too much. And we look at it as if looking into a bright light.

So, what happens? People just ignore it. I'm not, it's too much. So, it was the same there. They could not handle the truth and they chose a murderer. And then Jesus went to the cross. One of my favorite pastors, it's the late RC Spro. He said this and I had to include it. I love this. Pilate judged the truth. He sentenced the truth, he scourged the truth, and he mocked the truth, and then he crucified the truth. The irony is that at that very moment, he asked this question, what is truth? He was staring at the pure incarnation of truth, the one who is truth just said to him, everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. Man, that's about the thickest irony example I've ever seen. I mean, he's asking what is truth? And he's staring at truth. And so that's what I want to get to everyone here and to everyone online.

It's not casual Jesus. I mean, Jesus is the Savior of the world. He should be your Lord and Savior. I've talked to a few, I'm not a big fan of the seventies musical Jesus Christ superstar. I'm just not. And if you like it, it's okay. I'm not condemning it. But what I mean by that is this. There are some people living that Jesus is still like a superstar, not Lord and Savior. There's a huge difference. And so that's where I put my hat again. It's just, huh? Fans, not followers. Fans not followers are a better way to even say that, right.

Yeah. rcs probably staring at it says, pilots staring at the truth and has no idea. And so, since then many have asked the question the same question, just like Pilate and many just like Pilate missed the answer. And that's why I want to make sure that so that you can go out and disciple. And so those that are online will know that Jesus was more, he was God in the flesh. And so that alone, even if you've been a Christian for years, take it very seriously. It's not just something we believe, it's who we are. That's who we believe in. And he is coming back. And of course, man, I tell you if you're immune to all the things that are going on, I'm telling you I'd get right with God. Now Jesus, his hands on the doorknob, okay, I know someone said, oh, you've been saying that for years.

Yes. And we're even closer doorknob. Well, there is such a thing as truth. And Christ's followers know that Jesus is truth. In the Bible, he is called the God of truth. On different occasions, Psalm 31, 5 says into

your hand, I commit my spirit. You have redeemed me. Oh Lord, God of truth. Isaiah 65, the first part of 16 says so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth. And he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by who the God of truth. And Jesus is described this way in the book of John, John, one second part of verse 14, glory as of the Holy Son from the Father full of grace and truth. So my prayer as a teacher is that going forward, you won't have to ask what is truth? Who is truth? You'll know and live by that Jesus's truth. I don't ever have to doubt anything else. Amen. That's right. Amen.

As Christ followers, we want to be able to tell others that the truth tells the others truth In a world of falsehoods, and boy, like I said at the beginning of the falsehoods is just you could just swat them away like mosquitoes. There's so many in this world. Well, God doesn't leave us unprepared. Look at Ephesians six, first part of 14 stand, therefore having fastened on the belt of truth. That's from the passage put on the full armor, the whole armor of God. Well, the belt of truth is very important as is all the pieces. But the belt of truth helps us to see and fight deception in the world to be able to dodge the landmines of life, if you will. And so how do we actually put on the belt of truth? You have to first start with seeking the truth first. Start with seeking the truth. And part of that isn't just that I know I'll probably repeat myself later, but that isn't just reading your Bible on a daily basis and checking that, yes, I did my daily reading. Go me, right? Seeking the truth means you're staring at the page, you're reading it so focused that you might burn the pages, right? Have you ever read your Bible like that?

But that's what I mean is not just read it, seek the truth while you're reading it so that when someone says, hey, what'd you read? That was this morning, man, you can't ask me that. You got to give me while I'm reading it so I can tell you what I'm reading. No, we need to seek the truth so bad that man, we're just devouring the pages with our eyes and we're just chewing it up as if it were just nutrients, vitamins, because it is. It's for your life. Well, the believers, we need to know the truth about God and the truth about Christ. So, in order to overcome falsehoods in our life, we need to seek the truth of Jesus by doing the following. I broke it down into three for you and you're going to go, well, these are so repetitive. Yes, they are.

I'm a teacher and I believe in repetition. I believe in going over it and over it and over it until Jesus comes back. So, number one is studying the truth. You've heard that before. You cannot get away with, you can volunteer. You can be the volunteer of the point, like, man, that person's everywhere. But if you're not studying the truth, something is greatly missing. And so look at Hebrews 11, six, and without faith, it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Now, the phrase those who seek him is us. Those online that are wanting to know God more, that's us. You're here tonight. You're online tonight seeking out what God wants for your daily life and to seek him. You first start with studying, you first start with studying, you study scripture and doctrine is the truth of the word of God.

And while I was reviewing this after last week, a good friend of mine said something, what they pulled from it and I remembered, you know what? I should have included that. It's really good. So I just said those that seek him, you want to start with studying scripture. So what I've put together for tonight, that is not my devotion. That is not my daily devotion. That is not me going well, I've studied ready for Wednesday night, I'm good. No, no, no. Apart from this, I have my own and I have to make sure that I have my own, that I don't go, well, this is good enough. I'll study this and no, I need my own verse of the

day or devotion of the day. And then this is separate. And when I heard that, I'm like, that's fantastic because yes, I need to remind myself of that all the time, all the time.

And so here's the thing, the truth of the gospel gospels preached here weekend and week out. And the more that we open our Bibles, and we diligently connect to God through his word, the less the craziness of life will puzzle us. Now, I didn't say you won't raise an eyebrow. Yeah, I do. I'm like, that was stupid. Or that person's an idiot. Yes. No. But the more you diligently put God's word first, you won't be bothered by things that you've been bothered by before. You'll go, well, that's just sin in their life. And I'll pray that they get out of that because you're more focused on, you're looking at life through the way Jesus looks at life through the lens of God. But yes, I'm not saying that all stupidity will disappear. Boy, wouldn't that be awesome? I mean, some might say that with my goofiness, I might disappear.

No, but so studying the Bible knowledge of the Bible helps you to understand events better when you look at them through the lens of Jesus. Amen. I mean, I can't think of it or say it any other way than that. But I found another quote and I had to include it. I heard it. I heard someone say it this way. Are you involved in a regular rigorous regimen of Bible study? If not, what in the world are you doing? That was the quote. And so, I asked you tonight what that person said, are you are involved in a regular rigorous Bible study and Wednesday nights and Sundays don't count, but Sunday mornings over there will ladies Bible study does it. I can tell you that we will be starting a men's Bible study January 11th. We'll be putting signups at the end of this month. So, if you're not actively involved in the Bible study, what in the world are you doing?

I mean, like I said, you can't just count Wednesdays and Sundays. I'm getting that in, and they're so good that they overpower, and they take me through my whole week. I wish I could say I agree with you, but you have to have your own personal study because that is where the spiritual growth is really going to happen. Get involved in a small group like First Fridays or if there's another home group, those are awesome to get to know other people and B, get to again to know God even more. And so yeah, we all need to be in a rigorous regimen of a Bible study on a regular basis. And you say, well, I'm not. And I can say, well, why not? And most of the time the answer that you won't say is really the true answer. The true answer is I don't want to, if you, you had the Jim Carrey liar, liar.

If you had to belt out the truth and you'd say, why aren't you attending this new men's Bible study or the ladies women, because I don't want to. It's really what is deep down in sometimes in all of our hearts, right? Well, that's why we need the truth. We need to know the truth of God and we need to live the truth, not just say it. We need to live it out. So if you legitimately ask yourself that question and you have a true desire to grow towards God and find out, and then when you do that, you find out that you're not actively in a Bible study, I believe that will humble you. It's humbled me in the past. I've had several conversations this week when I look back, we had the great message on tithing and giving, and I look back at my life and I hate even looking at those moments because I'm ashamed of what I would say or do.

And I can tell you honestly that those days are way behind me. Those days are way, but that is because I learn and dive in and study and I see more the God of truth more and more. So those things just pass what you do, leave them at the just behind you, especially if you have a strong desire to do that. So like I said, you can't count Wednesdays and Sundays, but our souls are strengthened by biblical knowledge. You were strengthened by biblical knowledge. And so, we're talking speaking of overcoming falsehoods. I

wanted to read Psalm 1, 19 78 says, let the insulins be put to shame because they have wronged me with falsehood, but as for me, I will meditate on your precepts. You know what I'm saying? As for me, I'm going to focus on God. I know what's going on out there. I know what people are saying, but as for me, I'm live for God.

I'm going to focus on him and everything that is him. So, if Christians, if Christ's followers will do what they say they're already doing and then make their pursuit the knowledge of God, number one in their lives, Satan will be defeated every single time. He will find no foothold in your life if you are truly living out what you say you're living out. And that's for all of us. That's for free. So, to seek the truth, you must diligently study the Bible over and over. I had to bring this verse. Let's look at Joshua one, eight and I read it, and I also know there might be someone online here that may have never attended church before somehow find themselves watching our service online. I always have to be reminded, especially as a teacher, to remember that when it says this book of the law, that's your Bible.

That's the word of God, this book of the law. So, when it says this book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night. You know what he's saying there, study it, study it, read it and read it again and seek the truth diligently. So, one would say, well, why do I need to meditate on a day and night so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. So, imagine you're not opening the Bible. You're not maybe once or twice a week, or if you're not coming regularly, maybe it is once a month, you are not going to be doing all that according to all that's written in it. Your life's going to be way off path. And so, then it says for then you'll make your way prosperous.

It could read only then having meditated on the Bible Day and night will you make your way prosperous and then you will have good success. And let me say this, prosperous and good success is measured differently in human standards. God's talking about something completely different. You may like I did it and I didn't have success. I don't feel prosperous. There are other ways to measure that. And so, in order to keep overcoming falsehoods, let's continue by not only studying the truth but yet to submit to the truth. Well, let's look at Exodus three 14 and 15. God said to Moses, I am who I am. And he said, say this to the people of Israel I have sent me to you. God also said to Moses, say this to the people of Israel, the Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you. This is my name forever. And thus, I am to be remembered throughout all generations. That's also a reminder that we need to teach our kids our grandkids diligently, diligently.

I wasn't going to add this, I was just kind of thinking of it, but you know how, and this isn't an attack against the Disney organization. We love Disney movies here and there, but they've actually done really terrible the last three years and they've tried to add things that just families don't want. And it's really funny to me that parents will stand up because they don't want that stuff in their kids' lives, but when they're adults, it kind of doesn't matter as much is the way I'm seeing it because it is like it's okay now, but when you're a kid, don't you dare put that in my kid's life, but later on it seems to not be as prevalent, but it's just something I was thinking about the other day is that we just need to be careful all of the time, no matter what age we are, we want to protect our kids, but we also want to protect our hearts even as adults. You know what I mean?

Again, that's for free. But we do, like I said, I'm to be remembered throughout all generations, teacher kids, teacher grandkids, a pastor and author by the name of JD Greer wrote about how you don't get

your own personal Jesus no matter if you like the song by Depeche mode or not. He included this passage we just read when he said, or JD Greer said, when God said, I am who I am, he is saying I am God, I am truth. He was not saying, I am whoever you want me to be. And that unfortunately is running rampant in our world.

The utility belt of the Bible is what I've called it before where I like this. I don't like that. I don't think that's true anymore. God's changed his mind. So, this is what I like and it's a terrible belt. It doesn't work at all. Yeah, I am whoever you want me to be. That is not what God is saying. But too many people take that and that's what they do and they're comfortable living that way. I've told you before, I don't know, I know God wired me and made me, but if I began to even think that way, one of my wires would go and I'd course correct. It's been that way my entire life from a teenager. I was even asking somebody was I that way when I was a teenager? I'm the same way now. So, think about that for a minute about someone who might say, well, God is whoever I want God to be. Think about that for a minute, and it won't take long for you to think of someone in your life or in your circle that resembles that remark. I know I have one but think about this. How offensive is it to God when people try to reshape him to fit their needs and wants the answer very offensive, very offensive, but so how would you like it if someone tried to reshape you and tell untruths about you? You'd be offended. Untruths have been told about me and I have been offended in the past.

Here's the thing, if someone is trying to reshape God to fit their needs and wants, here's the thing, why do they think it's okay if they wouldn't want it unto themselves? Why do they think it's okay to do to God baffles me? And so those that are trying to do that, those that are trying to shape God, to fit what they want are not truly sold out and they're not submitted to the God of the universe. They can't handle the truth. Look at James four seven. I've used this a lot because especially lately where it says, submit yourselves therefore to God right there, that's a piece of the verse that we are missing big time. We want to do the second part which says, resist the devil and he will flee from you. Someone will camp out there. Oh, I'm going to resist that. I promise he's going to flee.

Yeah, look at that first part. Are you submitting yourselves to God? I can't answer that for you. I mean, you can say yes, you are. I can't answer that. Submit yourselves therefore to God means to submit in all areas. We can't do the second part until we're a hundred percent with the first part. David Jeremiah calls that counterfeit truth. To hear people talking about God these days with where they say no truth, hearing things like the God I believe in would never send anyone to hell. Well, that's not understanding truth at all because God doesn't send people to hell. Our choices do. But you've heard that phrase. You hear it often. That's because there's a majority of people that feel that way that I don't know why you believe what you believe, Brian, I don't believe that God would send anybody to hell. And I say that He doesn't.

He doesn't. The choices in life, even of good people, right? Well, people say dumb things like that because they know they don't know what it means to be fully submitted to God. They're not looking at that verse the right way. They don't know what it means to be fully submitted. God in every aspect, every corner of your life. Again, can't handle the truth. Know I read about the truth all the time, but because I'm not implementing God's truth, I can't handle the truth. That's what I'm talking about tonight. We have to be able to just go, yes, I understand that Jesus's truth and I'm going to live that way, no exception, right? I'm not going to have a difference of opinion on Thursday afternoons at three or

something. I'm going to be that Sunday through Saturday and not just on when we're here corporately, we put that face on and everything and hashtag blessed and all that stuff.

No, no, no. That is something that you can dig deep because I've dug deep in my own life. And look, you might. You're not going to find; I'm going to submit to the truth a hundred percent. And so, as believers we're called to overcome falsehood with truth. We aren't called to make up truths as we go or only certain parts of the Bible. As I said earlier, we're to submit to the truth that is found in God and get this never be shaken, never waver from his truth. If we don't submit to God's truth, then this happens. Romans eight, seven, for the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God for it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it cannot. You'll never experience God clearly unless you're totally submitting to his truth. And you might say tonight, even online, well, I'm not hostile to God.

That's not me. I'm never hostile to God. And you may not see yourself as hostile to God, but when we follow what we want to do, knowing that he has conditioned us for something better, we hostile to God, sorry to break the news to you. If you do something outside of God's will that it's God's will and you decide to do what you want to do, you're hostile to God, you're hostile to the God that created the heavens and the earth. That is what scripture is telling you. And I right there for the mind that is set on the flesh, okay, let's break that down. The mind that is set on what I want to do. So those that say, well, what do you mean when you say the flesh? My needs, my wants, my desires, when the mind is set on me for the mind that is set on me is hostile to God and for it does not submit to God's law and it can't. It can't because it's not looking. Then it even needs the Lord because it thinks that what I want is a good thing and I can't see that as a bad thing. But yet, if it's outside of God's will, it's hostile to the Lord.

And so we're right back to James four, seven with submit yourselves therefore to God. You have to understand that first part is so much more important than the second part. Submit yourselves therefore to God in all things so that you can resist all the enemy sends your way. Alright, well, let's keep going. We're overcoming falsehoods. And the third thing we need to do is also speak the truth. Need to speak the truth. I love this. Okay, so Proverbs six 16 through 19 says, there are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him. Verse 17, haughty eyes. Okay, stop there. Haughty eyes mean to have a proud or arrogant attitude. Then he says a lying tongue. He hates that and hands that shed innocent blood and a heart that devises wicked plans. Now if you've got your Bibles actually with you or your tablets or whatever, and you do highlights, what I did in mind was I circled in verse 18, I circled the heart and all of these things, haughty eyes, lying tongue, shed innocent blood.

And as we continue hard to advise us, wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies and one who sows, discorded draw lines because they all connect to the heart. All of those things come from a heart that is not right with God. All of those things, lying tongue, all of it. You may say, well, I've never killed anybody. I've never shed innocent blood but go backwards. He says, A lying tongue, man, you're in the same group. He hates those things. So have you ever heard the phrase spinning the truth, right to spin means to recast, to reinterpret or to revise the truth. And the point of it is to not be truthful, but either way, God sees spinning the truth as lying and he hates it. So, I'm going to spin because I don't really want to hurt their feelings.

I might be noble in my attention, but I'm lying. I'm sending, and God hates it. Our words, whether they're spoken or written, cannot be taken back once they're out there. I've said before, if it's rattling around in your heart and it comes out of your mouth, you might try to grab it all you can. You can't. It's out there

and people see it and hear it, it's done. But a little tiny white light can have a ripple effect the size of a tsunami, just the smoke green that affects everyone around them. And look at this, look at this. I mean, you may not have read this recently, but look at this. Proverbs 12:22, lying lips are a what? Abomination to the Lord. But those who act faithfully are his delight. And I wanted to point this out. There are some Christians that only like to point out that the Bible says homosexuality is an abomination in his sight and it is for another message.

But look at this verse. So, are lying lips, right? Stop ranking it. Stop ranking sin. So, if you're one that you look and you're constantly looking for something in another group, recognize the Bible just said lying lips are an abomination to me. God is saying, when you lie, and I don't care if it's a little white lie, it's offensive to me. God says, wow, lying should have just got really serious for us, right? I promised to never lie again. Oh, I think I just lied in church. But look at it this way. Talk about abominations in his sight. Bullying. Bullying someone is an abomination in God's sight. Mistreating people of any kind of any way is an abomination. And not admitting when you're wrong is an abomination. All of that, think about that. Got so many people that just cannot admit when they're wrong and it's wrong.

So, what do we do? What do we do? Let's remember the next verses, Zechariah eight 16 through 17. These are the things that you shall do. I love it when it's clear like that. What do I do? Well, these are the things that you shall do. Speak the truth to one another. Render in your gates judgment that are true and make for peace. Start with yourself. Start speaking. And I'm not talking about lying here. I'm talking about speaking the truth. Tell people your story. Talk about Jesus more than maybe you did yesterday. Let people know what the Lord has done to your life. Speak the truth, rendering your gates judgment that are true and make for peace. Look for that outcome. And then 17, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another and love no false oath for all these things I hate declares the Lord right at the bottom of your notes.

I've got something there. Overcomers can speak the truth in two ways, so I think you can take notes around that. But number one, here's how an overcomer will speak the truth. They'll cheat. Speak the truth boldly. Look at Proverbs 27, 5 and six Better is open rebuke than hidden love. I'm just trying to, I don't want to tell 'em the whole truth. I'm trying to protect them. And you hear what the Bible says there Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend. Profuse are the kisses of an enemy. If being bold wound someone, the pain is short-term for their long-term, good. Too many times we stay silent. We think we're protecting people, but we're only harming people, especially in times where someone visited or something or someone came over. You had, especially with thanksgiving, come up, people visit and come over.

I wanted to share the gospel, but I just felt like they would turn me down or reject me. And you have no idea if that would've been true or not. And so, you stay silent, and you might've really harmed someone in hearing the gospel. So, you might hurt their feelings, you might offend them. You might cause them to slam the door and leave and have no Turkey. But the Bible just says, it's better to be openly rebuked than hidden love. I'm going to love them from a distance, and I don't want to break their heart or hurt their feelings. And the Bible just told you it's better to openly rebuke someone than to hide than hidden love. Number two, an overcomer speaks the truth lovingly. Lovingly. Ephesians four 15 says, rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him.

Who is the head into Christ? So, our words, believers, words, believers actions must be drenched with love. It's not a loving. And then I eye roll, you right? Say something loving and then go, well, whatever. No, we need to love someone so much. And I know we can often think of people that, hey, I struggle with loving my enemies. The Bible. I know the Bible tells me to do that and I am working on it really, but sometimes it's difficult, but Jesus did it so I can do it. So can you. So, look at those. Overcomers can speak the truth boldly and they can speak the truth lovingly. And you might've thought up to this point, well, I'm going to save someone the heartache of I don't want to break their heart. And what we're actually might be doing is keeping someone from hearing the gospel.

I wanted to say something when they were over the time just never seemed right. I believe if God wanted you to do it, the time is right. So, speak the truth in love. Jesus says it is that that all people will know that we belong to him is the way you talk, the way you act. And yes, the way you post will reflect how much you love Jesus. So, if something makes you mad and you get to that keyboard and you're typing and you know the angry type though, rethink it and maybe hit that delete key and breathe all right. Because if it's not done in love and knowing all of the facts when we speak, what we speak will fall on deaf ears and most likely will not be heard or even appreciated. So, you may have good intentions with what you write or what you say, but if it's not done in love, rethink it because God is telling you, Jesus is telling you do it in love.

Well just remember that you can handle the crowd at Passover. They couldn't handle the truth. And remember, Barabbas will take, because I know that if I choose the Messiah that I'm going to have to go inward, and all my sins are going to be exposed and I don't want anybody to know what I'm doing. So, I'm going to choose a murderer. If you remember back three or four weeks ago when I was up here on a Sunday, we can prefer darkness. We can choose darkness when we want to. If we're thinking that our sins are going to be exposed, we we'll do what we have to do sometimes and it's wrong. But you can handle Jesus. You can handle the truth. You can overcome falsehood in the world by living the truth out. That's the key. Live that truth out. Let it be seen on your faces and in your actions, keep your Bible closed.

Like I said, Bible study is not Wednesdays and Sundays. That's what we're required to do from the Bible tells us, don't neglect the gathering. We are gathering. But it's when you're alone, that's when you need to have your devotion. And my, like I said earlier, my devotion is not this message. My devotion is something else entirely for me. That's how I grow. Well, Jesus illustrated the power of truth in the way he lived his life. Scripture tells me this, which is why it's so important for us to study the truth. That was point, what was it? Point one, study the truth. The Bible study the Bible diligently. Don't just read it, check it off. I'm so proud of myself. I read. I mean, I read a verse one time, seven days a week. I awesome. What did you read?

But like I said, stare at it so hard. You might burn the pages that you're seeking the truth with every verse you chew on, study it. Do a journal about the verse or passage that you read. Ask questions. What are you trying to tell me in this verse? God, what do you want me to live out in this passage I'm reading and I'm telling you, because I've used this experience, you will grow spiritually in ways you never even imagined. Well, the centurion is an example. He knew God was truth. He knew Jesus was truth. He watched Jesus through the whole ordeal of that day and said this in Mark 15:39. And when the centurion

who stood facing him stood facing, Jesus saw that in this way that he, Jesus breathed his last. He said, truly truth, right? Truly, this man was the son of God.

How did he figure that out? He watched him and he saw Jesus living truth. He watched him and he through what he saw all day, truly, that man was the son of God. Plus, it helps that John Wayne played that part and the greatest story ever told. All right, and so that's got to count for something I, I'm threw that in for my buddy. But I want to end with this. I want you to remember the quote. I had it maybe a month or two ago from John MacArthur. How you live your life makes the gospel believable or unbelievable. How you live your life, people, the world around you, they don't judge you by your theology. They judge you by your behavior. That's why the way to reach the lost has little to do with methodology and everything to do with holy living. Right? Amen.

I mean, that is one of my favorite quotes. I love John MacArthur, but that's one of my favorites because they're not looking at, oh, you know so much. You're so smart. No, they're looking at, okay, I'm looking for you to misstep. I'm watching. He doesn't really misstep much. Okay? No, I mean, they're watching. And so, they're going to judge you by your behavior. So, when you leave the church, and if you are one, that's opposite of what we see on Sundays and Wednesdays. People are spotting that, and their people are still using the reason. Watch this. People still use this reason. See, that's why I don't go to church, man. Ouch. All the time. So be careful so you can have truth. You can believe fully that Jesus's truth by studying the Bible, by submitting to the truth of the Bible and by speaking the truth of the Bible, right?

Three easy points that all of us can do. Study it, submit to it, and then speak it. It's not anything difficult. We say, man, that's outside my wheelhouse, man. I can't do that. Yes, you can. Let's pray. Our Father, thank you for tonight. Thank you for just this time that we get to just recharge, Lord. But thank you for the truths. That is your word. We can walk out of here and nothing will thwart us because we know we are fully convinced. Romans 4 21 fully convinced that what you said you would do, you will do. All the promises you've made, they will happen. So, Lord, we walk out of here fully convinced that you are truth, that your word, your Bible, we're fully convinced that it is truth. A hundred percent. We thank you for having us here tonight. Lord, I ask you to bless us as we leave here.

Bless the circles that we find ourselves in. And Lord, may we use this, may we spiritually grow so that we can lead someone to you between now and Sunday and invite them to what will be a fantastic learning of your word, Lord. And we just thank you for never giving up on us, and Jesus' name, amen. Woo. Right? That's not just a monster. I love the Lord. I love readings where I love diving into it and just sharing it because God's gifted me in a way where still I think my title should be teaching. Pastor. I love picking things through and then to reveal them to you, and hopefully you take them and study with them and grow from it. We got anything going on this weekend. Well, Trish does. The kids are having something Saturday from four to six here at the church. So, if you've got kids, grandkids, sermon title Sunday.

What's that sermon title? Sunday? Okay, yeah. Who is the Antichrist? That's the sermon title on Sunday. And so, bring a friend. Bring a friend. That's going to be fantastic, right? That's why I prayed it. We can learn so much from this message. Don't miss it. Like I said before, when I miss a game, and thankfully I missed the Dolphins and Chiefs game, it didn't go my way. But you know what? Yeah, okay, but what life went on? Did it not? But when I Ms. Church, when I miss sermons that are going to be as important as who is the andrist, I ache. So, make sure you're here Sunday and bring a friend. Amen.