

#4 Standings for the Truth

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
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3abnsabbathschoolpanel.com

ssp@3abn.org

2nd Quarter Lesson written by Pastor Mark Finley:

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

LESSON #3: **LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS**

Memory Text: John 12:35 NKJV “Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.”

COMPROMISE: SATAN'S SUBTLE STRATEGY

LESSON INTRO: Compare the following:

John 14:6 (NKJV) “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

What Jesus says is true because He is the author of truth. Truth proceeds from the heart of an all wise, all loving, all-knowing God. He is the foundation of reality and of all truth.

John 8:44 (NKJV) “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

In contrast, Satan is a **liar and the father of lies**. He is **he prepares uses lies**, he is the deceiver, misinformation, and a distortion of the truth to lead God's people astray.

What contrast between Jesus' character and Satan's is seen in these two passages?

What Jesus says is true because He is the author of truth. Truth proceeds from the heart of an all wise, all loving, all-knowing God. He is the foundation of reality and of all truth. In contrast, Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He is prepared to use lies, deceit, misinformation, and a distortion of the truth to lead God's people astray.

Truth is the Foundation of God's Government.

- a. God's government is built on truth:
 - i. **Psalm 89:14 (NKJV) "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face."**
- b. Jesus is not only the way the life, He is the truth:
 - i. **John 14:6 (NKJV) "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**
- c. True Doctrine results in the salvation of us and others:
 - i. **1 Timothy 4:16 (NKJV) "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."**
- d. Truth is a shield against deception:
 - i. **2 Thessalonians 2:10–12 (NKJV) "(10) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the**

lie, (12) that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

e. Truth is requirement of genuine Christianity:

i. John 4:23–24 (NKJV) “(23) But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

f. Truth is key to freedom to freedom:

i. John 8:32 (NKJV) “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

g. Truth is key to freedom to love:

i. Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV) “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ—”

Truth should be indispensable:

- **Proverbs 23:23 (NKJV) “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”**
- **Truth Sanctifies: John 17:17 (NKJV) “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”**
- **Truth Protects: Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV) “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,”**

What similarity do you see in these Bible passages regarding the truth of God’s Word? What is their central message?

Discuss ways that Satan attempts to distort or misinterpret God’s Word today.

- 1. By presenting his message through those that look credible.**

- a. **2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (NKJV) “(13) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”**

Prayer to Be First Activity of the Day—Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, “Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.” This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Pr 23.1

“God says think but let Me show you how!”

“The truth is the truth even if no one believes it; a lie is a lie, even if everyone believes it.”

2. By questioning the specificities of God’s Word.

- a. **Genesis 3:1 (NKJV) “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?””**

4- Standing for the Truth