

## Quarter Two: The Great Controversy

### Lesson 4—Standing for the Truth

#### Tuesday: Courage to Stand

April 23, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Light Shines in the Darkness”
  - Persecution in the church / compromise in the church
- **This Week:** “Standing for the Truth”
  - The sacrifice and courage of those who stood for truth through the centuries
    - Waldenses, later reformers
  - What motivated them?

**Memory Text:** “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:14, 15, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Persecuted Yet Triumphant (James)
  - Dan 7 / Rev 12 – the 1,260 years of persecution (Dark Ages) – God’s people sustained during that time (even though fiercely persecuted)
- 2. **Monday:** Light Vanquishes the Darkness (John D)
  - Jude 3, 4 – Waldenses (& others) who remained faithful to the truth in God’s Word, even under great difficulty. The Christian’s hope under torture & persecution (crown of life)
- 3. **Tuesday:** Courage to Stand (Jill)
  - Acts 5, Eph 6 & Rev 3:11 – finding the courage to stand for God’s Truth, no matter what
    - How to stand & how to share truth, under difficult circumstances; Waldenses
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Morning Star of the Reformation (Kenny)
  - Dependence on & delight in the Word of God; John Wycliffe
- 5. **Thursday:** Cheered by Hope (Daniel)
  - Heb 2; John 5; John 11 – how we can develop faith in the promises of God; John Huss

#### Tuesday: Courage to Stand

Acts 5:28 – 32; Eph 6:10 – 12; Rev 3:11

- Tuesday’s lesson: Finding the courage to stand for God’s truth, no matter what
- **6 keys for Standing for Truth**
  - **1. Spend time with Jesus**
    - Acts 4:13 – “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that **they had been with Jesus.**”
      - Disciples went from forsaking Him at the cross – to standing for Him
      - Spend time with Jesus

- **2. Experience Jesus for yourself**
  - Acts 4:18 – 20 – “So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. (19) But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which **we have seen and heard.**”
    - They saw and heard – they experienced the transforming grace of God for themselves
    - Can know **of** Him; can teach **about** Him – but do we **know** Him?
  
- **3. Choose to walk in obedience**
  - Acts 5:27b – 32 – “...And the high priest asked them, (28) saying, ‘Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!’ (29) But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We **ought to obey God** rather than men. (30) The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. (31) Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (32) And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is **the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.**”
    - Choose to obey God – not man-made rules or traditions
      - The Word of God vs the traditions of men
    - Choose to speak the truth – not what is politically expedient
      - The Word of God vs political correctness
    - Chose to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit – not the devisings of men
      - The rule of the Spirit vs the expectations of others
  
- **4. Receive His strength**
  - Eph 6:10 – “Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord and in the power of His might.”
    - Means “to empower” / to “impart ability” - From root Greek word, “doonamis” – means
      - We’re not strong; HE’S the One who imparts strength
  
- **5. Prepare for battle**
  - Eph 6:11 – “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
    - In order to stand, we must be prepared
    - Armor is to be worn consistently
      - Belt of truth
        - Cannot stand for truth if you don’t know truth
        - John 14:6 – “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...”
          - Jesus = the Truth
        - John 8:32 – “And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” (KJV)
      - Breastplate of righteousness
      - Shoes of gospel
      - Shield of faith
      - Helmet of salvation

- Sword of the **Word of God**
- Praying always, in the Spirit
  
- Waldenses: one of the first groups to obtain the Bible in their own language.
- Waldenses secretly copied the Scriptures in their mountain communities of Northern Italy & Southern France.
  - Shared Scriptures as merchants or as university students
  - Many stood for truth & gave their lives
  
- **6. Persevere to the end**
  - Rev 3:11 – “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”
    - Don’t stop halfway through
    - Don’t get tired & discouraged & give up
    - Hold it fast!
  
  - Gal 6:9, NLT – “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”
  
- **6 Keys for standing for truth**
  - 1. Spend time with Jesus
  - 2. Experience Jesus for yourself
  - 3. Choose to walk in obedience
  - 4. Receive His strength
  - 5. Prepare for battle
  - 6. Persevere to the end