

**Program:** SS Panel 2024 2 Q

**Quarterly title:** The Great Controversy

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**Lesson Title:** #4 *Standing for the Truth*

**Section title:** Monday - Light Vanquishes the Darkness

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**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

## Standing for the Truth

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Dan. 7:23–25; Rev. 12:6, 14; Jude 3, 4; Rev. 2:10; Acts 5:28–32; Ps. 19:7–11; 1 John 5:11–13.*

**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*).

Monday

April 22

## Light Vanquishes the Darkness

\*\*\*\*READ\*\*\*\*

Read Jude 3, 4. What's the warning here and how did it apply to the later Christian church?

**1Jn 1:5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

**Jude 1:3, 4** Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**

**4** For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly men**, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*\*\*\*READ\*\*\*\*

The book of Jude was written sometime before a.d. 65 to faithful Christians who are **"sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ"** (*Jude 1:1, NKJV*). These faithful believers were urged to **"contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, . . . who turn the grace of our God into lewdness"** (*Jude 1:3, 4, NKJV*). **This admonition meant even more to believers in the Middle Ages after pagan practices had flooded into the church and human traditions compromised the Word of God. For many centuries, people like the Waldenses stood as champions for the truths of Scripture.** They believed that Christ was their only mediator and the Bible their sole source of authority. **"In every age there were witnesses for God—men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and hallowed the true Sabbath."**—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 61.

>>> if we are not surrendered to God and depending on the Holy Spirit, we shall be deceived. Unless we are acquainted with the truth as it is found in the Scriptures, we will be deceived by false teachings. This is why we need to be like the Bereans; if we hear some teachings we need to go to the Scriptures to verify if they are true.

**approved to God**

**2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

>> God has done and will do His part so that we are not deceived, but we must do our part...

### Our prayer should be

**Psa 25:5** Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

**Psa 86:11** Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

### for the equipping of the saints

**Ephesians 4:10-15 10** He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

**11** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

**12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

**14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

**15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**1 Peter 3:15 15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*

### Deceptions will increase

**2 Timothy 3:13-16 13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, *deceiving and being deceived.*

**14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them,*

**15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**16** All Scripture *is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Read Revelation 2:10. What promise does God give those who are faithful to Him in the face of death itself?**

**Revelation 2:10** 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, **the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

**These words were written to the Church at Smyrna.** One of the city's patron gods was Dionysius, the god of festivity and fertility. When the priests of Dionysius died, a crown was placed on their heads in their funeral procession. John contrasts this earthly crown placed on the head at death with the crown of life placed on the heads of those who are victorious over the forces of evil. The crown of life is presented to those who endured trials, difficulties, suffering, and death itself for Christ's sake.

The crown of life inspires these faithful believers to endure death itself for Christ's sake. The crown of life always motivates believers in challenging circumstances. It inspired the Waldenses through pain and persecution. They knew they would see Jesus one day and live with Him forever. The crown of life also speaks to us: we may go through trials now, but a crown of life awaits us as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

**What encourages you in challenging times? What frightens you? What promises can you claim for those times?**



#### NOTES

The apostle Paul warns us that “some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” This is what we may expect. Our

greatest trials will come because of that class who have once advocated the truth, but who turn from it to the world, and trample it under their feet in hate and derision. God has a work for his faithful servants to do. The attacks of the enemy must be met with the truth of his word. Falsehood must be unmasked, its true character must be revealed, and the light of the law of Jehovah must shine forth into the moral darkness of the world. We are to present the claims of his word. We shall not be held guiltless if we neglect this solemn duty. But while we stand in defense of the truth, let us not stand in defense of self, and make a great ado because we are called to bear reproach and misrepresentation. Let us not pity ourselves, but be very jealous for the law of the Most High. RH January 10, 1888, par. 3