

## Acts 19:1-20. Truth prevails in the life of a flourishing christian

### INTRO

Would you agree with the statement - “**Truth Prevails** in the life of a flourishing christian? **I expect you do.** God’s word is truth and a flourishing christian is one in whom God’s word **reigns over all.** Did you know that the short phrase “Truth Prevails” was actually the *national motto* for **Czechoslovakia** while it existed as a **sovereign state** in **Central Europe** from **October 1918** until **January 1st 1993.** The **first President** of **Czechoslovakia** **adopted** the **shortened** phrase “**Truth Prevails!**”...as a **presidential motto** shortly after **independence** from **Austria-Hungary in 1918.** The **national motto** “**Truth Prevails!**”....was **believed** to be **derived from a phrase** of **Jan Hus** (*jen hus*)? Or **John Huss** as he is sometimes referred to. Does that name **ring a bell?** He is **credited** with the phrase “**Seek the truth, hear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, hold the truth and defend the truth until death.**” That’s where that shortened phrase “**Truth Prevails**” is **derived** from. Now, upon hearing the phrase it’s derived from - “**Seek the truth, hear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, hold the truth and defend the truth until death.**” What **sort of man do you think** Jan Hus was? If you were to **mark the box** (*this man loved Jesus*)...**you’d be right.** **Jan Hus was a Czech theologian,** a **philosopher, master, dean** and a **member** of the **clergy** who was in **charge of parish.** Who *a.l.s.o* became....a **church...reformer...a key** predecessor to the **Protestant Reformation.** Influenced by the writings of **John Wycliffe,** *another reformer,* Hus’s writings had **influence** on **Martin Luther** who came more than a **century** after him. Hus himself...**lived out** the phrase **credited** to him from which the **motto** “**Truth Prevails!**” is derived from...he **lived his very words out** to the **point of his execution** where he was **burned** alive at the **stake** for **heresy** against the **doctrines** of the Catholic Church.

At the **pronouncing of condemnation** upon **Hus** and his writings. **Hus** held firm to his words **saying** that he **would be willing to recant** ‘*if*’ his errors should be **proven to him from the Bible....living out** his phrase of “...**holding to the truth and defending the truth until death.**” Following his response... he fell upon his knees and asked God with a **soft** voice “**to forgive all his enemies.** “.....**learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth**”.

Before they bound him at the stake and **piled up dry wood** and **straw** neck **high...just before then...**he knelt down, **spread out his hands,** and **prayed aloud.** ....His very last words, as he **expired,**...were.. “**Christ, son of the Living**

God, have mercy upon us!”.....Though he was **burned alive** at the **stake** for what he **believed**, **taught** and **wrote about**.... “**Truth...Prevailed**”. **The legacy of his life** as one who **sought truth**, **heard truth**, **learned truth**, **loved truth**, **spoke truth**, **held to truth** and **defended truth** until death..... had **massive impact** on **future generations**. **He and his Legacy flourished** you could **say**. The **Protestant Reformation** **happened** of which **we this day** benefit greatly from...

You have a **Bible** in your hand for crying out loud! “**Truth Prevails!**” And this is **comforting** is it **not**? That “**Truth Prevails!**” **Praise God it does**. **Not the might of man**, or **wealth** or **anything else** can be **anchored** on. It all **fails** eventually. **TRUTH**, *on the other hand*..**God's word**...The **word of Truth** is **trustworthy** to **prevail**. PERIOD. And there is no **place** in your **life**, nor **time** in your **life** where **TRUTH** won't **prevail as a flourishing christian**. Today's text provides testimony to that. “**Truth Prevails!**”

The **final verse** in our passage this morning (**verse 20**) at the **very end**... **expresses** it this **way**. “**So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily**.” Right there at the end.... “**Truth Prevails**”. We as **christians** **desire this** in our **lives do we** not?.....**If we are to be flourishing** in our **walk with God**. We most certainly do...so we agree then - **The flourishing Christian is one in whom the word of God continually increases and prevails mightily**. The **passages in consideration** this **morning**, preceding (**verse 20**), (**verses 1-19**) provide **examples for us** in ways this takes **place**. In ways - **The flourishing Christian is one in whom the word of God continually increases and prevails mightily**.

Return back to (**verse 1**) **now and we'll read** through (**verse 7**) where we'll find the **first way** in which **Truth Prevails in the life of a flourishing christian**...and that is **Truth prevails (DEFICIENCY)**

BODY

1). Our 1st point this morning: - **Truth prevails deficiency** (*read 1-7*)

Let's first **get ourselves oriented** to **where** we are at. **Remember from last week**. **Apollos** left **Ephesus** and sailed to Achaia (**uh-ki-uh**) where he was “**greatly helping those who through grace** had believed, for he **powerfully refuted the Jews in public**, showing **by the Scriptures** that the **Christ** was **Jesus**.”(**Acts 18:27-28**) **While Apollos** is there in **Corinth**, **helping his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ**, **Paul**, who **is now well into** his **3rd missionary journey**, **comes** from the **regions of Galatia** and **Phrygia (frige-uh)** where he as been **strengthening** all the **disciples** *made* from his **previous missionary journey** in

that region....and He keeps to his promise made to Priscilla and Aquilla back in (verse 21 of chpt 18) .. to return to them who were in Ephesus ... and Return he does... passing from the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, through the inland country of Asia...back...into Ephesus where he f-i-n-d-s some disciples.

But there is something about these disciples that is....OFF...something amiss....and I say that because why would Paul ask the question “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” The question is implicit that Paul observed something about them that seemed deficient. And there answer confirms his suspicion for they not only say “NO” but have the added.. “..we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” WHAAAT? Come again? I wonder what Paul’s expression was in that moment of discovery. Paul, here identifies these men, we learn that there were about 12 in all (verse 7)...he identifies them as disciples...spends time with them and observes deficiencies leading him to query whether they have received the Holy Spirit when they believed.

And learning that they have not even heard of the Holy Spirit...he then asks the next begging question.. “Into what then were you baptized?” Sort of like... “Fill me in. Tell me what you know of the Way of salvation. Give me some background here because clearly you are deficient in your knowledge of...’The Way’..... if you haven’t even heard of the Holy Spirit.”

And what’s discovered is that they were similar to Apollos in that they were followers/disciples of John the baptist and were believing in the one who was to come after him.” Him being John the Baptist and Jesus being the one to come after him. Who they evidently either knew nothing of, or very little of... JESUS...namely his life, ministry, death and resurrection. Similar to the state of the Old Testament believers who were looking for the Messiah to come. These were disciples of John the Baptist who believed in whom John was preaching about who would come after him. Disciples, who were yet enlightened to the fullness of the SPIRIT to be ‘gifted’ and ‘experienced’ by them. Do you see that? Paul, discovering this, provides the answer to whom they were anticipating to come after John.. “that is - Jesus” JESUS IS HE, HE IS THE ONE whom John was preaching about.... (verse 5). And “On hearing this they were baptized into the Lord Jesus.”

What we have here then are some believers who had deficiencies in the matter of salvation. They believed, like the Old Testament believers and similar to Apollos, they believed what the scriptures spoke of concerning the Messiah, concerning JESUS...but they were deficient in the full revelation of it

through the **life, ministry, death** and **resurrection** of JESUS. Similar to Priscilla and Aquila with Apollos, **Paul** here, shares TRUTH with these **disciples** he has met. Jesus '**is**' **he**.. **He** is the **one whom John the Baptist** was speaking of to **come after him**. Paul then, **lays his hands** on them **signifying him praying** for them to receive the **Holy Spirit** who does **indeed come upon** them.

**Truth Prevails deficiency**....the word of the Lord increases and prevails mightily. The **fullness** and **power** of the **Holy Spirit** is **received** and **experienced** by these **disciples** as it **happened** to **Jesus's disciples** for the **1st time on the day** of Pentecost. **Truth prevails deficiency**.

We ourselves ALL remain, *to one degree or another*, **deficient** do we not? **Incomplete, flawed, lacking** in our **knowledge** of **Jesus Christ**. It's **implicit** in our **mission statement** "**Pillar Bible Fellowship exists to bring glory to God by knowing Christ more fully and making Christ more fully known**".

**Knowing** and **making imply**...**progress** is to be **had**. I, we,...**lack** in **knowing Christ fully** and therefore **want to, strive to**...**know Him more** and **make Him more known**. **We are deficient**. **Truth prevails deficiency**. The **Word of the Lord** is the **fountain** of TRUTH. Drink from this fountain. It's where **Truth is found**. **Seek the Truth, Love the Truth, Learn the Truth**.

*Open your Bible*...search and study through the pages of scripture...**here and only here** is where **Truth invades our darkened minds and brings renewal**. (**Romans 12:2**) **Truth prevails mightily** over **existing deficiencies** that we may experience a **deeper walk with Christ in our hearts and therefore flourish as a christian**. We **apply this individually firstly**, but it **extends beyond** as well into **discipleship** does it not? Our **Core Values encompass** this for a **body of believers**. Each Core Value **signifying** progress to be **had**. **What are our Core Values? There are 7 total**. 1) Working for God's glory. 2) Growing in gospel-centeredness. 3) Grounding in God's Word. 4) Shepherding the local church. 5) Experiencing Biblical Fellowship. 6). Strengthening the Family Unit. 7). Living out the Great Commission.

Would you **agree along with me** when I say that **I lack in each and everyone of them**. I have **deficiencies** in each **Core Value**. **Dare I say that I'm not alone**. **Truth Prevails Deficiencies**. **We need one another** to **promote progress to be had**. We need **discipleship** in our lives to **speak the truth to one another** that we may **hear the truth and learn the truth and hold to the truth together**. It's **Paul** here who **observes something amiss** in these disciples, and **out of love**...**asks a pointed question**.

In the meekness and gentleness of Christ...pointed questions are a part of discipleship. **Many Truth prevailing deficiencies of knowing Christ more fully in my life have come through pointed questions** presented to me. Questions that resulted in some robust conversations...a lot of inward wrestling...and prayer while searching 'for' TRUTH in scripture which ultimately led to a far greater blessing than I could have imagined having the deficiency overcome by TRUTH. Be willing, as the Holy Spirit leads, be willing to ask pointed questions when appropriate and.....be approachable to 'being' asked pointed questions. We ALL have deficiencies. Truth prevails deficiencies. Let's grow in TRUTH and flourish together. Be actively involved in discipleship.

And lastly on this note. Tune in youth, especially you adolescents here. How is discipleship in your home?...YES, in your home? Families, many large ones, make up the congregation here at Pillar Bible Fellowship. Siblings amongst us. Look right at me. Are you for the spiritual well being of those who share a roof over your heads? You should be. As you also should for your peers among the church family. You should be. Do you kindly speak truth to one another?...Do show concern for one another spiritually by either affirming godliness observed or humbly helping one another identify sinful behavior observed? Listen carefully. You can be one of each other's greatest advocate to grow in your walk with Christ. Don't miss out. And if this is experienced by you...be thankful for it...be thankful and HEED one another's godly exhortation..don't resist it and grow increasingly stubborn to it...lest you find yourself guilty of deterrence. A dreadful place to be. For TRUTH cannot be deterred...it always prevails in the end. (Verses 8-10) show us this plainly. Truth prevails deterrence.

2) Our second point this morning - Truth Prevails Deterrence.  
Read those verses along with me. (Verses 8-10)

Paul is in familiar territory....the synagogue...and he is doing what he is accustomed to and that is speaking boldly, persuading and reasoning with those there about the kingdom of God. He was doing this for 3 months it's says without any comment of opposition..which is a nothing short of a record for Paul...but a point is reached where those who were there listening but never believed...it says that they became stubborn...hard-hearted you could say.

"The same sun that melts the ice, harden's the clay". The further one continues TO reject the gospel of Jesus Christ the harder of heart they become to it

which **expresses itself** in not just being silent and unresponsive while listening but becoming **actively** in opposition to it. **A sober warning to all** who have heard the gospel message and **yet** continue in **unbelief**. The **Bible** WARNS (Hebrews 13:3) "Today is the day of salvation...." **Don't put it off**. If you hear **God's voice**, RESPOND! I plead you to respond. The **Bible clearly warns** of how the continued rejection of the gospel yields a **hardening** of the heart. A **dreadful truth** I beg of you to take heed to. "Now is the day of salvation." Not tomorrow, NOT next week...NOW. **Don't put it off**. **Come to Jesus NOW...** ..follow him **Now** and be an **'advocate'** of him TO ALL **both** within your home and abroad...**Tomorrow may never come**. **Repent** of **ruling your own life** and come under the joyful rule and reign of Christ who **alone leads us** to LIFE everlasting. **Please**, DO NOT **Harden** your hearts as these some did before **Paul**,...**Becoming stubborn**...and **continuing** in **unbelief** did not continue listening to Paul **passively**....**rather**, remaining **stubborn** and therefore **unrepentant**...like any who do not turn to the **Lord** they will **ultimately condemn** the message they **remain obstinate** to....**speaking evil** of it.

The **message** that brings **hope**, **life**, **forgiveness**, **peace**, **mercy** is **condemned** as **EVIL** by those who are **unbelieving**. "For everyone who does wicked things hates the light because it exposes their wickedness" (John 3:18-21). They **became stubborn**...no longer giving a listening ear as they did for a time....those who **remain in unbelief** respond in a manner that **deters** from the **message** Paul is **speaking**. **There ears are closed** to **Paul** while their mouths are **now wide open** in **opposition** to him. A **factor which would** cause **significant deterrence** to Paul progressing further along in his teachings of Jesus to **those** who **DO believe** and **'wanted'** to hear more and **know more** of this **God** in whom they **believe**.

A great **deterrence** exists **within** the synagogue where Paul has been coming regularly to teach about the **Kingdom of God**....the **very place** people ought to be able to come and hear Truth spoken **now** becomes a **place** of **deterrence** as those congregated to hear unadulterated Truth spoken through Paul....**are also hearing** those among them who **became stubborn** and **begin** speaking **evil** of the same very thing. **How sad that is**. But it is **no match** for Truth. **Truth Prevails Deterrence**. **Tyrannus** (tear-a-nuse) is introduced to us. **His name means "Tyrant"** I doubt any new mom's and dad's here would give their newborn son that name. Could you picture that?..Hmmm..what a beautiful boy...he looks charmingly like an unjustly severe ruler (*just look at his handsome overbearing countenance upon his face*)...like what a cruel and oppressive king

would be like...like a tyrant...Ooouu..that's it!..I like that...Let's call him Tyrannus.

Now we know **very little** about this man other than his name (**birth name** or not birth name..*don't know*) and that he was either the **owner** or the **donor** of this **lecturing hall** mentioned at the end of (**verse 9**). This was a **public place** to hold **daily discussions** believed to take place between the hours of **11a** and **4p** -- Following the day's work in which people would be **having their noon meal** and **afternoon siesta**. It is believed that **Tyrannus** made the **lecturing hall** available to traveling teachers to hold teachings during this time. Truth is sadly deterred in the Synagogue so God provides another platform for Paul to speak it.

Paul is **evidently given permission** from **Tyrannus** (*to use his lecturing hall for the next two years*). That's a **healthy portion of time** to be given to Paul who would be **tent making in the morning** and then **spending the afternoons** reasoning and persuading those present at the Hall about the Kingdom of God. Though it's not plainly stated... I'm **persuaded** that Tyrannus (*tear-a-nuse*) was a **convert to christianity** who used his area of power and influence **not to deter**...but rather **advocate** the message of **Jesus Christ**.

IF NOT, wouldn't he eventually follow the pattern as those who became stubborn and continued in unbelief leading to there **dreadful** end?

So granted this **venue spot** from **Tyrannus**, **Paul withdraws** from those in the **synagogue** and takes the **conversation, along with the disciples**, to this public place. Truth prevails deterrence. Paul acted wisely in not combating those whom he spent 3 months with trying to persuade and reason with about the Kingdom of God. He recognizes **the point** has come to **withdraw** from those who **persist in unbelief** that he may **proclaim truth** without **deterrence**. **God provides a way** and it **'results'** in **ALL** the residents of Asia hearing the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. **God's timing is peculiar isn't it?** We certainly can't predict it. We recall Paul back and (**Acts 16:6**) was.. "forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia." **God directs him and those with him to Lydia in Philippi** who, not in Asia at the time was **actually from Asia**....LYDIA'S home town was **Thyatira**...located...in...**Asia**.

Now, **some time later..years likely**..PAUL is given an **open forum** for a period of **two years** to share the word of the Lord with ALL the residents in **Asia**...both **Jews** and **Greeks**. **Who would have predicted that?** NO ONE. That's **astounding**. God's timing is not our timing. **Paul is deterred** to speak the word of Truth in Asia at a **particular time** but **Truth prevails mightily** where ALL the residents in **Asia** are NOW able to hear the word of the Lord,..NOT from **within**

the synagogue, but *rather*, because of the deterrence within the synagogue... the Word of the Lord is daily proclaimed in a public venue for all to hear. It's fantastic irony. Truth prevails mightily. The efforts within the Synagogue to shut Paul up only served to multiply God's work through him. You gotta love God's sovereign rule here. (Psalm 5:10) .... "let them fall by their own counsels." Those stubborn and remaining in unbelief speaking evil of the Way fall by their own counsels as their deterrence to the gospel serves to spread it to all in Asia. (Psalm 2:4) "He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision." Truth prevails deterrence.

How about you? Where are you experiencing this in your life? Where do you see the Truth of God's word prevailing in this area? Or, do you see yourself as one being deterred or a deterrence yourself for that matter...from holding to truth and defending truth? Are we flourishing as a christian where the word of the Lord increases and prevails mightily over our lives, OR are we becoming stubborn in our ways and increasingly hard-hearted.

What in our life do we see that deters or threatens to deter us from progressing forward in living out the core values held to here? And we all have some...let's be plain here. We all have some, to one degree or another. The healthy or flourishing christian acknowledges things that deter them and strives to resist them because developing a coldness of heart...a hard heartedness to the Lord grieves their soul like nothing else. Acknowledge them and Take courage christian...Truth prevails deterrence. 'Withdraw' like Paul did from that which deters and go with the Truth of God's word who will confirm it's prevailing with affirmation because Truth cannot be deluded.

3.) Our third point this morning- Truth Prevails Delusion.  
Give attention to (verses 11-16)

**What - a - scene.** First of all, let's take notice of God's affirming of Paul's ministry by some crazy means of miracles. To emphasize the measure to which God was working extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul...Luke notes that even handkerchiefs and aprons that touched his skin would have healing and exorcist effects on those afflicted in that manner. ...Talk about your anointing. No doubt examples existed of miracles by his hands being literally placed on those afflicted...praying for their healing of which God provided. But to paint a picture of the tremendous grace and power of God working through Paul, affirming his ministry...Luke tells us that people essentially would bring these soiled used items that touched Paul's skin and carry them away to the sick. Now were these Pauls items? Hankerchief (*wiped the sweat from his head while he held discussions daily in the Hall*)--His Apron (*soiled from it's use*

during the morning hours while he made tents). Were they borrowed while Paul is not with them?? Brought to the sick and then brought back to Paul? Or were they not Paul's at all, but rather personal ones brought to him to touch to then be brought back to the owner whom needed the healing? We don't know. But it was simply something tangible through which the Holy Spirit wrought the miracle. Something soiled...used...that God worked through powerfully. Makes me consider things we ourselves have placed are hands on in the past involving faithful ministry and have since forgotten about, or given little thought to...that is still of use in God's hands? Ministry involving much sweat and toil pictured well by the used and soiled items of a handkerchief and apron.

Not to suggest that we live in the past but rather to consider where our hands are applied now in service to the Lord...praying that it would have expansive effectiveness for his Kingdom to the praise of His grace. Work hard for the Lord in the power of His might as Paul did. God affirms His work through His people....and it cannot be deluded. Truth prevails delusion. It's in vain to try and counterfeit it.

We have a rather humorous account of this very thing. Over the course of these two years...in which Paul was speaking the Word of the Lord daily in this public place of which God was affirming by doing extraordinary miracles through him and items that touched his skin...WHAT IS TAKING place apparently get's noticed by some professional exorcists who make their living pretending to expel evil spirits by conjuration, prayers, and extensive ceremonies. Not authentic in their trade...they hear or perhaps even witness an evil spirit authentically coming out of one, by the power of the Holy Spirit, who had this item of Paul's brought to them. Connecting the dots pretty quickly. Like, "Hey, that was real. 'That evil spirit truly left that person just by being touched by a used item that touched Paul's skin. Whoa' 'This is much better than our production which is nothing more than a delusion of the truth.'" "This is a game changer."

So, these brothers...7 in all...who identify themselves as sons of the high Priest Sceva...because...you know...that's marketable. Sounds good and authentic. Sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva. Though there are no records in existence that confirm a high priest by the name of Sceva. "But who is going to know that?" Marketing then is like today...not reliable; not trustworthy... So with this newly adapted approach...thinking...'business is going to be bolstered some'.... "Our exorcists in the past never looked like what we've

been witnessing or hearing about.’ ‘Let’s implement this.” Which they do and discover rather painfully and shamefully that Truth prevails **delusion**.

Maybe they rehearsed this some prior to going into the house of the man demon possessed..Can you picture that? 7 BROTHERS “Okay, so, how should we say this?...’ouu..

I have an idea’...let’s all say together... - ‘I command you in the name of Jesus whom **Paul preaches..come out of him!**’.. ‘Yeah..that’s great!’, **Let’s do it!**”

Something **along those lines** perhaps...ALL is in order among them...and they go into the man’s house and **put it into practice**..and BAM!...**reality** strikes.

Let’s read (verse 15) again.

Who are you? Truth prevails **delusion**. As copy-cat as one tries to be... YOU...cannot counterfeit what is real. You can’t. You may delude others into believing something about yourself...you may even delude yourself...but one cannot overcome TRUTH. Truth prevails **delusion** every time. Paul is recognized by the demon. The demon recognizes Paul as one who belonged to Jesus,..who truly believed. As One who wrestles “.....against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12). As one who has divine power to destroy strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:14) he recognized Paul As one, in Jesus Christ, who has the authority in the name of Jesus to cast out demons. (Mark 16:17) The demons tremble at the name of Jesus and know their end. (Luke 4:34). They are powerless against him and are no match for those who TRULY belong to Christ. In this case...these 7 brothers are FAKES. They don’t know Jesus AS Lord and Savior and the demon possessed man, demonstrating **superhuman strength** as seen in other places of scripture of those demon possessed, HE makes quick work of them. 7 against 1. No contest. The demon possessed man thrashes the 7 brothers where they are wounded and nearly stripped of most, if not all their clothing, fleeing for their lives from the demon possessed man’s house. It doesn’t get more humiliating than that.

Great warning is here is it NOT? This will be your outcome if you are not recognized as a friend of Jesus. One thing is for certain, true friendships are not strangers to one another.....Do—you— know ...Jesus? Will he say to you on that final day.. “I never knew you, depart from me...” ? (Matt 7:23) ....OR...will He welcome you home into his kingdom with the open arms of a close friend saying? “well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master.” (Mat 25:23)

Take this **seriously**. Jesus's words in (Matthew 7:19-23).. "I never knew you, depart from me..." those words ought to run a chill down your spine. Even a flourishing christian rightly freezes in their thoughts and exams themselves in light of this profound TRUTH. Do you know Jesus OR do you know only about Jesus? There is an eternal difference between the two.

Is their a **genuine relationship** with HIM **evidenced by obedience to** HIM... joyful submission to His rule and reign over your life?

Dear friend, we are **pathetically helpless** against the forces of evil in the spiritual realm apart from the indwelling Holy Spirit. **Don't attempt** to overcome sin and temptation in your own strength...you'll be destined for doom in doing so - beaten...leaped upon, mastered and overpowered to the point of nakedness and wounds. A shameful end it will be. Cry out to God for help. Ask for the filling of His Spirit. Know Jesus whom the demons tremble at the name OF. Be one recognized by the enemy as a friend to Jesus. Who know you as one who belongs to Jesus, purchased by His blood. IF the demon's mess with you, they mess with Jesus whom they must ask permission from for anything they desire to do. IF they don't recognize you as one who belongs to Jesus, then you are in a dreadful place, weak and vulnerable to their intent to destroy you.

YOUTH here... YES, I'm drawing your focused attention again... 'Why target us again pastor?', you ask. LISTEN,...because we love you. We SO love you and our hearts are burdened for you to be red hot for Jesus and NOT walking in your father or mother's faith? Your mom and dad's faith can't save you. Oh the danger of that delusion. Wonderfully saturated with the gospel from infancy and surrounded by and well acquainted with the blessed christian life while not knowing IT in your heart as your own.

We love you. Take seriously Jesus's words as I and every God fearer here DO.. Jesus says... (Matthew 7:21-23). "Not everyone who says to me , 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And I will declare to them 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

There is no way around it. Truth prevails delusion. It's only a matter of time. Don't walk in delusion and end up wounded and naked and ultimately suffering for all eternity in hell. Turn to Jesus and flourish as a christian as you see the

**Truth of His Word** prevail in your life giving way to extolling his name evidenced by lives absolutely transformed. Where there are no disguises.

4.) Our fourth and final point this morning- **Truth Prevails Disguises**. Look at the **final 4 verses** following what happened to the 7 sons of Sceva (**verses 17-20**)

The outpouring result of Jesus's triumph over darkness is that His name is extolled, magnified, praised enthusiastically in the heart of believers....and disguises fall to the wayside. Believers come, with absolutely transformed lives, they come confessing their sins and divulging their practices of their old life, many of which here in Ephesus, *at this time*, was that of magic arts, witchcraft, sorcery....whose costly books containing their magical incantations and spells... they burned publicly before all to see. It is said the value of them noted in the text was equivalent to upwards of 6 million in today's currency. They burned them all..extinguished every one of them very publicly because Truth prevails disguises.

Truth awakened in one's heart says: Jesus is everything...I've counted the cost..Yes I know it's not an easy life (**2 Timothy 3:12**) I know "all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (**Matthew 7:14**) I know "the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." 'I know. I have counted the cost...and HE IS worth it.' 'He is SO worth it!' (**Acts 20:24**). Truth says in the heart of a genuine believer "I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

**Truth prevails disguises** where we may freely confess and divulge "my life is not perfect." 'I have things I ashamed of.'... "As much as I aim to have my life in order...things are messy."

**Disguises** are blasted to the wayside where believers may be transparent, vulnerable and exposed with one another. Divulging that..."I have struggles... real struggles, doubts, fears, failures, hurts from the past and present"...and 'this is what they are'... 'I'm not ashamed to share specifics.' 'I don't want to put up a front, a disguise. 'I'm not being real if I do and it's exhausting trying to.' And we can do this because TRUTH also testifies within us to (**2 Timothy 1:12**) "not be ashamed, for we know whom we have believed...." (**Philippians 1:6**). "And we are sure of this, that he who began a good work in us will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ". Who Christ himself (**2 Corinthians 8:9**) "...though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich." (**2 Corinthians 5:12**) "For our sake he (God the

Father) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” ‘Look then’ Truth testifies within (Hebrews 12:2) “look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

## CONCLUSION

**Church**, let's flourish as a body of believers where the word of the Lord is increasing and prevailing in our lives mightily. Let Truth prevail deficiencies. Let Truth prevail deterrents. Let Truth prevail delusions and Let Truth prevail disguises.

Seek the truth, hear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, hold the truth and defend the truth until death. - **Pray**

## COMMUNION

(John 18:37) King Jesus on the night of his trial before his execution said to Pilate who asked Jesus if He was a King...Jesus answered.. “For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” For those here who listens to his voice and who respond to him by faith and therefore are of the truth. The table with the elements of communion are prepared. The bread representing his body that was broken and the cup representing his blood that was shed for the remission of sins are made ready for your taking as you would come and proclaim our Lord's death till He returns.

## Benediction

# Family

## Table Talk

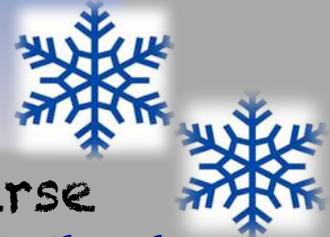


January 13, 2019



## GOD'S TRUTH

**Truth Prevails in the life of a flourishing Christian!**



### Key Verse

**"The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."**

**Psalm 119:160(ESV)**

## Family Discussion ?s

1. Discuss as a family all the different ways in which a plant flourishes.
2. Did you know the Bible illustrates the health of a believer like a plant?
3. Much like a plant to flourish, Christians need nourishment that comes from God to flourish as Christians in their lives.
4. God is wonderful. He has provided all we need in this life to flourish as Christians as we wait our Lord Jesus's return to take us home forever. Let's flourish together till that day.

### TABLE READING

Lead your kids further into God's Word...

2. Jeremiah 17:7-8; Psalm 1:3; Psalm 52:8-9; Psalm 92:12-15; Psalm 128:1-4
3. We need sun (Psalm 2:12, 4:6, 89:15); We need food (Matthew 17:1-8, John 6:47-51); We need water (John 4:13-14); We need weeding (John 17:17, Titus 2:12-14); We need beneficial neighboring plants (Ephesians 4:15-16)



### Scripture Memory: Acts 20:24

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." - Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (ESV)

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