

Truth (and the Music in Hell)

#35 in our series from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

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So Lord Jesus, we pray that we would worship your holy name. That you would help us to preach with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength, proclaiming that you are Lord, and it's in your name that we pray...Amen.

This is our 35th sermon from Paul's letter to the Ephesians and the fourth message on spiritual warfare, and the first on the individual pieces of armor.

Message

In Ephesians 6:14 Paul talks about "girding your loins with truth."

So what is truth?

In the last one hundred years or so, it's become popular to say things like: "Truth is relative;" "There is no such thing as absolute truth...no absolute truth." But do we mean that absolutely? Unless it's absolutely true...that there is no absolute truth, then there is some absolute truth, including the statement: "There's no absolute truth." Which means, the statement: "There's no absolute truth," is absolutely absurd.

If there is no absolute truth...then nothing is true; the word has no meaning. Some might say, "Well, things could be true to me." Well, even if they are, why bother telling me? For if something is true to you, there is absolutely no reason to think it might be true to me.

If there is no absolute truth, nothing is true, and each of us is utterly alone, for there is no medium or matrix for meaningful communication and thus no relationships, no love, no music.

When Lloyd C. Douglas, author of the *The Robe* was a university student, he lived in a boarding house. Downstairs on the first floor was an elderly, retired music teacher who was sick and infirmed and couldn't leave the boarding house. Every morning when Douglas came down the stairs, they would go through this little ritual. He would come down the steps, open the old man's door, and ask, "Well, what's the good news? The old man would take this tuning fork, smack it on the side of his wheelchair and say, "That's middle C! It was middle C yesterday; it will be middle C tomorrow; it will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings off key, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but my friend, *that* is middle C.

Good news!

You know all music is constructed around a note like middle C. In physics, I learned that middle C is a specific harmonic oscillation. When other notes are brought into harmony with that first note, we hear music. Music is the mathematics of whole numbers, the physics of harmonic oscillations in phase. Music is an absolute plethora of harmonies built around a single note...like middle C. So when Otis Redding sings, "Shama lama in the roma lama ding dong." [Peter sings on...] He's doing something profoundly logical. So logical...we can't fully comprehend it, but we recognize it as music, as beauty, even emotion—like joy and sorrow.

We recognize middle C imprinted in all these harmonies.

We recognize logic.

We recognize truth.

So what is truth?

Philosophers debate that endlessly.

Thomas Aquinas defined truth in terms of correspondence between your mind and a thing itself (your judgment). So to test truth, we test one judgment with the next judgment. Ludwig Wittgenstein pointed out: "That's like buying a second copy of the morning paper to see if the first copy of the morning paper was true." So in that scenario, truth is just what's normal. Truth is just what usually happens in your experience, which rather eliminates surprise and wonder, and it makes truth profoundly dull and lifeless.

So philosophers like Leibniz, Spinoza, and Hegel held versions of the Coherence Theory of truth. A statement is described as true, if it coheres to a system of truth. The problem is that there can be many systems of truth, and we can each develop our own system of truth.

G.K. Chesterton wrote:

The madman is not the man who has lost his reason. The madman is the man who has lost everything...except his reason...his mind moves in a perfect circle but a very small circle.

Your thoughts can have an inner coherence, and you can be utterly insane.

Philosophers like William James and John Dewey advocated the Pragmatic theory of truth, that truth is what works. But the Third Reich worked...for a time. Terrorism works...for certain things. The devil works...and Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Something can work and be profoundly evil—insane and dull.

Pragmatism, coherence, and correspondence, they're all at least partly true and together are a pretty good definition of what modern man loosely calls science. For many people in our culture, the truth is that which can be proven by the scientific method. However, the scientific method can't be proven by the scientific method.

You see, we can't define truth; for if we did, how would we know that our definition is true? We can't comprehend what truth is...when truth is the way we comprehend that anything...in fact..."is." We can't define truth but we all assume truth. Every scientist must have faith in truth...or he can do no science. Every toddler must have faith in truth to even utter a word like "Abba" or "Daddy."

So, what is truth?
How do we put it on?

Well, “loins girded with truth” is like the first step in Paul’s description of spiritual warfare or spiritual wrestling. So let’s review what we’ve already said.

The first week: We saw that the armor of God is a Person and that all of reality is profoundly personal.

The second week: We developed the idea that the devil is not a person as you are a person. (Jesus said, “There is no truth in him,” which means there is no life in him, no breath of God in him.) The devil hates persons and his kingdom is a desecration on creation. It’s lifeless, insane and evil...it’s hell.

The third week: We pointed out that Heaven conquers Hell. But for now in space and time...we wrestle.

That first week, we said that reality is personal, and we talked about Quantum physics. Many modern people assume that physicists are saying, “truth is relative,” but if we pay attention, they’re not saying, “Truth is relative,” but just the opposite. They’re saying, “All matter is relative to truth in you.” They’re saying that at least on the subatomic level, an observer determines material reality with the meaning in their own mind. In other words, truth in me matters...more than matter...absolutely. And because I’m constructed with matter, it implies that someone must be observing me. And if you and I exist in the same reality and therefore can relate one to another, Someone must be observing must be observing us both.

In 1944, Max Planck, who many call the father of Quantum physics, said the following:

As a man who has devoted his whole life to the most clear headed science, to the study of matter, I can tell you as a result of my research about atoms this much: There is no matter as such. All matter originates and exists only by virtue of a force, which brings the particle of an atom to vibration and holds this most minute solar system of the atom together. We must assume behind this force the existence of a conscious and intelligent mind. This mind is the matrix of matter.

In other words, *“In the beginning was the Word (the Logos, the Logic, the Reason, the Meaning) and the Word was with God and Word was God.”* He was in the beginning with God. *“All things were made through Him.”* (John 1:1-3) *“He sustains the universe with His Word.”* (Hebrews 1:3) A physical word is a vibration in the atmosphere, which communicates meaning.

It’s fascinating that the most comprehensive theory of everything in modern physics is the theory that everything is the manifestation of vibrations of meaning on one-dimensional strings that vibrate in something like ten dimensions of space-time.

Well, string theory is only a theory, but in Genesis 1, God speaks a Word and creation happens. God speaks and what He speaks happens...except perhaps on the sixth day. God says, *“Let us make man in our own image...”* and yet man is not entirely in God’s image; for evil is not God’s image.

So God must still be speaking..
And every human heart is like the boundary of His creation,
a boundary between good and evil...between what is and what is not.

And everyone you know is still being created by the Word.

In John 17:17 Jesus prays to the Father for us saying, “*Sanctify them in the truth, thy word is truth.*”

So you see, God’s mind, God’s reason, God’s truth is the matrix of all matter that matters...that is reality.

So... If we are *subjected* to truth we are *real*.

If we are *hidden* from the Truth, we are becoming a ghost, lifeless, insane and evil—enslaved to shadows and lies and absolutely *not* free.

And that’s surprising to the modern mind because the modern mind has defined freedom as the freedom to determine your own truth, which is “freedom” *from* Truth, which means that this is a perfect picture of freedom

Clip from *Gravity*

[We see an astronaut gripped by fear, crying out, “What do I do, What do I do?” She’s commanded to detach from the structure that is holding her securely to the ship while out in outer space. She detaches and we see her spinning out of control into the darkness of outer space.]

Isn’t that freedom?

She’s off structure—she’s detached, she’s unrestrained, and untethered; she’s the lord of her own universe, free of constraints, free of all relationships—free of life, free of sound. There’s no music in empty space—the dark abyss.

[Peter begins to sing...]

As the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial life. I saw Satan dancing with delight...the day...the music died...

Several years ago, on a Friday late in the afternoon, I walked into the hallway at church and I met a man that looked very confused and rather undressed. I said, “Can I help you?” He said, “A pair of pants would be nice.” I said, “What happened?” He said, “I drove out here from Michigan. I had a religious experience, parked the car, took off my clothes, and ran around the woods for two days. You know how it is...when I got back to the car, my pants were gone.”

I took him to the shelter and got him some pants and as I was driving him back, I tried to connect. I asked him questions and he wouldn’t answer. I finally said, “Would you like some money?” He turned put his fingers to his lips and said, “Shhh, you ask too many questions.” So, I dropped him off, in his own universe. You see, he was free like the astronaut was free. He was untethered, unrelated and insane. Perhaps he really didn’t need to gird his loins with pants...he needed his loins girded with truth.

So here’s my question:

Who’s more free? The astronaut—Sandra Bullock, floating completely unconstrained, unbound, ungirded in empty space or Becky?



Becky, my three-year-old daughter, dancing with her grandpa?

This is one of my favorite pictures. It's along about 1994 at the Trail dust Steakhouse. Becky is dancing with my Dad. She's almost entirely restrained. She's constrained by my father's hand, a room full of stinky sweaty people, and even by music. She's learning to dance.

So, who's free?



The astronaut or Becky?

And what's the truth?

And how do we gird our loins with it?

Well, let's read our text:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God.

Markus Barth argues that this should be translated "splendid armor of God." The point being the amazing character of this armor, not simply that it's a complete set. *"Therefore take up the (splendid amazing) whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day..."* Perhaps that's every day that contains evil, perhaps that's the sixth day of creation and this is the sixth day of creation, before the seventh day when we are finished completed in the seventh day.

Take up the splendid amazing armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, katergazomai-“having accomplished all” to stand firm. Stand therefore...

It's interesting that Paul doesn't say, "fight therefore, *using* the armor." He just says, "Having been dressed...stand." It's like once the armor is on, the armor does the fighting...that's some pretty amazing armor. It reminds me of an old movie. Jimmy Tong is an awkward and unsophisticated servant of an absolutely sophisticated and splendid secret agent man. One day he's snooping around his closet and tries on his splendid super agent tuxedo.

Clip from *The Tuxedo*

[Jimi Tong gets dressed in the tuxedo; the tuxedo scans his body and maps his neurological structure. It then prompts him to activate the tuxedo through his watch. Jimi Tong intends to press the "demonstration" button but accidentally presses the "demolition" button. The tuxedo immediately goes into "demolition" mode, and we watch as Jackie Chan does numerous flips and destroys everything in sight. He then is able to get enough control to change it to a different mode, he presses the "shake booty" button and we see him dancing.]

Well, I'm just saying that the splendid armor of God must be like that splendid tuxedo. When non-splendid Jimi Tong put it on, He could fight like Jackie Chan and dance like John Travolta. It was like the suit was alive, and he was just invited along for the ride...like good works prepared beforehand that he "*might walk in them...*" dance in them, fight in them.

Well Paul writes,

Stand therefore having fastened on the belt of truth. (more literally: "*Having girded your loins in truth.*")

In that day, men wore a belt or a leather girdle around their loins. It held their tunic to their body, and when they'd go to work, they'd "gird up" their tunic (*tuck it into their belt*) so that their legs were free to move. A Roman soldier held himself and his armaments together with a leather girdle, and when he prepared to fight, he'd "gird up" his loins to free his legs to move in freedom.

Hopefully, you haven't noticed but almost every time I preach, I gird up my loins. When I turned fifty my butt miraculously disappeared, and now if I don't gird up my loins—tighten my belt, my pants will drop to my ankles; I'll get tripped up and won't be able to preach the Word...and I'm not always girded up, because it can be uncomfortable. Sometimes the Truth can make you uncomfortable, even if it sets you free.

Paul wrote: "*Having girded your loins with truth.*"

And we've been asking, "What is truth?"

On the night He was handed over for crucifixion, Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life.*" In the morning, Pontius Pilate asked him, "What is truth," and Jesus gave no answer. Perhaps He gave no answer because He *is* the answer and He was giving Himself.

What answer could Jesus give that Pontius Pilate would believe, or that we would believe? If He said, "I am the Truth," how would Pilate know it was truth? And if Jesus, the person is the Truth, the question: "What is the truth?" is rather unanswerable for a "who" is not a "what." And the Truth is a

“Who” not a “what.” And Jesus did not say, “I am true,” as if He were defined by some other truth. And He did not say, “I am a truth,” as if He were one of many truths. Jesus said, “I AM...the Truth.”

Well, if Jesus is the Truth...

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

That literally changes everything.

First of all,

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don’t create truth. Truth creates us.

We don’t create truth...Truth creates us...by observing us.

So to get real and be created is not a matter of creating a self with works. (When you create yourself, you create a false self.)

To be created is to be observed.

It is to confess your false self, and expose your actual self to the light of Truth.

It is to confess your sins and trust God’s Word of Grace,

who is Jesus—the Light of the world.

We don’t judge truth. Truth judges us.

We don’t test the truth. That means...the Truth tests us.

We can’t define the truth because the Truth is defining us.

We don’t create truth; Truth creates us.¹

¹ Jesus doesn’t say, “Depart from me you’re bad.” He says, “*Depart from me I never knew you.*” The Truth doesn’t know the false. So don’t try to impress him with an act. Tell him who you are: “I’m a sinner.” Tell him where you’ve been: “I’ve made my ??(pg 10) Let Him observe you and He will make you who you are.

We don't possess Truth.

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don't create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don't possess truth.

You don't own Jesus (like mammon, like a prostitute.) You know Israel was constantly tempted by that lie. When the church became a “principality and power” she embraced that lie, as if truth were a commodity...not a “Who” but a “what.” And science grew out of the church, and now people that worship science think that they possess the truth. They will say, “We have the truth, and you don't have the truth.” And we modern Christians say, “Oh yeah? You don't have the truth, and we *do* have the truth; we have the Bible.”

Now, we do have the Bible, and Jesus said scripture can't be broken. So the Bible testifies to truth. But the Bible also testifies that nature or creation also testifies to truth. But neither creation nor the Bible testifies saying, “*I am the truth.*” Jesus says, “*I am the truth. No one comes to the Father but by me.*” There is one Truth, and Jesus is the Truth. That must mean any truth is Jesus, and the truth in anything is Jesus. All truth is God's truth, and His name is Jesus. He is the Word that created all things and sustains all things.

In John 1:9 He is called: “*the true light, which enlightens all men.*” We don't own the Truth. So when we preach the gospel, we have no business saying, “We have the truth and you don't have the truth.” Instead we ought to preach like Paul to the Romans saying, “*The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*” (That is the Word of faith that we preach, the Word of Jesus.) Or preach like Paul in Athens. Acts 17 “*God is actually not far from each one of us, (He says to the pagan philosophers.) for 'in Him we live and move and have our being' as some of your poets have said, 'for we—we are indeed His offspring.'*”

Paul believed that Jesus the Truth had arrived in Athens long before Paul set foot in Greece. He didn't bring Jesus to Athens like his own possession. He just pointed to truth already in Athens and said, “I know His name. Trust in His name. What you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you, not “what” but “who,” His name is Jesus.”

So when a scientist worships truth but does not know what truth is say, “Good news! What you worship is unknown. This I proclaim to you, His name is Jesus.” When a Muslim sees a sunset and says, “It's beautiful, it's true,” you can say, “Yes, you recognize Jesus.”

When a Buddhist says, “Matter doesn't matter...but only truth and love.” Say, “Wow! You know the truth, and did you know His name is Jesus?”

Don't preach the gospel of grace with arrogance, or you're not preaching it. You don't possess the truth...you surrender to the Truth for the Truth has possessed you.

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don’t create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don’t possess truth. Truth possesses us.

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don’t create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don’t possess truth. Truth possesses us.
- We don’t comprehend truth...

See? We don’t comprehend the Truth. Whenever anyone (Christian, Buddhist, Scientist) discovers truth...what’s going on? God’s saying “Hello.” We don’t comprehend truth; all truth is revealed truth. Theologians talk about natural revelation and special revelation, but it’s all revelation, for we really can’t comprehend the Truth.

In other words, we can’t capture Jesus and nail Him down. And if by some outrageous miracle we could, it would only be because He let us. He said, *“No one takes my life from me; I freely lay it down.”* If we captured Jesus and nailed Him down, it would only be because He let us, and that itself would be a revelation. Actually, it’s the greatest of all revelations; He let us capture Him...that He might capture our hearts, revealing that God is absolute Love and He is God’s Word of relentless grace.

Now, you may need to contemplate this a bit, but if we think we comprehend the truth (like fruit we pick from some tree,) we crucify Jesus...and comprehend that we are sinners—trapped, alone in death, insanity and evil, where there is no music, for we just crucified the truth—we crucified middle C.

Preachers talk about “Satanic music,” “music from Hell,” but you see there is no music in Hell. Revelation 18:22 *“And the sound of harpers and minstrels, of flute players and trumpeters shall be heard in thee no more.”* Satan hates music and there’s no music in Hell...unless Truth descends into Hell...then maybe it’s not Hell,” or at least there would be something like a doorway in Hell. Jesus is the door; Jesus is the way.

Well, if we think we comprehend the Truth, we manipulate the truth and end up crucifying the Truth. But if the truth is resurrected Truth—that is living truth, the Truth we thought we comprehended rises from the dead and comprehends us. The good we thought we possessed...possesses us. Jesus Christ and Him crucified captures our hearts. We comprehend that God is grace, for He has comprehended us, comprehended us so we would comprehend.

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don’t create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don’t possess truth. Truth possesses us.
- We don’t comprehend truth...
unless Truth comprehends us.

Albert Einstein, Max Planck’s good buddy, once said, “The eternal mystery of the world, the most incomprehensible thing about the world is its comprehensibility.” We ought to say, “Yes, Dr. Einstein, the eternal mystery is Grace, God’s Word of Grace.”

At the end of his life, Einstein remarked: “Now I see that the only question is, ‘Is the universe friendly?’ I have begun to discover its physical meanings, but the question that haunts me is, ‘Is it friendly?’” In other words: “Is *truth* friendly?”

I wonder if anyone ever said, “Hey Albert, did you know that Jesus said, ‘I am the truth,’ which would mean, truth died for you so that you could comprehend the Truth and be comprehended by the Truth? Albert, Truth is the Word of love, and God is love, and God is insanely friendly. God’s Word is Jesus, and He’s just dying to make friends.”

So why do we hide from the Truth?

Now the question is no longer just theoretical but very personal.
Isn’t it because we fear that the truth is not our friend, that the truth is not good?

But if Jesus is the Truth...
just look at Him;
the Truth is our friend.

“There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.”

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don’t create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don’t possess truth. Truth possesses us.
- We don’t comprehend truth...
unless Truth comprehends us.
- Truth is Good.

The Truth is good; the Truth is beautiful.
Jesus is the Truth and the truth about us...

the truth about you—the true you.

And the true is always better than the false.

If you're a Christian, I think you know this about others, but you struggle to believe it about yourself because you're proud of yourself. When I've prayed with people and heard their honest confession, I'm always surprised at how they hang on to the false self to hide the true self, when the false self is so ugly and the true self is so beautiful.

I think Jesus is so attracted to that naked self, standing at the back of the sanctuary that doesn't lift his eyes and beats his chest...like in Luke 18 saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." But Jesus doesn't even know that false self, the Pharisee that stands alone, looks at the others and prays, "Thank you God that I am not like other men, like this sinner. I fast, I tithe, I do good deeds; I make myself good." But the Truth is Good and the Good makes us.

If Jesus is the truth, then the truth is good, and the truth is the way. Jesus said, “I am *the way, the truth...*” So the truth isn’t just a destination but *the way*: You can’t arrive at the truth without being truthful; we have a word for that: honesty. Nothing has made this clearer to me than what we loosely call spiritual warfare.

One of the first times I encountered a demonic spirit manifesting in a person's body, I was with Andrew Trawick. We both said, "Just a minute," then we left the person in the room, ran to the next room and started confessing our sins one to another, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." (I think that's why I love my friend Andrew so much. He's let me observe Andrew, the true, authentic Andrew.

Well, in spiritual warfare, I learned to be honest, it's absolutely fundamental. We must get dressed in truth, and truth makes a way-truth is "the way,"

If Jesus is “the Truth” then:

- We don't create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don't possess truth. Truth possesses us.
- We don't comprehend truth...
unless Truth comprehends us.
- Truth is Good.
- Truth is the Way.

Time and time again, in the most outrageous circumstances, feeling entirely out of control, when demons or even Satan appear to be in total control, I've learned to be truthful and pray: "Jesus, I don't know what to do." And it's like His Spirit asks me, "What's the truth about you, about her, about me, about scripture? Where's the truth?" Then He says, "Now step into that truth." Then He says, "Now, look again. Where's the truth? Now, step into that."

I've found that we rarely get a map; we only get the next step. We look for the truth and follow the truth, which is just the same as saying, "We look for Jesus and follow Jesus." Sometimes that even happens in visions, where Jesus appears and walks you through something. It's also happening when you follow the truth because Jesus is the Truth.

The truth isn't a map. The truth is a person...not a "what" but a "who."
And He is the way...

Not only the way to cast out freaky demons and stuff but...
the way to everywhere that's anywhere
the way to raise your kids
the way to love your wife
the way to write a sermon
the way to the new creation
the way to Life...the way Home.

Jesus is the Truth, and the Truth is the Way.

I'll never forget what three-year-old Becky told me one day when she met me at the airport returning home after a mission trip with my Dad. She said, "Oh Daddy, I was so worried that you would get lost, but then I remembered you were with your daddy and so you couldn't get lost." The Truth is the Word of your daddy, and the Truth is the Way.

The moment that you sense that you've lost your way, confess yourself—get honest—and seek the truth, and you're on the way or in the Way, not in the way of the Way, but you're actually in the Way. You're exactly where you are supposed to be. The Truth is the Way to the Life.

If Jesus is "the Truth" then:

- We don't create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don't possess truth. Truth possesses us.
- We don't comprehend truth...
unless Truth comprehends us.
- Truth is Good.
- Truth is the Way.
- Truth is the Life.

Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*"

Life is relationships of truth.

It's the dance of love and God is Love.

We can't comprehend the Logos of God.

We can't comprehend the matrix of the mind of our Maker.

We can't even comprehend music...

and yet we can dance to it.

We can be comprehended by *it*, possessed by *it*, and created by *it*, controlled by *it*.

When we're controlled by *it*...we're free.

- We don't create truth. Truth creates us.
- We don't possess truth. Truth possesses us.
- We don't comprehend truth...
unless Truth comprehends us.
- Truth is Good.
- Truth is the Way.
- Truth is the Life
- Truth sets us free.

Jesus said, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."*

Jesus said, "If you abide in my word (the music) you are truly my followers, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

I don't think that means that we have to know a bunch of truths (although that can be very helpful and good)...the Pharisees knew plenty of truths.

We must be *known* by the Truth.

Like three-year-old Becky surrendered to the truth...

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Satan hates music, and he refuses to dance.
Jesus is teaching you His dance, and in this fallen world it's a war dance.

Communion

So on that night that He said, "*I am the truth*," the Truth took bread and He broke it saying, "This is my body given to you; take it by the hand; eat it." In the same manner, He took the cup saying, "This cup is the covenant in my blood." The life is in the blood. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Take it; drink it; gird your loins with truth.

Prayer

And so Father, we need to confess to you that we have hated truth. That's a bit terrifying for us to confess because your Word is Truth, but we have hated truth. You know us; you know that we are terrified of truth. According to scripture, that's why we wear clothes, even on hot days; we are terrified. We run from truth. We hide from truth. And then Lord, when the truth catches up to us: We try to manipulate truth; we twist truth; we claim that we have comprehended truth, that we own the truth. Lord God, we crucify the truth. We sin...and then we see...that Jesus is the Truth. He was chasing us to set us free, and we begin to see you Lord Jesus.

Father, we thank you that you raised Jesus from the dead, and you send His Spirit into our hearts, teaching us how to dance to the rhythm of your Kingdom, the matrix of your mind so that you could set us free and create us in your image. We confess to you ourselves, and we pray that you would teach us to dance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Benediction

So the whole world is running from truth...running from *the* Truth. The principalities and powers of this world don't like the truth. But no matter where they're running, I think everybody has to end up at the cross, in sight of the Truth, at the feet of the Truth and come to the realization that Jesus is the Truth, that they have crucified the Truth (that's called judgment).

But you are *already* here. [Peter stands in front of the cross.] Look! The Truth is your friend. He is friendly. There is no greater friend than this: the One who lays down His life for you, so you don't need to run from the Truth.

You can put the Truth on; gird your loins with truth, and then look for the Truth. Maybe now you'll have a little bit of courage to follow the Truth...wherever the Truth goes. You see? The Truth is the way to everywhere that's anywhere. But now I should tell you...Paul is sitting in a Roman prison cell, chained to a wall. The Roman authorities don't like the Truth, but the Truth is the way to everywhere that's anywhere.

So you may speak the truth and your boss may not like it. You may speak the truth and the principalities and powers will kick you out, but don't worry, those places just lead to nowhere. You are on your way to the new creation—everywhere that's anywhere. So may you have courage to follow the Truth. May you be honest because the Truth is your friend, He's your Lord, and nobody's more beautiful; nobody is better than Him. In Jesus' name, believe the gospel and be free. Amen.