



Sunday, August 15, 2021

Pastor Tim Van Loh

Intro to Truth and Lies

One of the greatest threats to the Church today is the failure to appropriately understand our identity in Christ. Even as Christians, our constant temptation is to find our identity in something else—family, work/school, hobbies, etc. None of these things are wrong in and of themselves, but they don't do much good when faced with temptations to loosen or renounce our allegiance to Jesus. The attacks will inevitably come, the sowing seeds of doubt, the questioning of God's truth. The question is: will we be prepared, or will we fall?

Part of the difficulty is that Satan does not always present himself as evil, and his lies are not always obvious. Sometimes, it can even sound like (or actually be) biblical. This highlights why it is all the more important to know what the Bible says and to be prepared for battle before we ever engage the fight.

Sometimes we think we know the Bible well because we have attended church all our lives. But the reality is that we need to continually be meditating on and renewed by the word of God. If we rest on the fact that we have heard the Bible taught a bunch before, but have no meaningful engagement with God through it, then we are perhaps most susceptible to follow the voice of Satan rather than the voice of God.

It's worth noting that in Jesus's day, it was the religious leaders who were the ones who did the will of Satan by persecuting and executing Jesus. Now, not all religious leaders were in that category, and not all who were in that category were religious leaders. Nevertheless, mere familiarity or past experience with the things of religion does not suffice for the battle.

So, as we consider these things together, may God impress them on our hearts, and impress on our hearts the need for continual renewal by the word of God!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Genesis 3:1-7; Matt. 4:1-11

“Battling Satan’s Lies with God’s Word”

Satan: “Did God actually say?”

Jesus: “It is written...”

- I am God’s child (John 1:12)
- God is for me (Rom. 8:31-39)
- I have a purpose (Rom. 8:28)
- I have a destiny (Eph. 1:5; 2:10)
- I am Christ’s ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20)
- I am Christ’s co-worker (2 Cor. 6:1)
- I am Christ’s friend (John 15:15)
- I am established, anointed, and sealed (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
- I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
- I cannot be separated from God’s love (Rom. 8:35-39)

Discuss

- 1) What are some of Satan's lies that are widely believed today? Why do you think that is?
- 2) What does "getting in the book" look like for you? How disciplined are you about reading/listening to/meditating on God's word?
- 3) Which of the ten statements Pastor Tim mentioned are easy for you to believe? Which are most difficult?
- 4) As you think about being Christ's ambassador and co-worker, who in your life needs to hear the message "be reconciled to God"? How can you work toward sharing that message with them?
- 5) How confident are you of victory in the spiritual battle we are presently engaged in?