
Truth matters

2 Timothy 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.

⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ **always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.** ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also **these teachers oppose the truth.** They are **men of depraved minds,** who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹ But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, **their folly will be clear to everyone.**

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Resistance to God's Truth

Grace and Truth—part 2

April 16, 2023

1. Human resistance to God's truth

Romans 10:21 All day long I have held out my hand to a **disobedient** and **obstinate** people.

Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, ...

¹⁹ since **what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.** ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—**have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.**

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their **thinking** became futile and their **foolish hearts** were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and **exchanged** the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful **desires** of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They **exchanged the truth about God for a lie,** and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.

*Matthew 13:15 For this people's **heart** has become **calloused**; they hardly hear with their **ears**, and they have closed their **eyes**. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.*

■

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

2. Cultural resistance to God's truth

2 Timothy 4:4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Modern cultures are sharply divided:

■ PRIVATE SPHERE: PERSONAL PREFERENCES
(relative truth)

PUBLIC SPHERE: SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Another way of looking at this dichotomy:

VALUES—individual choice (feelings, preferences, Bible)

FACTS—binding on everyone

3. Satan's resistance to God's truth

■ *1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* ■

■ *John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy, but I came that they might have life.* ■

■ *John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is **no truth in him**. When **he lies**, he **speaks his native language**, for **he is a liar** and **the father of lies**.* ■
