

# STANDING FOR THE TRUTH

THE COURAGE TO STAND – PART I

VERNON ZOOK JULY 12, 2020

## A LOOK AT OUR CURRENT SITUATION:

*You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. **Stay away from people like that!** ... But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived. But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:1-5; 13-15 (NLT)***

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)***

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." **Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)***

*Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. **1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)***

## HOW CAN I TAKE A STAND FOR THE TRUTH?

### 1. Clarity – ***I Need to know the Truth.***

*Your word is the truth... **John 17:17a (CEV)***

*Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth." **1 Kings 17:24 (NIV)***

### 2. Conviction – ***When I am convinced of what I believe.***

*Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **Romans 4:21 (ESV)***

### 3. Courage - ***When my convictions translate into action.***

*Then David continued, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you... **1 Chronicles 28:20 (NLT)***

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. **2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)***

*God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control. **2 Timothy 1:7 (CEV)***

## What does Standing For the Truth it look like?

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." **Daniel 3:16-18 (NLT)***