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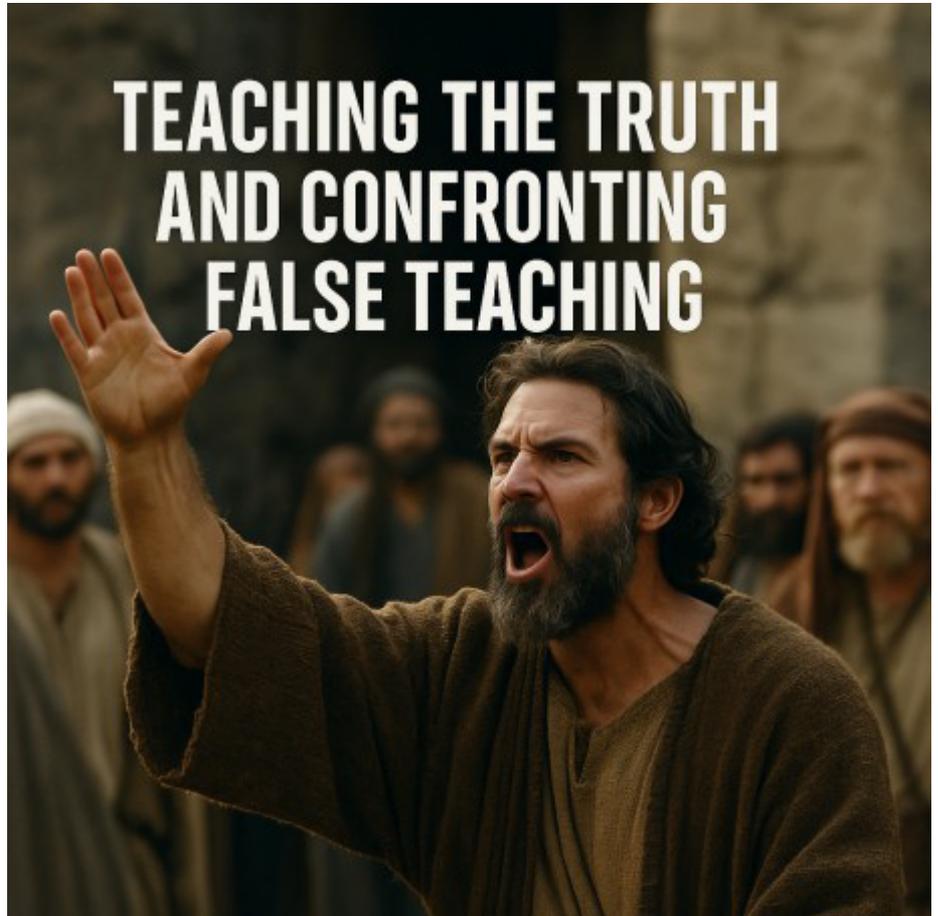
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Teaching the truth
and confronting
false teaching



By Dan Maines

Teaching the truth and confronting false teaching

John 8:31-32

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

† How can the traditional church truly be free if its teaching is rooted in fear? If freedom comes only by continuing in Christ's word, then those who bind their people with lies of futurism and terror are not walking in His truth. A people who live in fear of

tomorrow are not living in the freedom of today.

† My only desire is to teach people the truth about the Bible. When I discovered how much the traditional church had twisted and corrupted the Word, I was deeply upset. They built entire doctrines not from Scripture, but from fear, to keep their churches filled and their influence strong. Futurism is one of their greatest lies. People have been led to believe that Jesus will one day return physically to stand on the earth again. People have been told that one day there will be no more literal pain, crying, or death. But that's not what Scripture teaches. The traditional church is lying to its people.

† Today we hear people whispering, Did you see what they're teaching in the Fulfilled Prophecies group? People rush to see, they take what's said back to their churches, and they discuss it further. Some of you have done this yourselves, and in doing so, you've helped spread the truth.

† Churches can lead people to Christ and they can be a place of worship. But the constant planting of fear in the congregation is what upsets me. Week after week they terrify their people with messages of antichrists, raptures, and global destruction. Instead of freedom, they hand out bondage.

When I hear a pastor preach about a future resurrection where graves will literally open and corpses will come out, I can't help but ask, Where in the Bible does it say this?

What's the answer? The only solution is to teach people directly, face to face, with the Word itself. That's my plan. And at times, we must confront these pastors with Scripture, because their traditions can't stand when tested against the truth.

Acts 1:11

They also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into

heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.

† This wasn't a promise of Jesus walking the earth again in the flesh. It was a promise of His covenantal coming in judgment, just as He said in Matthew 24. They saw Him taken in a cloud, and He returned in the same covenantal cloud of Daniel 7:13-14, where the Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven to receive His kingdom. It was not a fleshly return to earth, but a heavenly coming in judgment and authority.

Revelation 21:4

And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will no longer be any death, there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

† Pastors twist this passage and use it to promise their people a day when all human sorrow will end. But John was speaking of the end of the Old Covenant order. The first things that passed away were temple sacrifices, condemnation, and separation from God. Christ wiped away tears by reconciling His people to the Father. He defeated death by bringing eternal life, not by removing physical mortality but by conquering spiritual separation.

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

† John in Revelation was showing exactly this: the Old Covenant was disappearing, and with it the tears, condemnation, and death under the Law. This is the context of Revelation 21:4, not the end of physical life on earth.

Matthew 24:30-31

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and

then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet blast, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

† Jesus said this would happen in that generation, and it did. Yet churches today still tell their people it's future. Paul said the resurrection was spiritual, sown as a natural body but raised a spiritual body. There's no Scripture that teaches graves bursting open.

Hebrews 9:26

But now once at the consummation of the ages He has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

† The inspired writer of Hebrews tells us plainly: the end of the age was in the first century, when Christ put away sin by His sacrifice. Revelation 21 is not about a far-off future, it is about the completion of redemption and the arrival of the New Covenant age.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

† But modern churches give their people the opposite. They feed them fear, not power, not love, not discipline. They keep them enslaved, because free people in Christ are no longer bound to their control.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies.

† Jesus Himself is the resurrection. It's not a future graveyard scene, it's life in Him.

Titus 1:9

Holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

† This is what the church was called to do. But instead of holding to the Word, they cling to traditions. Instead of exhorting with sound doctrine, they recycle the same false hopes. Instead of refuting error, they spread it.

Historical witness to fulfillment

† Josephus wrote in *Wars of the Jews* 6.5.3, "chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding cities." This matches exactly what Christ said, that He would come in the clouds in judgment.

† Tacitus wrote in *Histories* 5.13, "In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armor. The temple was suddenly illuminated with fire from the clouds. The doors of the inner shrine suddenly opened, and a superhuman voice was heard declaring that the gods were leaving it." Even Rome's historians saw the signs.

† Eusebius wrote in *Ecclesiastical History* 3.5 that Christians in Jerusalem obeyed Christ's warning and fled to Pella before the destruction. This fulfilled Matthew 24:16.

† Clement of Alexandria testified in *Stromata* that the old covenant had passed and the promises were fulfilled in Christ.

How the traditional church has let us down

† The problem with the modern church isn't ignorance, it's willful blindness. They know what the Scriptures say, but they're too invested in their systems to admit the truth. Their reputations, their salaries, their institutions, all depend on keeping the lie alive. If they admitted Christ fulfilled His promises, their empire

of fear would collapse. That's why they cling to futurism.

Mark 7:8-9

Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men. He was also saying to them, You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

† Entire denominations are built on futurism. Intelligent men, even scholars and pastors, cling to it because tradition demands it. They'd rather uphold the system than admit the truth.

Why even intelligent people are deceived

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

† Even the highly educated are blinded. Professors, politicians, and leaders fall for the same lies as the simple, because intelligence can't remove the veil. Only Christ can.

Romans 1:22-23

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

† The church today boasts of wisdom, but it's become foolish. It exchanges the truth of Christ for the image of its own traditions, protecting its denominations harder than it protects the Word of God.

Specific lies of the futurist church

- † The rapture is a lie. Scripture doesn't teach vanishing bodies into the sky. Paul spoke of covenantal gathering, not escape.
- † The antichrist as one future man is a lie. John said it was the last hour already, and many antichrists had come.
- † The great tribulation as a future global event is a lie. Jesus said it would happen in that generation, and it did in AD 70.
- † A future kingdom on earth is a lie. Jesus said the kingdom was already in their midst.

Why the church continues to lie

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

† The church of today is built on these myths. It sells fear through books, movies, and conferences. It keeps people enslaved by promising a future hope while denying the present reign of Christ. It's corrupt because it profits from deception.

Confronting pastors with scripture

† If you want to challenge a pastor, stand on the Word. Ask them to show you the rapture in the Bible, then read 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Paul said, "We who are alive, who remain until the coming of the Lord." He expected it in his day, not thousands of years later. Ask them who John said the antichrist was, then read 1 John 2:18. Ask them when Jesus said the tribulation would happen, then read Matthew 24:34. Ask them where Jesus said the kingdom would come, then read Luke 17:20-21. Ask them what Paul said about resurrection, then read 1 Corinthians 15:44. Scripture leaves no room for futurism.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

† This is our calling. To confront not with anger, but with accuracy. Let the Word speak. If pastors are honest before God, the truth will break through.

How this applies to us today

† Most of the church still sits in darkness, waiting for what's already come. They live in fear of wars, an antichrist, and the grave. But we know the truth. Christ reigns. His kingdom is here. The new covenant is everlasting. Death has lost its sting. We can't remain silent while others are chained by tradition.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† John 8:31-32; Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30-34; Revelation 21:4; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:26; 1 Corinthians 15:44; John 11:25; 2 Timothy 1:7; Titus 1:9; Mark 7:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Romans 1:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 John 2:18; Matthew 24:21-22, 24:34; Luke 17:20-21; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:15; Josephus, Wars 6.5.3; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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