

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Witnessing to the truth amidst difficult circumstances

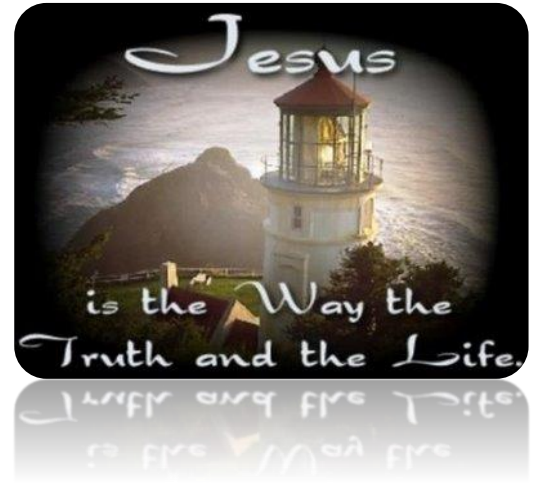
Witnessing to the truth is a core believe for the children of God who know Christ and are united with Him, for He is *the way, the truth, and the life* (John 6:14)

The more the circumstances are difficult and stressful around us, the greater the value of our witnessing to the truth in the eyes of God, because the sacrifices are usually greater, and in cases like this, it would be like swimming against the tide. Nonetheless, the hour will come when all tides calm down and the difference between dead and live fish becomes clear. It is the hour when the dead fish are washed to the shore and thrown out, while the live fish which resisted and witnessed to the truth would live, grow, and be multiplied.

God has placed for us, in the Scriptures, some useful principles and guidelines to witness to the truth, regardless of the circumstances:

1 – *“We ought to obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:29)
“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19-20).

2 – *“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do... when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”* (Luke 12). And John the Baptist as a model for witnessing to the truth will remain shining before us forever.



3 – *“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* (Romans 8:18) *“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”* (Hebrews 13:14) Whatever suffering we are subjected to as a result of witnessing to the truth, cannot be measured against the glory that is prepared to us in heaven.

4 – *“I do not receive honor from men.”* (John 5:41) *“God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). The Children of God are invited to acquire the glory of God, and they fully strive towards that goal. Therefore, they have no need for the glory of the world, and they bravely witness to the truth not fearing of anything.

5 – *“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”* (Galatians 1:10)

6 – *“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake... For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men... Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”* (1 Peter 2:13-17).

7 – *“The prudent keep silent at that time, for it is an evil time.”* (Amos 5:13) This is the minimum extent of witnessing to the truth, which is to remain silent and not to go along with the tide of deception.

Thus, our witness becomes that of love and peace, sincerity in words and conduct, doing good under all circumstances and to all human beings, in living according to the biblical commandment....This is the witness that God asks us to bear.

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