

## Truth Worth Dying For

### Paul died to maintain the truth of the Christian faith

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Salvation is freely given.
  - I'm not saved because of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – Salvation is accepted, not accomplished.
  - I'm not saved from \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Salvation comes from the finished work of Jesus.
  - Jesus paid the ransom for \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ – The Bible is the final authority on all things.
  - Nothing God-ordained will ever go \_\_\_\_\_.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ – Everything in creation exists to make God's name great!
  - Human benefit is a wonderful byproduct, but it's not God's \_\_\_\_\_.

## Truth Worth Dying For

### Paul died to maintain the truth of the Christian faith

1. **GRACE ALONE** – Salvation is freely given.
  - I'm not saved because of **WHO I AM**.
2. **FAITH ALONE** – Salvation is accepted, not accomplished.
  - I'm not saved from **WHAT I'VE DONE**.
3. **CHRIST ALONE** – Salvation comes from the finished work of Jesus.
  - Jesus paid the ransom for **MY SIN**.
4. **SCRIPTURE ALONE** – The Bible is the final authority on all things.
  - Nothing God-ordained will ever go **AGAINST SCRIPTURE**.
5. **FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE** – Everything in creation exists to make God's name great!
  - Human benefit is a wonderful byproduct, but it's not God's **CENTRAL MOTIVE**.

## Food for Thought

For the week of January 3, 2021

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

1. Christopher shared this weekend that as time passes, the world's culture will continue trying to distort the truth of God's Word. It can happen subtly and incrementally, so we must bolster our faith and watch out for "wolves in sheep's clothing." Which words and phrases in the following verses will best help you to guard against these wolves and their distortions?

### **Matthew 7:15-20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

### **Acts 20:28-30 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

### **1 Timothy 4:1-2; 14-16 New International Version (NIV)**

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. <sup>2</sup> Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

<sup>14</sup> Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

<sup>15</sup> Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. <sup>16</sup> Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

### **2 Corinthians 11:3-4 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

What are some intentional steps you can take in 2021 to guard yourself and continue growing in your faith?

2. Christopher also taught that rediscovering the fundamentals of our faith (in what are known as the Five Solas of the Reformation) is an important part of getting back or staying on the right path. Review the sermon notes in light of the following Scriptures. What words and phrases stand out to you that can help you to build your confidence as you work toward navigating life through each Sola?

### **Grace Alone**

#### **Ephesians 2:1-10 New International Version (NIV)**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## Faith Alone

### **Romans 3:21-31 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— <sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, <sup>30</sup> since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

## Christ Alone

### **2 Corinthians 5:16-21 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Scripture Alone

### **Hebrews 4:12-13 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

### **2 Timothy 3:12-17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## For the Glory of God Alone

### **1 Peter 4:7-11 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

As we start the new year, which of the five areas do you feel like you need to give the most attention?

What specific principles of the Christian faith will you work to reclaim or reinforce?

What pushback do you anticipate receiving from others as you stand firm or seek to make some changes in your life?