

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Two Lies and a Truth | Truth has Stumbled

BIG POINT

Lie #1: Everything is fine.

Lie #2: This is just a trend and everything will revert back naturally.

Truth: Reversion (*a return to a previous state, practice, or belief*) only happens when the church leads.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Step 1: *The church fell first.*
[Isaiah 59:2-3](#)

Step 2: *Culture imploded.*
[Isaiah 59:4-13](#)

Isaiah 59:14-15

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. ¹⁵Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.

Pastor Steven kicks off week one of the “*Two Truths and a Lie*” series by taking an in-depth look at Isaiah 59:14-15.

[Isaiah 59](#) is a chapter of both incredible gloom and hope –the perfect picture of where our nation stands today. Right in the middle is an indictment of a culture that’s forgotten truth (Christ) and is in chaos. Not knowing what to believe, what is right or wrong, real or fake, they have fallen prey to “Babylon”. Because they didn’t deal with it individually, now they are dealing with it collectively and publicly. They refused to stand up, and now the public square has gone awry.

Notes:

What are the signs?

Sign #1: *Justice is turned back* (v14a). We’ve seen a lot of this in the last few years, but here are some indicators of it:

- Move away from common law.
- Social Justice > Biblical Justice.
- Mockery in our courts.
- Calling good ‘evil’ and evil ‘good’.

Sign #2: *Righteousness stands far away* (v14b).

Righteousness either retreats or is replaced with a counterfeit. Here are some examples:

- We aren’t even in the game anymore. (ACB)
- Christians run in fear when they should be standing firm.
- Christian language is changed in order to “fit in”.

Sign #3: *Truth has stumbled in the public squares* (v14c).

Where are these ‘public squares’, and what are the lies that have replaced truth?

- Family
- Religion
- Education
- Government
- Media
- Business

These are the public squares; and truth hasn’t just stumbled, it has fallen. When there is no Biblical foundation, who do we turn to? Ourselves, we become the new foundation. Scary!

REMINDER

The lie of secularism is that we can have a flourishing culture apart from a Christian foundation.

"In this lie, inclusivity and tolerance become primary virtues –pushing out righteousness and true justice. 'Niceness' isn't a virtue, it's a vice!"

Where there is no moral foundation, there will be no moral clarity. Where there is no moral foundation, there is no immoral limitation.

Wisdom builds that foundation on the rock of God's Word and not the shifting sands of moral relativism. ([Matthew 7:24-27](#))

When there's no standard of truth = My truth > The Truth.

Where there is moral conviction, there is blessing and eternal reward.

*[Matthew 5:11-12](#) shows that boldly standing for truth offers a blessing. *li fact, because the reward is so great, we should rejoice and be glad in it.**

Have you embraced and gone all-in with His truth, the Gospel? Are you ready to be as bold as the OT prophets?

Sign #4: *He who departs from evil makes himself a prey (v15).* This refers to one who goes against the grain or departs from the "socially-acceptable" narrative in order to stand for truth.

- Consequences: Lost relationships (friends and family), cancelled, ostracized, and/or even indicted, imprisoned.
- See [Luke 12:51-52](#); [Matthew 5:10](#); [Matthew 10:16-22](#)

God's Response

Part 1: *The Lord saw it...* (v15b). NONE of these signs, or ny others, can be hidden from Him.

- None of this shocks God, and He is still on the throne!
- He is watching and searching for truth and will not be mocked. [Matthew 10:32-33](#)

Part 2: *and it displeased Him (v15c)*

- Truth was lacking...so what happened? Truth and Righteousness (Jesus) came down and invaded the land of injustice –entered into the public square and marched right through it.
- He saw ALL of it then and had a plan. He sent the embodiment of truth in the form of a baby who carried it all on His shoulders and became the ultimate prey.
- Divine justice occurred in this moment. All of mans' sin fell on the holiness of God. The divine wrath of God was satisfied once and for all, making it possible for all who had rejected the truth to now be redeemed by it.

The Solution

Part 1: A truth that never stumbles.

- *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*
–2 Corinthians 5:21
- A Truth even greater than the Law (Jesus). [Romans 3:19-26](#).

Part 2: A Gospel-changed people who love and defend truth.

- *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* –Romans 12:1-2