

DATE: 7 MAY 2023 | SPEAKER: ELDER LEE EE YANG | TOPIC: NAVIGATING IN A POST-TRUTH CULTURE | SCRIPTURE: 1 JOHN 18:37-19:16

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Recognise the dangers of the post-truth world we live in, the counter currents that come against us, and our own tendencies to resist the truth
2. Commit to be a seeker and witness of the truth, and prioritise the word of God in our lives

SERMON SUMMARY

How do we navigate a post-truth world where the traditional tenets of truth are being re-defined and where we are often tempted to resist the truth? Elder Ee Yang exhorts us to come back to the Word of God as our reference for truth, and make the truth the centre of our lives by being a seeker and witness of the Truth – Jesus Christ.

SERMON RECAP

We live in a post-truth world where feelings trump facts and personal subjectivity matters more than objective reality. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate in [John 18:37–19:16](#) is a post-truth conversation. Pilate resisted and subverted the truth (that Jesus was innocent), in order to keep his job and give in to the mob's demands to crucify Jesus.

In a post-truth world, we often face the temptation to resist the truth. Why do we resist the truth? Because deep in our souls is the desire to be the masters of our own destiny, and truth too often gets in the way. Elder Ee Yang presented two ways in which modern culture seeks to flee from the truth:

- We **relativise the truth** based on our own experiences – the word “truth” is now just a synonym for “perspective” or “experience”, and truth now becomes relative. Paul warns us against this in [2 Timothy 4:2-4](#) – *“For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”*
- We **spin the truth** by massaging the truth until it no longer poses a threat to the way we want to live. We spin words until it serves our own agenda instead. The Bible tells us that deception and lawlessness will abound in the end days. Technology has allowed deep fakes and videos to be doctored. Social media perpetuates content that is popular but are often outright lies or carries half-truths. [Matthew 24:10 -12](#) warns us that even the elect (Christians) will be deceived.

How do we navigate a post-truth world where deception and lawlessness abound? Elder Ee Yang shares two points we can learn from the Word of God to make truth the centre of our lives:

1. **Be a seeker of the Truth** – God's Word, instructions and commandments are truth ([John 17:17](#), [Psalm 119:142](#), [Psalm 119: 151](#)). The Hebrew word for truth is “Torah”, which literally means

“instructions, precepts and teachings”. Truth is not just propositional but also prescriptive. God has given His children a manual for righteous living. And if you live according to His Word, you receive blessings. If you live contrary to His Word, there are consequences.

In a world where truth is constantly redefined, we need to come back to the reference point of truth – the Word of God. **We need to prioritise the Word of God in our lives.** Truth is not what popular culture says – it is what God says. Seek the Word of God as Truth for our lives.

2. **Be a witness of the Truth** – Jesus came to testify and demonstrate the truth to us through His life on earth ([John 18:37](#)). Jesus is the Word that became flesh and dwelt amongst men so that we have a living encounter with Him ([John 1:14](#)). As the Body of Christ, we have the same call to be that living Word to live out and testify to the truth like Jesus did. The church is called to be the pillar and foundation of the truth ([1 Timothy 3:15](#)).

How do we live out and testify to the truth like Jesus did? How can our lives embody love, righteousness, and godly living? Elder Ee Yang shared two practical ways we can start living out the truth:

- a. **Step into the light** ([John 3:19-21](#)) – Allow the light of God to come into our hearts so that we can defog our lenses and discern the errors of the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts to see if there is anything in our lives that is not in alignment with God’s Word ([John 16:13](#)).
- b. **Hold one another accountable to the truth** ([Ephesians 4:15](#)) – We need one another to become mature in Christ. We need to be able to speak into each other’s lives and allow what we hold as “truths” to be challenged.

Examples:

- Is the job you are currently in glorifying to God?
- The way you invest your money – is it compatible with biblical stewardship?
- Your marriage – does it reflect God’s design of love?
- The way we parent – does it reflect God’s heart?

We need to allow our spiritual community to hold us accountable to the truth.

In conclusion, Elder Ee Yang encouraged us to make the Truth – Jesus – the centre of our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. We live in a post-truth world, where truth is relative and being redefined, and where modern culture seeks to flee from the truth. How has the post-truth culture affected you and how you live your life?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and relate question. Leaders can ask members to share challenges navigating the post-truth world, and how deceptions or false ideas being communicated widely through social media have affected different areas of their lives (e.g. workplace, parenting, marriage, sex, etc.)

Resources

- *Absolute Truth in a Relativistic World* by Focus on the Family
- *What is the Difference between Absolute Truth and Relative Truth?* by Christianity.com
- *Is Truth Relative?* by GotQuestions.org

Transition

Deception and lawlessness are signs of the end of days ([2 Thessalonians 2:9-12](#)). In a post-truth world, we need to recognise the counter currents that come against us.

- 2. Elder Ee Yang shared that we often flee from the truth by either relativising the truth based on our own experiences or spinning the truth to suit our own agendas. Are there areas in your life where you have been resisting the Truth?**

Leader's Notes

Elder Ee Yang reminded us that God has given His children a manual for righteous living. And if you live according to His Word, you receive blessings. If you live contrary to His Word, there are consequences.

Leaders can ask members to reflect on their lives, and whether they have tendencies to relativise and spin the truth. Leaders can also ask members to share if there are areas in their lives where they have departed from God's Word, and how this has affected them and their relationships. Encourage members to be honest with God and surrender the areas of their lives that are not aligned with God's Truth to Him.

Transition

God's Word is Truth ([John 17:17](#)). Let us come back to God's Word as our reference point for Truth. Seek the Word of God as Truth for our lives.

- 3. Elder Ee Yang exhorted us to be a seeker and witness of the truth by prioritising God's Word and living it out. What are some practical ways you can apply this in your life, and as a cell group?**

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. Elder Ee Yang shared the importance of seeking God's Word as the reference for truth, allowing the Holy Spirit to search our hearts ([Psalm 139:23-24](#)), and holding one another accountable to the truth (e.g. speaking into each other's lives). How can we apply this in our lives both individually and as a cell group?

- **Allow others to speak into your life (especially your leaders):** How you manage your finances, how you steward your job, the values and lifestyle that you hold, etc.
- **Study God’s Word together over the week:** The Book of Proverbs, The Epistles, etc.
- **Involve your cell as you make important decisions in your life:** Job transition, entering into a relationship, etc.

Resources

- *Selfies, Self-Deception, and Self-Worship* by The Gospel Coalition
- *Self-Deception and the Christian Life* by Gregg Ten Elshof
- *Are You Spiritually Self-Deceived?* by Dwell Community Church

Closing

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” – 1 John 1: 6-7 (NKJV).

May we allow God’s Word and Truth to penetrate every area of our lives so that we can shine for God in the midst of a dark and fallen world.

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for God to help us recognise areas in our lives that are not aligned to God’s truth or where we have resisted the Truth, and to repent and surrender these to Him.
- Pray for God to help us be a seeker and witness of the Truth.
- Pray that we will prioritise the Word of God in our daily lives.

2. World

- Pray for a quick decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases in Singapore
- Pray for the tense situation along the straits of Taiwan.
- Pray for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.

3. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. Beyond the Pulpit – Nurturing Mental Wellness

- **Devotional:** *Through the Path of Suffering – A 28-Day Devotional for Those with Anxiety Disorder*. Drawing from his personal journey of being diagnosed with anxiety disorder 11 years ago, Pastor Ernie Song shares this 28-day devotional for those walking a similar path. Access the digital devo here: rlc.sg/AnxietyDevotional
- **Podcast:** Conversations Regarding Mental Wellness in order to understand Mental Wellness at a deeper level.
 - *Nurturing Mental Wellness (A Pastoral Perspective)* with Ps. Rick Toh (Lead Pastor of Yio Chu Kang Chapel). Links: [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)
 - *Nurturing Mental Wellness (A Medical Perspective)* with Dr. Leslie Lim (Associate Professor of SGH specialising in Psychiatry). Links: [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)

2. Marriage Preparation Course Run 2. 4 & 25 June & 2 July (3 Sessions). Cost: \$50. Register: rlc.sg/mpc.

3. Filipino Ministry: Mother's Day Special.

- Sun, 14 May | 10am
- Bible House (Basement 2) 7 Armenian St, Singapore 179932
- Invite your Filipino friends, colleagues, neighbours and helpers to join us!

4. Bible Equipping Sessions (Book of Acts): The Advance of the Gospel - Relentless and Unstoppable

- Taught by David Lim (Academic Dean of ACTS Bible College Singapore)
- Pre-order your lunch for the Sunday sessions: rlc.sg/acts-lunch
- **Session 1 Fri, 26 May | 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
 - Introduction: Background for the Book of Acts
 - Part 1: The Church Emerges in Power (Acts 1:1-6:7)
- **Session 2 Sun, 28 May | 11am-3.30pm | Victory Chapel With lunch break in-between**
 - Part 2: The Church Breaks through Barriers (Acts 6:8-12:25)
- **Session 3 Fri, 2 June, 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
 - Part 3: The Church Reaches New Frontiers (Acts 13:1-20:38)
- **Session 4 | Victory Chapel Sun, 4 Jun | 11 am-3.30 pm | Victory Chapel With lunch break in-between**
 - Part 4: The Church Stands under Pressure (Acts 21:1-28:31)
 - Epilogue: Beyond the Book of Acts

5. RiverLife Prayer Room: May Schedule

- In support of the Isaiah 62 Fast, the RiverLife Prayer Room will be anchoring sessions at Burning Hearts Singapore in the month of May.
- **Tue, 2 & 30 May:** The RiverLife Prayer Room will be closed.
- **Tue, 9, 16 & 23 May | 8-10pm:**
 - Join the sessions anchored by our RiverLife Prayer Room Team at Burning Hearts Singapore. 66 Kampong Bugis, Level 3, Singapore 338987
 - *The Isaiah 62 Fast is a global 21-days of prayer and fasting from 7 to 28 May 2023. Over 1 million believers will engage in prayer for Israel for at least one hour a day during this period for the increase of God's salvation promises and plans for Jerusalem and Israel.*

- **Burning Hearts Singapore** will be one of the many hubs worldwide, joining the millions of believers in this 21-Day Isaiah 62 Solemn Assembly for Israel.
- **Find out how you can participate:** www.burninghearts.sg/isa62fast-participate

6. RiverLife Community Services.

- **RCS Family Movie Day 2023 Sat, 17 Jun. 9am to 12pm. Shaw Theatres Lido Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse.** With every donation of \$100, you will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the movie screening. *You may opt to donate your complimentary tickets to our beneficiaries so that they and their families can join in the movie screening.* Register and donate online: tinyurl.com/rcsmovieday23.
- **Serve Together as a Family.** Find out more about RiverLife Community Services and how you can play a part in caring for the community! Link: [RCS Serving Opportunities](#)

7. Young Adults Camp | Commune. 7 – 9 July 2023. Opero Hotel Southkey, Johor Bahru.

If the end goal of discipleship is transformation unto Christlikeness, then beholding is foundational to the life of every believer. We are called to behold Jesus together—to commune with God within the context of community. So, let's embark on this journey together to gain a fuller understanding of God, a better glimpse of the radiant Church He desires, and the courage to walk faithfully with community until He returns. Come, be part of this journey!

- Early Bird Fees (Until 16 Apr): \$210 (Student/NSF), \$260 (Adult).
- Regular Fees (17 Apr – 7 May): \$240 (Student/NSF), \$290 (Adult).
- Register at rlc.sg/yacamp2023.
- Enquiries: yacamp@riverlife.org.sg

8. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 2*
 - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun
 - Children's Camp: 8-10 Jun
 - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
 - Cell Revival Nights (Fridays): 2 – 30 Jun
- *Quarter 3*
 - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec
 - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec

9. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- **RLC Prayer Room.** Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- **Wed Night Prayer Meeting.** Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

10. 9M Ministry.

The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

11. Global Hunger Fund.

This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.

12. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>
13. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
14. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.
15. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
16. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search *'The RiverLife Podcast'* on Spotify.
17. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
18. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
19. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
20. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
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 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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