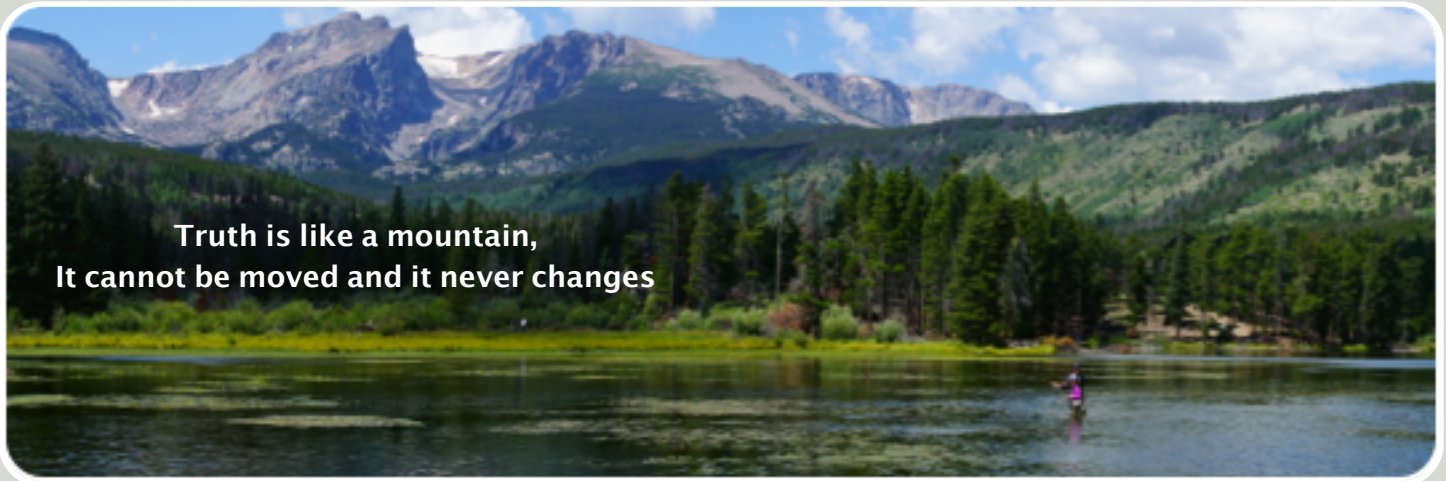


JANUARY 2024

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



**Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes**

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UPDATE

Once again, we come to the end of a year and the beginning of a new year. 2023 was a very bad year for planet Earth. I have lived through many things, but I have never witnessed a year like 2023. Can we expect to see anything better this coming year? I highly doubt it.

Just because we turn the page on a calendar does not mean anything has changed. The depravity of man and the darkness of mankind remain as it has been. Evil people never reform! Let that sink in. That is why the war goes on in Ukraine, and hatred remains the order of the day.

Because of this, it is so important that those who have been delivered from the darkness of this present age keep their eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. The things we have been told to do in God's Word must not be considered optional. In 2024, our spiritual survival demands that we live as true followers of Jesus and not just "Christians."

FEATURE ARTICLE: "A Look Ahead"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.

You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

The beginning of the new year is when many make resolutions that usually only result in them wasting money on exercise equipment that never gets used. I suggest it would be far better for all of us to look ahead to the coming year and prepare ourselves spiritually for what we may face.

Recently, I listened to a teacher who was talking about what God had shown him, and he said, "You can't even imagine what God is getting ready to do." He went on to talk about an end-time revival such as the world has never seen. I wish I could bang that drum with great enthusiasm, but I cannot help but remember Jeremiah.

Jeremiah's message was all about the coming judgment of God upon Israel. At the same time, there were others who claimed to be prophets and were saying just the opposite; we all know how that ended.

Jeremiah 14:13-14 KJV

13 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

So, we at least need to consider another scenario. When attempting to look ahead, it is often good to start by looking at the past. I, for one, have been shocked by what I saw happen in 2023. Never in my 80 trips around the sun have I seen anything like it. According to ABC News, in the first ten months of the year, there were 365 mass shootings in the United States. Violent protests have become common, crime has become epidemic, and in 2023, Hamas invaded Israel, and we saw the worst example of anti-Semitism since the Holocaust. Innocent men, women, children, and babies were

slaughtered, and in spite of this, many responded by calling for the elimination of Israel. As I consider all this, I am reminded of the words Paul spoke about the end times.

1Thessalonians 5:1-3 KJV

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, **as travail upon a woman with child**; and they shall not escape.

Paul uses the illustration of a woman about to give birth. Any woman who has experienced childbirth will tell you that when their time came, the pain started slowly but kept increasing until it was almost unbearable. My wife tells me that when Jay was born, the pain got so intense she thought she was going to die. Once this starts, there is no stopping it.

If we have come to the season Paul was referring to, then we can expect that 2024 will be considerably worse than anything we saw in 2023. It boggles our minds to think this could happen but believe me, it can. Today, our world stands on the brink of nuclear war, with Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea all threatening to pull the trigger. I believe with all my heart that an event similar to what happened in Israel will soon happen in the US. Having open borders will prove to be one of the biggest mistakes America has ever made.

If this is what 2024 will look like, then it is so important that we enter it with our eyes firmly fixed on the promises of God. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us and He will keep His promise. He has also promised that He is coming back, and very soon, we will also see that promise fulfilled.



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Share Your Faith!”

If I were to ask what the most important things in the Christian life should be, I am quite sure each would have their own answers. But, I suspect that probably one of the most important things would not

even be on most people's list. And what might that be?

Acts 1:8 Amplified Bible

8 But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; **and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me]”**

Yes, sharing our faith should be high on our priority list. These were the last words Jesus spoke to his followers before being caught up into heaven, and if we study scripture we find that this mandate is repeated over and over.

Proverbs 11:30 Amplified Bible

30 ...And he who is wise captures and wins souls [for God—he gathers them for eternity].

Daniel 12:3 Amplified Bible

3 Those who are [spiritually] wise will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and

those who lead many to righteousness, [will shine] like the stars forever and ever.

With all my heart, I believe sharing our faith should be a part of every Christian's life. I cannot see how anyone could consider this optional, and that is why I have always tried to do this, even if it brought me opposition. When we were first married, I was a switchboard operator in a hospital in Minneapolis. One day, I shared my faith with a co-worker, and the next day, I was called into the personnel office and told I was to never share my beliefs again. I am happy to tell you that this did not stop me. To this day, I look for opportunities to share my faith and be a witness to my Lord's love and saving power.

When we were the pastors of Resurrection Fellowship my husband always gave folks an opportunity to come to Jesus. Even though his sermons were aimed at helping Christians grow in Christ, he always tried to insert something at the beginning of his message that would cause sinners to consider turning to Jesus. He believed this gave the Holy Spirit something to work with while he continued the rest of his message.

We are amazed at how many letters we get from people who share how their lives were changed when they came to Jesus at the close of a service. I will share a couple of these.

"I was raised Lutheran and always believed in God and Jesus, but did not have a personal relationship with Him.

When my brother was killed in a car accident, I said a prayer and asked the Lord if my brother was ok. Was he in heaven? I got an instant response of heat radiating from the top of my head all the way through my body. I knew he was saved. Then I thought, what if I die tomorrow, will I go to heaven? I wanted to know. My oldest sister was attending your church at the time, and I wanted to go there. So, a friend and I went to one of your Wednesday night services and got saved. Immediately, my life changed."

Here is another wonderful story someone recently sent to me.

"A memory I have as a kid: As normal, Pastor John gave an altar call following a Sunday morning service. A gentleman raised his hand but refused to come up to the front. Pastor John went to the back of the sanctuary, turned off his microphone, and had a conversation with him. He then turned his microphone back on and shared that the man had said, "But, you don't know what I've done." That gentleman ended up receiving Christ that day."

There are hundreds of stories like these, but none are as meaningful to me as the one that happened to John and me in Israel. We had a dear Jewish friend who was diagnosed with a terminal illness. We loved this man dearly and knew that God wanted us to go see him before he died, so we quickly made arrangements to fly to Tel Aviv. We visited him in the hospital, but there was no chance to talk with him about his salvation.

The night we were scheduled to fly home, we called him, and I told him I wanted to see him in heaven. Then I shared Romans 10:9.

Romans 10:9 KJV

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

He then replied, "Linda, with all my heart, I believe in Yeshua, but I have never told anyone because my family would have disowned me." I then said to him, "Well, you just told me." He got so excited when he realized he had done what the Bible told him to do to get saved. There are no words to describe the joy we had as we flew home that night, knowing that someday we would see our friend in heaven. Two weeks later, he went to be with Jesus.

I ask you, how many times have you shared your faith, and have you ever experienced that joy?

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth....



"How To Spot A False Teacher"

The Bible gives a very clear warning that in the last days, false teachers will arise and deceive many.

2 Peter 2:2 ERV

2 In the past there were false prophets among God's people. It is the same now. You will have some false teachers in your group. They will teach things that are wrong—ideas that will cause people to be lost. And they will teach in a way that will be hard for you to see that they are wrong....

Without question, we are seeing this warning come to pass in this generation as, over and over, we hear teachers who are very persuasive but very wrong. Because this has become so prevalent, I want to offer some help to guide you through these perilous waters.

I will start by encouraging you to exercise some restraint before placing the title of "False Teacher" on someone. Just because someone says something that you don't agree with does not make them a false teacher. In fact, even if someone teaches something contrary to God's Word, it does not always make them a false teacher.

Many of you will probably struggle with that last sentence, so I need to explain. There are times when a teacher gets so focused and passionate about the thing they are teaching that they fail to consider what else scripture may have to say. When this happens, their teaching becomes unbalanced, but that does not mean their heart is wrong, and for sure, it does not make them a false teacher.

Having said that, I want to go on to say that this does not mean that any teacher should be allowed to go unchallenged. God's people should know their Bible and should not be afraid to go privately to a teacher who has taught something that is false or

unbalanced and request an explanation. If this is done in humility and love, it can result in the unbalanced position being corrected.

So, what constitutes a false teacher? As I see it, a false teacher would be one who consistently teaches something contrary to what the Bible plainly says, and what the Church considers a fundamental truth of the Christian faith. A good example would be a teacher in Africa who is quite popular on U-Tube right now. Amongst other things, this false teacher teaches that none of Paul's writings are true, modern Jews are not God's chosen people, and that the whole story of Jesus is a myth. Truly, this man is the epitome of a false teacher!

Another clear example would be Andy Stanley. All our readers know that for me to call out someone by name is extremely rare. However, because Andy Stanley has doubled down on his belief that gays who have married are now viewed by God as okay and do not need to repent of their ungodly lifestyle, it leaves me no other option. He is a false teacher who 2 Peter 2:2 accurately describes: "They will teach things that are wrong—ideas that will cause people to be lost."

There are other false teachers who teach that there are many paths to God and that you can find some truth in all religions. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6). Plainly, the false teachers contradict what Jesus taught.

I urge you not to follow any teacher who comes up with some new idea that tries to make you believe something is right, even though you have always believed it was wrong. God says, "I am the Lord; I change not."

BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS!