

JULY 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, I want to use this space to tell you about this month's photo shoot. Back in May, Linda got a text from our granddaughter telling us about a den of young baby foxes she had found. To find a den of babies is the thing wildlife photographers dream of.

Thanks to her good directions, we were able to find them, and for the next several weeks, most evenings found us shooting hundreds of photos. Altogether, we captured over 3000 shots of these adorable creatures. Those who are not subscribers can see one photo on the website, while our subscribers can view seven plus a video.

This leads me to ask: If you have not subscribed, what are you waiting for? This is the biggest no-brainer in the world's history! It is FREE, and it is easy. There is no hidden agenda, and the free part is not temporary until a monthly charge kicks in. It is free forever!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Take No Thought"

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!

Have you ever wondered what being one of Jesus' disciples would have been like? I know I have. Imagine being there when Jesus opened blind eyes, turned water into fine wine, and raised the dead. The Bible says there were even times when He healed all who were sick. Indeed, those He called to follow Him and witness these things were some of the most favored humans who have ever lived.

Thanks to The Chosen series, we can experience a unique perspective on the life of Jesus and his disciples. If you haven't watched it yet, I highly recommend you do. It's available for free on YouTube.

My favorite character in the series is Jesus. I have been stunned by how He is portrayed, and I can't help but feel that what I am watching is very close to how the real Jesus would have been. There is never any question about His divinity, but at the same time, His humanity is there for all to see. Sometimes, He dances, plays games and jokes, and occasionally even plays pranks on His disciples. He grows weary and angry and sometimes appears to be frustrated. However, the love and compassion He shows are clearly not part of this world.

Next to Jesus, my favorite character is Matthew, the tax collector. In the series, he is portrayed as an eccentric young man with a very analytical mind, which constantly causes him to try and figure out why Jesus did what He did or said what He said. His body language and facial expressions are priceless. All the disciples feel the same way, but Matthew shows it best. So, if you have ever read your Bible and wondered why Jesus said something or what He meant by what He said, you are not alone. You can be sure that His disciples felt the same way.

This leads me to one thing Jesus said in His sermon on the mount that has always puzzled me. It is Matthew 6:34.

Matthew 6:34 KJV

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. **Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

In the first part of this verse, Jesus says, "Don't waste your time worrying about tomorrow." That's so simple even a child could understand it. My confusion comes from the last part of the verse, where He says, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." As I read this, I can almost see Matthew tilting his head with a perplexed look as he tries to figure it out. What does that mean? Why does Jesus use the word "Sufficient?"

Matthew needs some clarification, so I will help him. I invite you to listen in on our conversation. That last sentence tells us that our tomorrows will always have their own troubles, and those troubles will be "Sufficient," so we do not need to add to them. Jesus understood that if we start thinking about tomorrow, not only will we not solve anything, but in our minds, we will conjure up more evil than our tomorrows will actually have.

When I look at myself, I am painfully aware that this is how human nature functions. **Our tomorrows always look more evil today than they turn out to be tomorrow, so Jesus tells us not even to give them a thought.** Why add to our anxieties today by conjuring up imaginations about tomorrow that never become reality?

MATTHEW.... YOU ARE WELCOME!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“God Restores”

There is an old song that says, "Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above, With wisdom, power, and love, Our God is an awesome God." Yes, our God is awesome, and here is a partial list of His

amazing attributes: He never changes. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all-wise, faithful, and good. In addition to that, He is compassionate, kind, and loving.

These are all wonderful attributes, but one more stands out as being near the top of the list: He is merciful.

Lamentations 3:22-23 KJV

22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

What a wonderful thought; His mercies are new every morning! Not only are they new every morning, they are extended to all, no matter what they have done.

Acts 2:21 KJV

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

We point out these things when trying to lead sinners to Christ. We want them to know that no matter what they have done, God will have mercy on them, remove the guilt of their sin, cast it into the depths of the sea, and never allow it to be used against them. I will say it one more time,

"Our God is an awesome God."

We all know these things are true, but I find it strange that the message often seems to change after someone places their faith in this awesome, unchangeable God. For some strange reason, God's unconditional love and mercy are no longer offered as freely as before they came to Christ. Pastors who have fallen prey to Satan's evil schemes are often cast aside as being unfit ever to minister again. Can this be right?

To answer this question, we need only look at Jesus' teachings. The parable of the prodigal son is the first one that comes to my mind. This parable tells of a son who asked for his inheritance and then went to a distant country, where he wasted his fortune in reckless, immoral living.

Luke 15:17-20 KJV

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

"God Restores"
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20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Somehow, this story does not seem to match how we treat those in the Body of Christ who have fallen. Through the years, we have had many opportunities to forgive and restore people who were broken and deep in sin. Many times, they were people we had hired. Some refused to repent and could not be restored, but others did repent, and it brought us such joy to see them fully restored to the calling God had placed on their lives.

Galatians 6:1 KJV

1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;

Another illustration of God's amazing love and mercy is the Jewish people. The Jewish people committed a sin God finds most abhorrent, and that is the worship of idols. They have paid a terrible price for their sin, but God has not abandoned them.

Romans 11:26-27 KJV

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Let me share my story with you. My older brother was also like the prodigal. He grew up in a home with ten children where we were taught the Bible and attended church every Sunday. In spite of this, he became rebellious and drifted away from serving God. He joined the Navy, and when he left, he told me he didn't believe in God. I responded by telling him I was going to pray for him every night and believe for his salvation. I am overjoyed to tell you that about two years later he met a fine Christian

girl, repented, and his life was completely transformed. God forgave and restored him, and he became a strong leader in every church they attended. His unbelief and sin did not change God's promises nor His faithfulness!

I want to reassure you, no matter what you may have done, God has not turned against you, nor does He consider you to be of no value. The message you believed when you first came to Christ is still true today. Nothing has changed! God's love for you is unchanging and His mercies are still new every morning. There may be things you will have to face as a consequence of your sin, but being abandoned by God is not one of them. He is a God of restoration, and just like the father of the prodigal, He will completely restore you.

Micah 7:18 Amplified Bible

18 Who is a God like You, who forgives wickedness, and passes over the rebellious acts of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He [constantly] delights in mercy and lovingkindness.

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!



"Are These Birth Pains?"

Back in May, we received a letter from our dear friend Sharon Sanders informing us of the passing of her husband, Ray. Ray and Sharon spent their entire lives living in Jerusalem, where they reached out to Holocaust survivors with the love of Jesus. We have so many precious memories tied to them, and I must say that Ray and Sharon have made our lives infinitely richer.

Over the next several days, we wrote back and forth as we tried to comfort her, and in one of her letters, she said, "I, along with you, wonder what happened to our country, the world, and all that is in it. The birth pangs are upon us... and I don't think most people are ready."

This leads me to several questions that demand an answer. Are we in that period when the birth pains have started, and what things would qualify as a "birth pain"? Let's start by showing you what the "birth pains" **do not** include.

Matthew 24:6-8 KJV

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is not yet.**

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

Everything listed in these three verses should not be considered "birth pains." They have been happening for thousands of years. So, what do "Birth pains" look like? To find the answer, we must look at what the scriptures say about "**The day of the Lord**" because in 1 Thessalonians 5 and Isaiah 13, "The day of the Lord" is tied to "birth pains."

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 NOG

2 You know very well that **the day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night.

3 When people say, "Everything is safe and sound!" destruction will suddenly strike them. **It will be as sudden as labor pains come to a pregnant woman.** They won't be able to escape.

Isaiah 13:6-8 NLT

6 Scream in terror, for **the day of the Lord has arrived**—the time for the Almighty to destroy.

7 Every arm is paralyzed with fear, Every heart melts,

8 and people are terrified. **Pangs of anguish grip them, like those of a woman in labor.** They look helplessly at one another, their faces aflame with fear.

Eight prophets in the Old Testament speak in detail about the "Day of the Lord." It is not presented as a single day but rather a time of judgment that happens **immediately before** Jesus's return. The verses I gave above give a good synopsis of what that time will look like, and as you can see, it isn't pretty. It also appears to be inescapable.

Amos 5:19 EASY

Nobody will escape! It will be like a man who runs away from a lion, but then he meets a bear! When he goes into his house to be safe, he puts his hand on a wall and a snake bites him!

As I study these verses and others, it becomes evident that what we see happening today fits the Bible's description of the prophesied "birth pains." And I tell you the truth when I say, "**It is only going to get worse, much worse!**" And so I admonish you, "**You must keep your eyes on Jesus!**" His return could be imminent. He is either coming back to gather His church in the rapture or to rule and reign. Believe what you want, but as for me...

I believe the rapture is very close.

I believe this for many reasons, but in this setting, I believe it because of 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 KJV

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...

Church, the baby will soon be here!