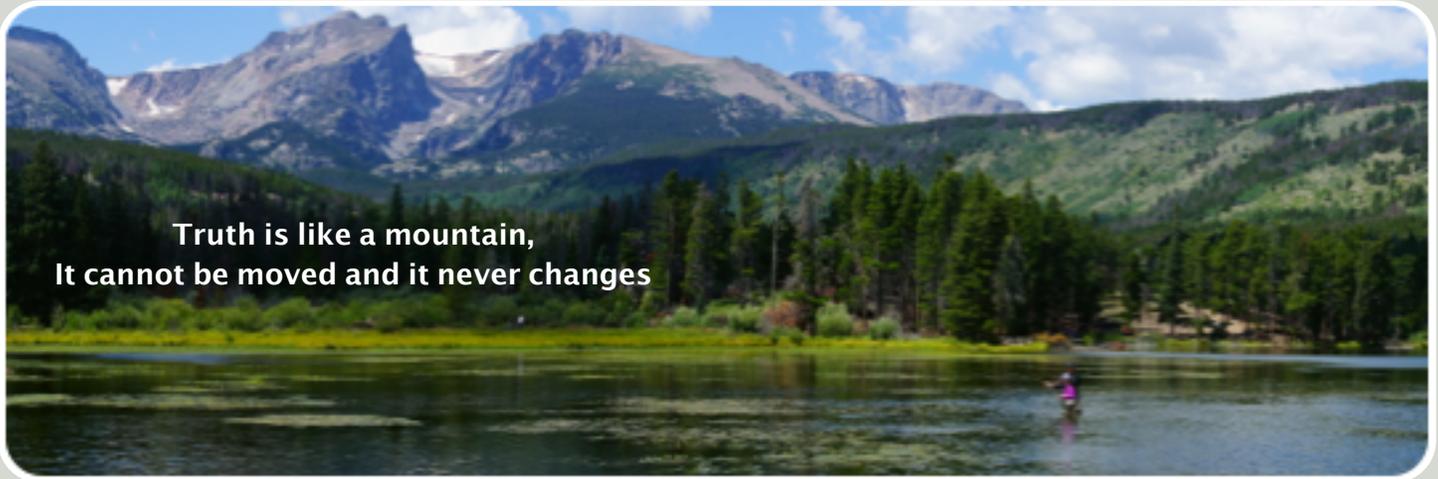


MARCH 2021

“TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

This month we conclude the four-part series we started in December of last year. Most of what I have written is the type of material that does not demand any immediate action on your part. Rather, it is the type of thing you put on the shelf for a while and only use it if conditions arise that indicate that what was talked about in these articles is coming to pass. We pray that never happens, but want you to be prepared spiritually if it does. We think you will find the conclusion of the series very positive and encouraging.

Be sure and read Miss Linda’s article this month. I believe it may be the best thing she has ever written. In the article she gives us a peek into how God thinks and what brings Him pleasure. It is incredibly insightful and helps us to see how very different our thinking is from God’s.

This is a must read!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "What Next?" Conclusion

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 last four months have been unlike anything we have ever experienced. In fact, the entire last year was unprecedented and we all found ourselves asking, **"What is happening, where are we headed, and why is God allowing this to happen?"** Last month I attempted to answer those questions by taking you to the book of Hosea and showing you that in the past, God has used dark times of great distress to turn the hearts of His people back to Himself. In our eyes this may appear to be harsh judgment, but in reality, it is an amazing manifestation of God's great love for His children. If you have not read the February issue, I encourage you to go to the Archives section of our website and read it.

Once again, I want to point out that I am not a prophet and what I write should not be taken as a "word from God." It is merely my attempt to try and figure out what God is doing in these crazy times. I do find it interesting that no one has accepted my challenge to come up with better answers, and I also find it alarming that I have not heard even one pastor attempt to answer any of these questions. This is disturbing because now more than ever, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus, and to be able to do this, we need to have at least some idea of what He is doing.

Having said all this, I shall move forward presuming that the darkest time the world has ever experienced may happen in our lifetime. I realize this may cause some to fear, but it shouldn't. **God's word makes it very clear that no matter how dark it gets, the church will always be victorious.**

I want you to consider what life was like in the days when the church was birthed. The Romans who believed the emperor was a god who should be worshiped ruled the world at that time. Because Christians refused to bow to him, they were hated, hunted, and killed. Their bodies were used as

torches to light the streets and the most popular spectator sport of the day was to watch as Christians were torn apart by lions. The only safe place they could meet was in underground caves used to bury the dead. I have personally walked in one of these burial caves and have seen the coliseums where these atrocities occurred. Yet even in that setting, the church was victorious and turned the world upside down. It was in that setting that Paul wrote Romans 8:37.

Romans 8:37 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

"Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us."

How could Paul say such a thing? Was he in denial? Was he sequestered in a monastery somewhere, totally unaware of the persecution the church was going through? If you read verses 35-36, you quickly realize that Paul knew exactly what the church was experiencing. When Paul spoke of "being more than conquerors," he spoke not of military or political victories, but of spiritual victories. He understood that the most important thing in the entire world was not who controls earthly kingdoms, but rather who controls our lives every day.

If we are going to walk in victory, this is a lesson we are going to need to learn. If you believe that somehow, we are going to turn this nation around by winning political victories, you are most certainly deceived and destined to live a life far beneath what God intends for you. Paul calls Satan the "god of this world" and that is why there will always be those in power who live contrary to God's Word and ignore the fact that someday they will answer to God. But this does not mean that you and I must live defeated. I can say with complete confidence that the church is not defeated and will experience a Romans 8:37 victory no matter which political party controls our government.

I find it amazing that God told the prophet Daniel that when the antichrist rises to power and the darkest time in all of history engulfs this world, the church will still be strong.

Daniel 11:32 King James Version

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God... shall be strong**, and do exploits.”

The word “strong” used here comes from the Hebrew word “chazaq.” It is a prime root and because of this, the definition is quite long but very clear.

Strong's Definition (my shortened version):

“to be strong, courageous, obstinate, of good courage, be established, make hard, harden, lean, play the man, become mighty, prevail, be recovered, repair, strengthened, be stout, be strong(-er), be sure, take (hold), be urgent, and behave self valiantly.”

Now you know why I say the church will be victorious no matter what happens in our world, and that the last days should not be viewed as a time when the church suffers defeat. Yes, some day antichrist will rise to power, but God has promised that when this happens, those who know their God will be victorious. I believe it, and that is why I believe the greatest days of the church are right before us. **Never forget, a persecuted church will always be a powerful church.**

Believe it or not, one of the places I go to find out where the church is at spiritually is Facebook. I know some of you are done with Facebook and I certainly can't blame you. However, I have been so encouraged to see what many are posting. When I read their posts, it reminds me of the definition of the word “strong,” which I gave you earlier. They

are strong, courageous, obstinate, established, hardened, stout, sure, and valiant.

Yes, some are wringing their hands and are obviously very upset with what Joe Biden and the Democrats are doing, but most are focused on their faith and encouraging themselves and others in the Lord. Here is something I read on Facebook that is too good not to be shared. I pray it blesses you.

“Sadly, we often gaze at our problems and merely glance at our God. We need to reverse that. Let's gaze at our good, mighty, powerful God and simply glance at our problems. Life works better that way.”
(From the “How to Battle Fear” devotional)

I want to encourage you to purpose in your heart to keep focused on the Lord and what He is doing today. **Trust me, God has not abandoned this planet or us.** I do not know exactly what He plans to do next, but I do know I can trust Him. Who knows, He may be allowing Satan to overplay his hand and thus drive an entire generation to their knees in repentance.

I believe there are still millions whom God has chosen that have yet to respond to His call. As God pours His grace upon them, they too will begin to see that this world is headed towards total destruction. When this happens, we could see an end of days revival that far eclipses anything the world has ever seen. So, as you can see, even in this darkness, a great light will continue to shine and nothing can extinguish it. One more time I assure you, when Joe Biden took office, God did not leave the planet!

I have warned you about things we might see happening in the future, but I also want to be sure you know that there is no need to fear. God is in control and we can trust Him.

Ephesians 6:10 King James Version

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS TRUTH!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“IT’S MY PLEASURE”

I am sure you have all dined at Chick-fil-A. John and I enjoy going there and really like their chicken sandwiches. We also appreciate the Christian values they boldly

stand for.

One of the other things they are known for is the response their employees give when we thank them for their service. Instead of saying, “You’re welcome,” they say “My pleasure.” I strongly suspect they have been instructed to say this, but in spite of that, it adds a nice touch because it communicates that they enjoy serving their customers. That is a feeling you don’t get in some restaurants.

As I was thinking about this, the thought came into my mind, **“I wonder what brings God pleasure?”** This is something I had never really given much thought to, so I began to study it, and what I found was such a blessing that I had to share it with you. A good starting point is a scripture I found in Psalms that reveals the heart of God.

Psalms 149:4 Amplified Bible

“For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.”

This is a wonderful thought, but something most struggle to accept because when we look at our

lives, we tend to focus on our imperfections and failures. This leaves us feeling like it would be impossible for God to get pleasure from what He sees when He looks at us. What we fail to consider is the second half of the verse: **“He will beautify the humble with salvation.”**

As I considered this, I began to understand that the reason God can take pleasure in us is not because we have done such wonderful and amazing things, but rather because of the wonderful and amazing work He has done in us. He has freely given to us the amazing gift of salvation and now when He looks at us, He sees His work, and that is what brings Him such great pleasure. What an amazing God he is!

This truth is revealed over and over in scripture. In Ephesians 1:5, we see something God decided to do, which involved us, and brought Him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:5 New Living Translation

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. **This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.**”

John and I understand this better than most because we adopted our oldest daughter, Trina. Oh, the joy we felt when we received the call telling us we could come to the Nebraska Children’s Home to get our baby girl!

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"It's My Pleasure" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The day we first held her in our arms is a day we shall never forget; words cannot express the joy we felt deep inside. But I need you to understand that the pleasure we experienced was not caused by anything she had done (she was only three weeks old), but rather, from what we had done. This is exactly what Ephesians 1:5 tells us happened in God's heart when He decided to adopt us.

The thought of God getting pleasure from us because of His great work is also confirmed in the teachings of Jesus.

Luke 15:7 The Passion Translation

"Jesus continued, 'In the same way, there will be a glorious celebration in heaven over the rescue of one lost sinner who repents, comes back home, and returns to the fold—more so than for all the righteous people who never strayed away.'"

What was the cause of this great celebration in heaven? Be careful, or you will miss the whole point and say it was caused by one sinner coming home, when in reality, there is something else we should consider. In the verses before this we are told that all this was caused by the actions of the good shepherd who went out and found the lost sheep. Without his actions, the sinner would have never repented and there would have been no celebration in heaven.

Are you starting to see it? It is hard to see because it runs contrary to how we think. We think we give pleasure to others by serving them, but this is not heaven's way. Heaven's way is the Chick-fil-A way. In heaven pleasure comes from what is done for someone else, not what someone else does for us. Unfortunately, some never see this and as a result they never experience true joy and happiness. Though they rise to fame and fortune, and have servants who cater to their every wish, they still are not happy. They feel empty and unfulfilled.

If they are believers, this carries over into their relationship with Jesus. They cannot comprehend

that the King of the universe could find pleasure in what He has done for them. They stagger at this and continually find themselves trying to find some way they can do something that would bring God pleasure. But no matter how hard they try, they always feel as if they are coming up short. If that is you, I want to offer some help. I understand how you feel because every true Christian wants to bring the Lord pleasure and yes, there is something you can do. The Bible tells us what it is.

Psalm 147:11 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

"The Lord takes pleasure in those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy and loving-kindness."

If you feel like you must do something to bring God pleasure, put your faith and trust in His finished work of salvation. Acknowledge His mercy and loving-kindness, love Him and worship Him with all your heart, and it will bring Him pleasure. In fact, there is nothing else you can do that will bring Him any greater pleasure. The only other option you have is to look in the mirror and try to glory in your own good works.

Good luck with that!



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

P R O P H E C Y U P D A T E

“We Have A Problem”

The last four months have revealed just how vast the evil in this nation is, but it has also revealed another problem not linked to politics. It is a church problem that has been growing unchecked for many years and is now causing great harm and confusion. I speak of the problem of false prophets. Long before last year’s election, we started hearing so-called “prophets” say that God had told them Donald Trump would be re-elected. In the days after the election, their rhetoric increased and they became even bolder in their declarations of a Trump victory.

I was saddened to hear Sid Roth say that the reason he absolutely knew Donald Trump would be given a second term was because **“Every prophet is saying the exact same thing.”** That is an exact quote and it is true. I cannot recall hearing even one who claimed to be a prophet say anything different. You all know how that turned out.

I ask you, why are these fakes not being called out, and why do God’s people continue to place any credibility in what they say? Instead of calling them out, Sid Roth is now defending the “prophets” and telling us that perhaps the timing is not yet right for their prophecies to be fulfilled. He goes on to claim God has told him that **this year**, there is going to be a “golden global glory outpouring of God’s Spirit.” I want to believe him, but I cannot ignore the track record of vain words that have failed to come to pass.

This reveals what a huge problem this is and why it needs to be dealt with. It creates confusion, causes people to doubt the reality of God, and casts shade upon any true prophets. The Bible says, **“Hope deferred makes the heart sick,”** and based upon what I have seen, these frauds have left a lot of people with sick hearts. Perhaps we need to go back to Jeremiah 23 to find out what God thinks of these charlatans.

Jeremiah 23:16; 21; 32 NIRV

“The Lord who rules over all says to the people of Judah, “Do not listen to what the prophets are saying to you. They fill you with false hopes. They talk about visions that come from their own minds. What they say does not come from my mouth.”

21 I did not send these prophets. But they have run to tell you their message anyway. I did not speak to them. But they have still prophesied.

32 I am against prophets who talk about dreams that did not come from me,” announces the Lord. “They tell foolish lies. Their lies lead my people astray. But I did not send these prophets. I did not appoint them. They do not help my people in the least,” announces the Lord.”

Do I believe there are true prophets today? What kind of question is that? Of course I believe it; the Bible says it!

Ephesians 4:11 New International Reader’s Version

“So Christ himself gave the gift of the **apostles** to the church. He gave the **prophets** and **those who preach the good news**. And he also gave the **pastors and teachers** as a gift to the church.”

But this does not mean that anyone claiming to be a prophet is for real and should be given a free pass. Every word they claim is from God should be judged, and if what they say fails to come to pass, they need to be called out and censored by true spiritual leadership. They are false prophets.

If you believe you are a prophet, then you should agree to let your words be judged. If what you say does not come to pass, you need to abandon the idea that you are a prophet and stop asking the rest of us to place any faith in what you are saying. Never forget, the words of a true prophet will always come to pass.

End of debate!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH