

FEBRUARY 2022

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

We hope you are enjoying the new feature we made available in January. If you have no idea what we are talking about it is because you have not subscribed. I am talking about a hidden page that our subscribers can view where each article can be selected with the click of a button.

Our subscribers are sent a link each month and when they click on that link they are taken to the page I am referring to. There, all the articles, both written and audio versions can be selected. It is fast, easy, and very convenient.

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Remember, all of this comes to you at no cost. There is nothing on this website you can purchase because the Lord has instructed us to never charge for the message of the gospel.

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Dealing With Wounds"

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!

We've all been there and done that. Someone who we thought loved us says or does something that hurts us and we find ourselves feeling totally betrayed and deeply wounded. We all wish things like this would never happen, but like it or not, it is a fact of life. In Luke 17:1 Jesus said, "Betrayals are inevitable." (The Passion Translation) So, if it is a fact of life, we need to know how to handle it because if we handle it wrong, it can end up changing the course of our entire life. Many have gone down that path and as a result, live wounded and scarred for the rest of their lives. This article is going to help you understand the dynamics that are set in motion when an offense occurs and also the 'how' and 'why' involved in dealing with it.

The actions of others certainly can result in deep wounds, but usually, people's words are what do the most damage.

Pro 18:8 King James Version

8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

I want to show you something I pray will impact you. The Hebrew word that is translated, "belly" is also translated as "womb" in 31 other verses. The womb is where life is conceived and formed. Likewise, when someone is deeply wounded it is as if something is conceived deep inside them, and if carried to full term eventually it will be birthed. It is an ungodly alien monster that turns on the one who carried it and attempts to destroy them. This is the spiritual dynamic that is set in motion when someone allows themselves to be offended.

Some of you may need a spiritual abortion!

Thank God there is a way to kill that monster before it kills you. So, what does the Bible tell us to do when we experience a wound caused by another person's words or deeds? I am so proud of you because you already know the answer to that question.

YOU NEED TO FORGIVE THEM!

I don't mean to oversimplify this because we all know that forgiveness can be very complicated and difficult. I once sat with an author and told him that a great book would be one that clearly and honestly dealt with the tough issues surrounding forgiveness. He asked me what things I felt a book like that would need to include, so I gave him two things I considered a good starting point.

First: If people don't ask for forgiveness, do we need to forgive them anyway? 1 John 1:9 says, "**If we confess our sin** He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin." But, what if they don't confess? It has been my observation that rarely will someone come to you and confess their wrongdoing. Does that mean you don't need to forgive them?

Second: How do we know we have truly forgiven someone? This is a question that must be answered because words are cheap and often have no reality connected to them. Because this is so important we must find a way to know beyond any doubt that we either have or have not forgiven.

After I gave my author friend these two suggestions he looked at me and said, "I don't have the answers to those questions. If you get the answers let me know what they are, and I may write the book." Well, I have the answers and you don't need to buy a book because I am going to give them to you now for free.

"Dealing With Wounds" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Let's start with the first question: If people don't ask for forgiveness, do we still need to forgive them? I once asked my dentist if it was necessary to floss my teeth every day. His answer was, "Only the ones you want to keep." Is it necessary to forgive those who have wounded you even if they never ask for your forgiveness? Only if you want to experience God's best for your life. Anything else will result in the wound you received robbing you of the destiny God has for you. The choice is yours.

Second: How do we know if we have truly forgiven someone? Believe it or not, this is really quite simple. In the physical realm if you cut yourself it hurts, but if you care for the wound properly it will heal and no longer hurt. A spiritual wound that continues to be very painful is a sure sign that you have not forgiven. This is not rocket science!

Unfortunately, people don't care for their spiritual wounds properly. They go to their friends and sit for hours telling them how wounded they are. Then they go to counselors who encourage them to dig up the past and re-live every horror story they have ever experienced. I must tell you in love, their wounds will never stop hurting because they keep picking the scab off and opening up the wound all over again. The tragedy continues perpetually because they have never forgiven the person who wounded them.

They need to be reminded that a physical wound not cared for will eventually get infected and can cause serious issues resulting in limb amputations and possibly even death. Likewise, unforgiveness has serious consequences. In the Book of Job, we see a good example of this. Job's accusation of wrong was directed at God Himself.

Job 9:17-18 Amplified Bible

17 For He bruises me with a tempest **and multiplies my wounds without cause.**

18 He will not allow me to catch my breath, **but fills and saturates me with bitterness.**

Please note that his wounds ultimately resulted in bitterness. This is a very serious situation because, like a person whose arms and legs have been amputated, the person with bitterness can never know the fulness of life God wants them to experience.

Job 21:25 EXB

25 But another person dies with an unhappy heart in bitterness, never enjoying any happiness or the good life.

It is easy to observe that bitter people are never happy people. They live in a dark prison of their own making. Even though they hold the keys that would allow them to unlock the door, open it, and walk out into the sunshine of God's favor they refuse to use them. How sad, because the choice is theirs.

This leaves us with one unanswered question: How do we forgive? For that answer, we must look to Jesus. As He hung on the cross beaten, bruised, and wounded, He prayed for the ones who had wounded him. In His prayer, He asked the Father to forgive them and He defended them when He said, "They don't know what they have done." **Forgiveness only becomes possible when we stop focusing on someone's guilt and start focusing on God's love and compassion for them.** Once again, this is a choice no one can ever take from us.

In the 17th century, Alexander Pope penned the phrase, "To err is human, to forgive is divine." That short phrase encompasses everything I have tried to say in this article. We are all human and that is why offenses happen. It has been like that from the beginning of time and will continue as long as there are people like us on this planet. This is why we all need to strive to become more like Jesus when it comes to forgiveness. Not just so we can pat ourselves on the back, but rather so we can experience the fulness of life Jesus came to give us.

The choice is ours!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



Use Your Time Wisely

Here we are, January 2022 is already gone. How can this be? I don't know about you, but it seems as I get older, time is going by faster. I have even heard my grandchildren say

that it feels this way for them. Here is what our 24-year old grandson John Stuart had to say about it.

"I have thought a lot about the possibility of time going by faster as you get older. To explain my hypothesis I'll use an analogy. Think of each year as an inch on a rope. If you have a 5-inch rope, one inch will be a relatively large portion of that rope. Now if we were to look at a 100-foot rope, that same inch will seem very small as compared to the rest of the rope. I think the same thing happens with our perception of time, with our lives being the total length of rope. The older we get, the smaller a certain amount of time seems compared to the rest of our lives."

I think this is very insightful for a 24-year-old. My rope is a lot shorter than it used to be and maybe that is why I am so aware of the importance of wisely using every hour God gives me. Some

would call it, "Time Management", but that is not what I am talking about. When I asked my husband about this he responded with a football illustration. (Does that surprise you?) He said, "Part of a coach's job is to manage the clock. He can do this because he can stop the clock by calling a time-out. Unfortunately, we cannot call a time-out and stop the clock. That is why we must prioritize what we do with every second while our game clock moves relentlessly toward '00:00'."

Here is a quote from John Maxwell that also looks at it the same way.

"Time management is an oxymoron. Time is beyond our control, and the clock keeps ticking regardless of how we lead our lives. Priority management is the answer to maximizing the time we have." – John C. Maxwell.

As I think about the value of every hour God has given me, I can't help but realize that my time is far more valuable than any material possession. We can recover lost money or possessions, but we can never reclaim time that has been foolishly wasted. Someone has said that time is much more valuable than money because you can use your time to make money, but all the money in the world cannot buy you even one second of extra time.

Think about it.

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"Use Your Time Wisely"

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So, how should our time be spent, and what things should we make a priority? If I were to list the time I feel I have spent most wisely, it would include three things.

FIRST: Time spent worshiping my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Worship and praise bring me into God's presence and time spent in His presence gives me the strength I need for whatever I face each day. It is my number one priority.

SECOND: Time spent in God's Word. Today we see so many being deceived and as a result, falling away because they have not placed a high value on what the Word says. Believe me when I say that God's Word is more important today than ever before. From the time our children were toddlers until they were grown and left the nest, we determined in our hearts to pour the Word into them.

Today our son Jay is placing the same high value on God's Word and has produced 4 Albums entitled "Scripture Lullabies" in which he has taken scripture and put it to music. These albums contain some of the most beautiful music I have ever heard and wise parents around the world stream it to their children as they sleep. Millions of young lives are being shaped by God's Word. Here is where you can find it: scripture-lullabies.com

THIRD: Quality time spent with my husband. How tragic it is to see so many marriages end in divorce. There are many things that can cause this, but one common thread seems to be present in all marriage failures; couples do not make their marriage a priority. We understand the challenge. No one can even begin to know the demands that are placed on a couple who pastor a church of 3000 people, but our marriage survived because we made it a priority. This

made it possible for us to not only be successful pastors but also experience the joy of a great marriage. Quality time spent with your mate must be a priority.

Have you established a clear set of priorities when it comes to how you spend your time? If not, I can promise that you are missing God's best. Whatever appears most urgent in your mind is what you will spend your time on. The clock is ticking for each of us and each day our rope grows shorter. You can't go back and there are no time-outs or do-overs, but you can set some priorities that will pay huge dividends going forward.

You need to avoid the temptation to make excuses for not spending your time wisely. My husband has often said, "No matter how good an excuse is, it changes nothing." This is so true. All excuses have one thing in common, they allow you to continue a lifestyle that is not God's best for you. I urge you, to establish some priorities and take control of how you plan to spend the precious time God has given you.

You will never regret it!



AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!

Is Ezekiel 38 Near?

Those who have followed this newsletter know that several years ago I was saying that the stage was being set for Ezekiel 38 to be fulfilled any day. In an effort to end Syria's civil war Russia had sent troops into Syria which made it appear that this great prophetic event was very close. I have now started to rethink all this and have come to the conclusion that we may never see the fulfillment of this prophecy any time in the near future. Let me show you why.

Russia crushed the Syrian revolt but then promptly withdrew all her troops, leaving behind military bases that soon were occupied by Iranian troops. As a result, the ongoing threat to Israel increased significantly and actually made it less likely that the prophecy was about to be fulfilled. I say that because of Ezekiel 38:11.

Ezekiel 38:11 KJV

11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates....

I think we would all agree that at this point in time Israel is not living in safety or rest. If anything, there is a greater threat to them than ever before, so how can the prophecy be fulfilled now? It can't. This leads to another question: **Will there ever be a time when Israel lives in safety and peace, and if so, what will cause this to come about?**

The answer may be found in Daniel 9. If we study Daniel 9 we see that when the antichrist comes to power he will make a seven-year treaty with Israel. It is very possible that only then will Israel enjoy a narrow window of peace and safety such as is described in Ezekiel 38:11. Unfortunately, after 3 1/2 years, he will break that treaty and it is then Ezekiel 38 could be fulfilled.

My friend Bob Cline told me about something he heard a prophecy teacher share that would seem to support this view. There is an amazing similarity between what is said in Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 16. Before we look at this the thing I want you to remember is that Revelation 16 obviously takes place during the time when the antichrist has come to power. Now let's look at the similarities.

Revelation 16

Verse 19: Speaks of God's wrath.

Verse 18-19: Speak of a great earthquake.

Verse 20: Speaks of the mountains not being found.

Verse 21: Speaks of a plague of hailstones.

NOW COMPARE EZEKIEL 38

Ezekiel 38

Verse 19: Speaks of God's wrath.

Verse 19: Speaks of a great earthquake.

Verse 20: Speaks of the mountains being thrown down.

Verse 22: Speaks of a plague and hailstones.

Please notice that not only are the same things mentioned in both Ezekiel and Revelation but they are mentioned in nearly the same exact verses in both passages. Some may say this is just a coincidence but I will never believe that. Many times I have been amazed at the way different portions of scripture, written thousands of years apart, fit together flawlessly.

I want to leave you with one more thought. Because I am certain the church will never experience the wrath of God, I think it is safe to say that we also may never see Ezekiel 38 come to pass while we are here. The rapture of the church will happen first and when He comes to fight for Israel we will be coming back with Him.

Look up, saints of God!