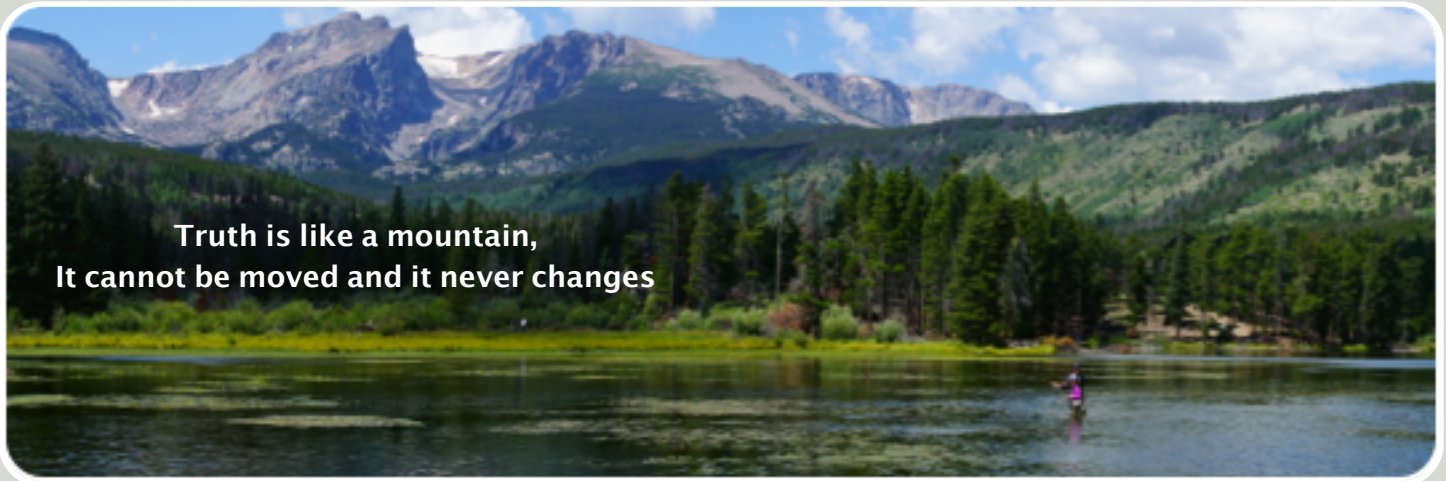


**SEPTEMBER 2022**

# “TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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

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## UPDATE

Far too often we find ourselves wondering how what we learning in church connects to what we are experiencing the other six days of the week. Pastors need to realize that their job is not to just teach biblical truth, but they must show us how to apply that truth to our lives. I call that, "Living preaching." If they can't do that, how do they expect us to do it?

As I was putting the final touches on this month's issue of 'TRUTH' it occurred to me that all three articles are talking about things that all of us have to deal with today. The first article gives parents a great tip on how to deal with something every parent faces sooner or later. The second article offers some great guidance to those who are going through a very difficult season in their life and the third article reminds us that God has given each of us a brain and we shouldn't be afraid to use it. We pray each article will bless and enrich your life.

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "Own It!"

**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!**

I loved going with my mom to the grocery store when I was a young boy. Even though it was a very small store, it resembled a microscopic version of a Super Walmart in that they had everything from groceries to clothing to hardware and even sporting goods. I loved hanging out in that aisle while mom picked up her groceries.

One shopping trip shall forever be etched in my mind because on that day I did something I should not have done; I shoplifted a fishing lure. As we were driving home I got it out and began to admire it. When my mom saw it she slammed on the brakes and demanded to know where I got it. I was busted!

Immediately she turned the car around and headed back into town. When we got to the store she grabbed me by the arm and jerked me out of the car so hard I thought my arm would separate from my body. I will never forget the waves of fear that surged over me as I stood looking up at the shopkeeper and had to confess what I had done. Not only did I have to give the fishing lure back, but I was also put on a work detail that resembled a chain gang from a Georgia prison.

As I look back I now realize that on that day my mother's actions gave me something money couldn't buy; she gave me the ability to understand that in life our actions will always have consequences and that you need to take ownership of your actions. My dad was also involved in making this happen. Once, when I had done something I shouldn't have, I told him I did it because my brother had told me to do it. He responded by asking me, "If your brother told you to climb to the top of the barn roof and jump off, would you do it?" This was followed by some consequences. (Yes, my parents spanked me.)

We all need to realize that our sinful nature causes us to want to blame someone else for the wrong things we do. When God confronted Adam with his disobedience Adam's reply was, "The woman which you gave me..." It's unbelievable, he

blamed both God and Eve for his actions! When King Saul offered a sacrifice that only Samuel the prophet was supposed to offer his excuse was, "You didn't get here on time so I was forced to do it."

I thank God my parents didn't let that kind of childish thinking take root in me. If you are a parent and haven't yet seen this in your children, I promise, you will. When it happens, don't let them get away with it. All you have to do is confront it and say, "Son, that dog won't hunt, you need to own it!" And then make sure they experience the consequences.

It is one thing for children to talk and act like this, (They are children) but we also see adults doing the exact same thing. They do something that is obviously very wrong, but rather than take ownership of it, they say they did it because someone else told them to do it, or they were forced to do it because of what someone else did to them. This is how children think! The saddest thing about this is that they never change, never admit they are wrong, and foolishly go through life continuing to hurt others, always shifting the blame for their actions to someone else. They are sick.

If they are ever to be healed and set free it will require deep repentance. First, they must see that behind them is a landscape littered with people they have deeply wounded. (They must own it!) Second, they will need to ask God for forgiveness, and then go to those they have wounded and also ask for their forgiveness. Why? **James 5:16 says, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."** Notice, it does not say, "So they may be healed." The one confessing his sin is the one who will get healed and set free. There is no other way!

### **1 Corinthians 13:11 AMPC**

11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways and have put them aside.



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### *“Praise Him Anyway!”*

Have you ever sat in church while the pastor was preaching and thought to yourself, "This person has no idea what I am going through." I am quite sure this has happened more

than any of us want to admit.

Life has a way of getting very difficult and after a while, we can find ourselves feeling like none of the things we have believed or practiced really work. You go to the church where you have always felt you belonged and suddenly feel like a total stranger. Someone gets up and gives a pep talk about praising the Lord, but to be honest, you are overwhelmed with the burdens of life and your praise switch has been turned off. If I am describing you then please know that I don't condemn you, I understand how you feel and want to give you some help.

There is one portion of scripture that really speaks to me when I find myself feeling this way. It is Psalms 22:1-3.

#### **Psalms 22:1-2 AMP**

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I call out by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I find no rest nor quiet.

Do those two verses describe exactly how you feel? Do you feel forsaken, and that God doesn't even hear your cry for help? Has your battle raged on until you have come to a point where you are totally worn out? Even though David felt this way, he follows these two verses with this:

#### **Psalm 22:3 21st Century King James Version**

3 But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Now you find yourself wondering if David's trial was as severe as the one you are going through and if it was, how he could possibly start talking about praise right in the middle of it. Rather than trying to compare your struggles with David's, you might consider what Jesus went through.

When Jesus hung on the cross he quoted the first phrase of Psalms 22:1 word for word. (Matthew 27:46) Is your trial worse than His? We all know the answer to that question. No one has ever experienced such pain, but His physical pain was totally eclipsed by the agony he felt when the sin of the world was placed upon Him and for the first time He felt forsaken by his Father.

So, we still want to know, how is it that in that moment of agony David could suddenly start talking about praising the Lord? The first 3 words of verse three give us the answer.

**"But thou art..."**

**David realized that no matter what he was going through, it didn't change God!**

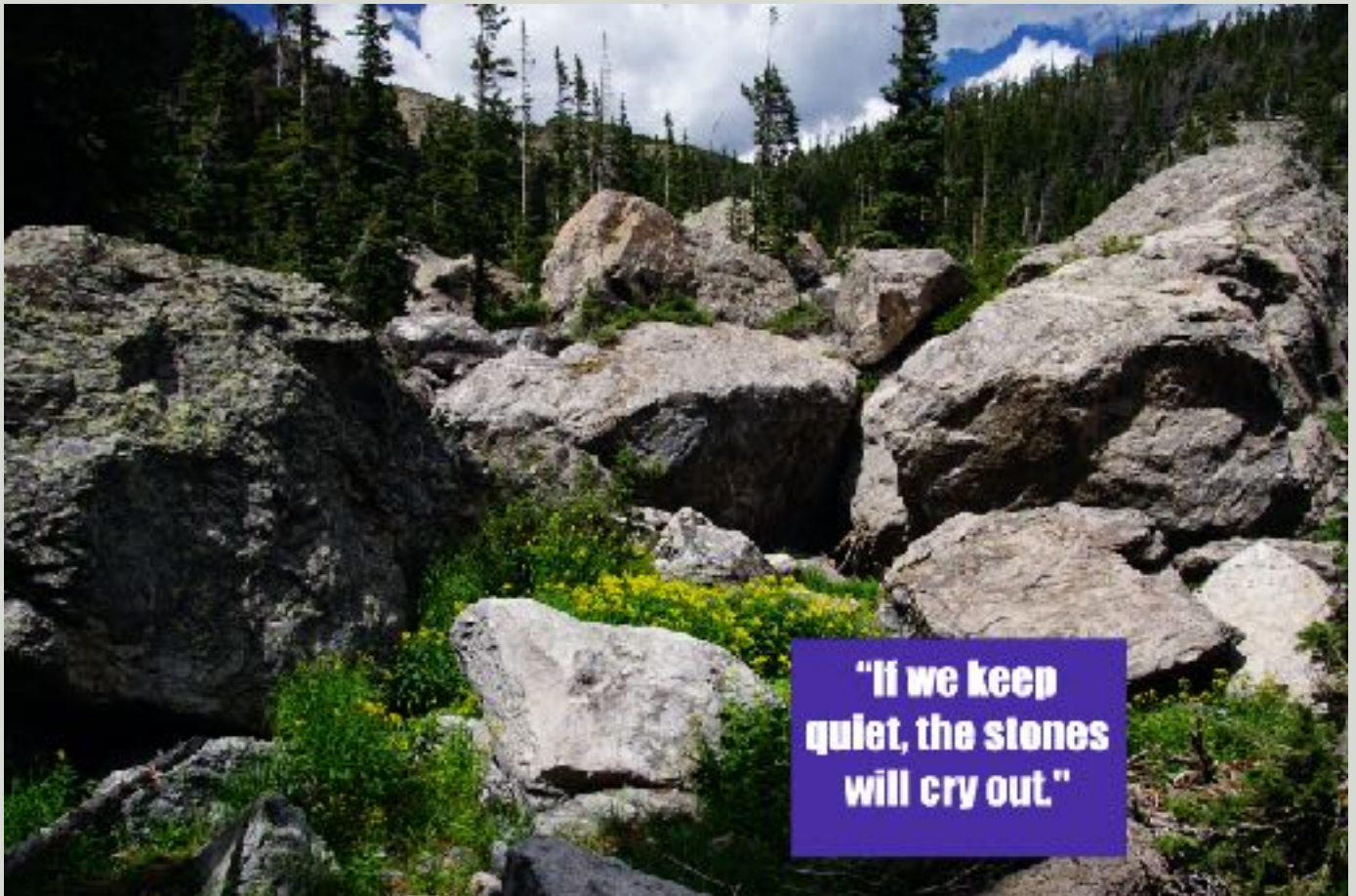
**"Praise Him Anyway!"**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Let that sink in. Nothing any of us are going through will ever change God. He has been, and ever shall be, worthy of our praise. That is why 250 times in scripture we are told to praise the Lord. When an admonition is repeated this many times we need to pay attention and do what it says.

We may feel discouraged and say we have nothing to praise the Lord for, but that's not true. He is Holy and He reigns over all the earth. He created all things and put breath in our lungs. His name alone is excellent and His glory is above all the earth. From Him, all things originate and through

Him, all things live and exist. Forever and ever He will be worthy of our praise!

And lest we forget, He does inhabit the praises of His people. When we choose to praise Him, we invite Him into our situation and that is why even when we don't feel like it, we need to praise Him anyway. I am sure after walking around Jericho seven times in the heat of the day the children of Israel did not feel like praising, but they did it anyway and when they did, the impenetrable walls of that great city fell to the ground. Praise Him and you will also see the obstacles you face fall before His might and His glory.



**"If we keep  
quiet, the stones  
will cry out."**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

# P R O P H E C Y   U P D A T E

## "Beware of Scarecrows!"

Bible prophecy is a fascinating subject that is probably needed more today than ever. I can't imagine how terrifying it would be if we had no knowledge of what God says in His Word about the future. God's message is always one of hope to those who have placed their trust in the Lord and have surrendered their lives to Him. For them, the future will always be bright!

The main task of every Bible prophecy teacher should be to interpret current events through the lens of scripture. Indeed, it is very exciting when someone can point out that what is happening today was foretold by God thousands of years ago. It reminds us that there is a God, and He is in total control. However, having said that I must warn you that not everything you hear should be believed.

Sometimes in an effort to come up with new material, prophecy teachers stretch the scriptures to the point where their conclusions become bizarre and ludicrous. Perhaps they think we are all like the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz that didn't have a brain. Well, we aren't. We may not have a degree in theology, but God has given us a brain and we shouldn't be afraid to use it.

A while back we all learned that scientists have observed that the earth is spinning faster and thus our days are getting shorter. According to the National Physical Laboratory in England, the earth had its shortest day ever recorded on June 29, with the day ending 1.59 milliseconds sooner than usual. I found this curious, but certainly not earth-shaking nor in any way a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Apparently, I was mistaken.

In July I found a Bible prophecy teacher who was informing all of us that this was a fulfillment of something Jesus said about end-time events. Are you curious? Here is the scripture reference he gave.

### **Matthew 24:21-22 KJV**

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

He linked these two verses with the fact that on June 29 the earth spun 1.59 milliseconds faster than normal and this was proof that we are now in the beginning stages of the great tribulation Jesus spoke of in verse 21.

Being the student I am, the first thing I did was to look up the word, "days" to see if it could be referring to a shortening of a literal 24-hour day. Yes, it could be, but that would be a rare use of the word. Instead, the Greek word used here almost always refers to a time period of many days.

(Not a literal 24-hour day being shortened.)

The exact same Greek word is used 154 times in the New Testament and almost always refers to a time period. The first example is Matthew 2:1.

### **Matthew 2:1 KJV**

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the **days** of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem...

Obviously, it is talking about a time period and not a literal 24-hour day. Our esteemed prophecy teacher might counter by saying, "But you must admit that Matthew 24 **could be** talking about a literal day being shortened." To which I would respond by saying,

**"What are you, the Scarecrow?"**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!