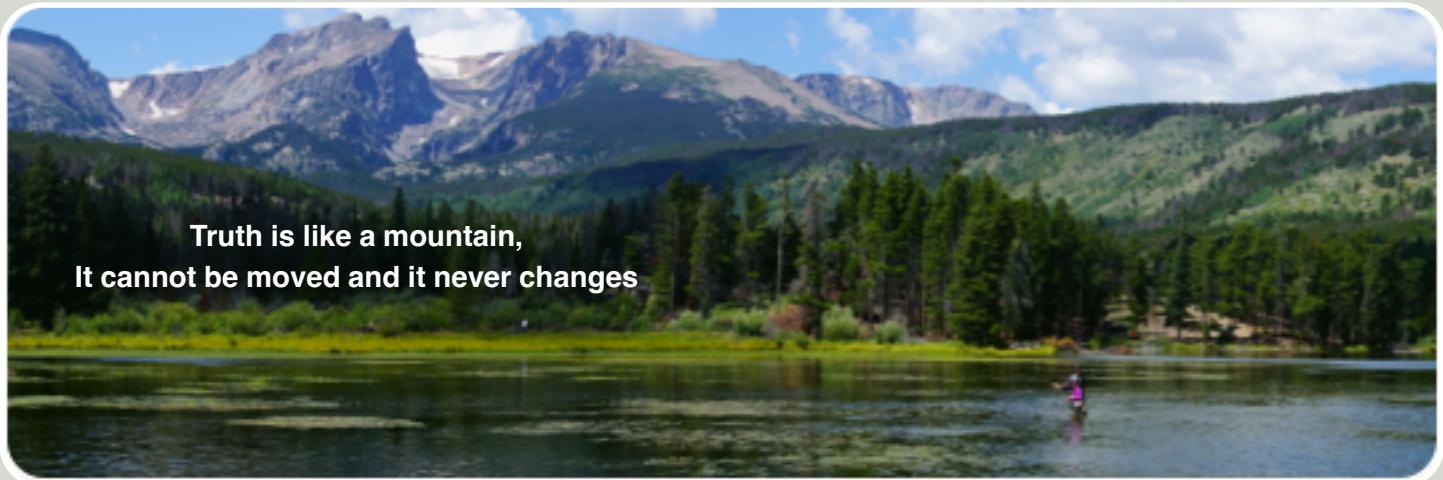


JUNE 2025

"TRUTH"

A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY



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

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UPDATE

On July 6th, Miss Linda and I will celebrate our 62nd wedding anniversary. It has been 62 years of adventure and blessing that far exceeded anything we could have ever dreamed. We are filled with gratitude and thankfulness for God's amazing goodness.

To celebrate our anniversary, we thought it would be fun to write separate articles on what it takes to have a long, happy marriage. We have not collaborated except to agree to limit our discussions to just three points. Next month, we will bring you a woman's view and a man's view of what it takes to have a happy marriage.

We want you all to know that we are just normal people who have had to learn how to do this thing called marriage. It did not come easily or naturally. We had to work hard at it! But we want you to know that the reward has far exceeded the investment we had to make. We hope you will be blessed by what we have learned in the past 62 years.

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Why So Many Laws?"

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 Bible contains many commandments. The 10 commandments are at the top of the list, but that is only the tip of the iceberg. According to Mosaic law, there are 613 commandments. That is a bit overwhelming! When considering this, one has to wonder why God felt such a copious number was necessary. There has to be a purpose. I hope to unpack this in this article and give you a fresh appreciation of God's wisdom and love.

The Bible is far simpler than most people realize, and as we attempt to answer why there are so many commandments, we again see its simplicity. I want to look at one verse of scripture that gives us the answer and is very simple.

Deuteronomy 6:24 KJV

24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, **for our good always, that he might preserve us alive....**

There it is; God gave us the commandments "**for our good.**" It was not to create religious rituals but to give us keys that would unlock a life of blessing. This could be a very long study because it can be applied to every 613 commandments, but I shall only look at a few to show you how. Let's dive in.

Our first example will be God's commandments to parents to share the stories of His incredible miracles with their children. Linda and I have seen firsthand the impact this can have on a Child's life. Children will sit in rapt attention as you tell them the amazing things you have seen God do, and as they listen, they will have imprinted on their lives the truth that there is a God who still does amazing things. Their lives will forever be changed.

Another example is the Ten Commandments. How about, "Thou shall not steal." Ask the guy in prison who stole how that turned out for him. How about, "Thou shall not commit adultery." Ask the guy

who ignored that commandment how it went for him. Ask the guy who killed someone and is now on death row awaiting execution if he wishes he had obeyed God's commandments. I think by now, you are beginning to understand the purpose of the commandments of God.

We are given one other primary reason for all the commandments, and it is found in the book of Galatians.

Galatians 3:24 KJV

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Here, we learn that He gave us the commandments, knowing that we couldn't keep all of them and that when we failed, it would cause us to turn to Christ, where we would find forgiveness and true righteousness. Many a thief, many a murderer, and many an adulterer have found complete forgiveness and redemption when they turned to Christ. Once again, this reveals the infinite wisdom and love of our God.

In conclusion, God's commandments are not just a list of rules to follow but rather a reflection of His deep love and wisdom for His people. Far from being a burden, they are designed to be a guide for living a life of blessing, protection, and peace. They teach us how to live in harmony with each other and God, and most importantly, they point us toward Christ, the ultimate fulfillment of the law. Our inability to perfectly keep these commandments reminds us of our need for a Savior. God's plan for us, woven into the commandments, shows His desire to lead us to righteousness and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. Ultimately, these statutes are meant to preserve and bless us, not only in this life but for all eternity.



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“LEAN ON HIM”

Life is amazing. Sometimes, we feel so blessed and favored by God; He seems as close as the breath in our lungs. At other times, we feel exhausted and unable to continue. The heavens are

silent, and God seems to have gone on a Caribbean cruise. We have no idea what to do, and no matter what course of action we take, it appears the outcome will be bad. If you have never felt like this, don't criticize those who do because you never know what tomorrow may bring your way. This is life!

Recently, I was facing some challenging situations and began to feel overwhelmed. As I tried to figure out what to do, something supernatural occurred. Suddenly, it felt as if Jesus was sitting in front of me, looking me directly in the eye; he asked, "Why don't you lean on Me?" What a novel idea! Why didn't I think of that?

This left me with many questions. What does it mean to lean on the Lord? How can we know if we are truly leaning on Him? What steps do we need to take to genuinely rely on the Lord? I had more questions than answers, so I turned to the Word for guidance. Unfortunately, the King James Version provided very little help. In the few instances where

"lean" appeared, it was typically used as an adjective rather than a verb. A good example is the "lean" cattle in Pharaoh's dream in Egypt. I suppose the best we can infer from this is that when we don't lean on the Lord, we ourselves become lean. While that may be a terrible application of scripture, there is some truth in it.



However, all was not lost. When I went to the Amplified Bible Classic Edition, I found the word "lean" used dozens of times as a verb, and each time, it was connected to the word "trust." Here are a couple of examples.

Psalm 4:5 AMPC

5... **trust** (lean on and be confident) in the Lord.

Psalm 25:2 AMPC

2 O my God, **I trust**, lean on, rely on, and am confident in You....

I found this connection 27 times in the Book of Psalms alone. As I observed this consistent pattern, it became clear that leaning on the Lord meant trusting Him. You can't claim to be leaning on Him if you're not trusting Him. My husband would say, "This is not rocket science." However, even though it is a simple concept, some find it difficult.

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It seems human nature only wants to turn to God and trust Him after all else has failed. Many place their trust in their wealth, connections with others of great influence, their counselors, or their good karma, only to find that all these cannot help when they need help the most. That is why the Bible warns us about trusting things such as riches and strength that will ultimately fail us.

Another problem we encounter when we choose to trust God as a last resort is that if we have never learned to trust Him in the good times, how will we trust Him when the bad times come? Psalms 9:10 shows us how trusting Him is supposed to be developed in our lives.

Psalm 9:10 AMPC

And they who know Your name [who have experience and acquaintance with Your mercy] will lean on and confidently put their trust in You, for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek (inquire of and for)....

I love this verse! It puts trust in the context of a lifestyle rather than something we go to as a last resort. It is based upon God's mercy and faithfulness, which we have experienced over the course of many years. When the bad times come, it is easy to lean on Him because we have become intimately acquainted with Him.

This requires a relationship and a growing trust built over time. Just as any meaningful relationship develops through shared experiences, challenges, and victories, so does our trust in God. The more we lean on Him in the small moments—when life is calm

and the skies are clear—the easier it becomes to lean on Him when the storms come.

So, if you find yourself struggling, feeling overwhelmed, or wondering where to turn, take a moment to stop and ask yourself: Am I leaning on the Lord? If not, consider turning to Him today, not just as a last resort, but as your constant support. Seek His mercy, and draw near to Him, for He is faithful and has never forsaken those who trust Him. The more we make trust a part of our daily lives, the more natural it becomes to lean on Him when the weight of the world seems too heavy to bear.

In the end, leaning on the Lord is not just about finding relief in difficult times—it's about living a life of confidence and peace rooted in the knowledge that He is always with us, guiding us and holding us up. Trust in Him, and He will sustain you, no matter what life brings your way.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

"What Are The Signs?"

This month, I want to clarify an area of confusion regarding Bible prophecy that most people don't even realize exists. It involves the signs that will precede Jesus' return and the church's rapture. Some people don't know these are two separate events, and many others have never sorted out what signs will accompany each.

Many prophecy teachers also fail to exercise caution when teaching about the signs of these two great events. The best example of this is found in Matthew 24:6-8 KJV.

Matthew 24:6-8 KJV

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors 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.

Despite what Jesus said, I have heard many messages where the speaker lists "wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, and pestilence" as signs that the rapture is near. Jesus clearly said that they are not! My point is that we often say something is a sign of either the return of Jesus or the rapture when it isn't.

Another example would be signs that indicate we are in the "last days" or "end times." These signs are also erroneously assigned to the rapture. While it is very tempting to lump all the signs together, doing so leads to error and confusion. God is a God of detail, and we would be wise to carefully observe the details He has given us.

This is especially true regarding the church's rapture and Jesus's return. The Bible contains over 300 references to Jesus's return because this will be the most significant event in human history. Because of this, the Bible also tells us there will be

many observable signs that will precede this great event.

On the other hand, very few scriptures speak of the rapture, and even fewer describe any signs that will accompany this great event. Some will disagree with what I have just said, but this is because they have been taught that many signs will point to the rapture. But have those teachings been right? Probably not.

When teaching about the signs connected with the rapture, teachers often go to Matthew 24-25. Is this right? Let's take a look. Matthew 24 begins with the disciples asking Jesus what signs will precede His return. **They did not ask anything about the rapture because they didn't even know there was such a thing.** This is because Jesus had not taught them about the rapture. The first time the rapture is mentioned in scripture is in 1 Corinthians 15. We think Jesus taught it because prophecy teachers often take Jesus's teachings on the Kingdom of God and apply them to the rapture. But the truth is, Jesus never talked about the church being suddenly caught up to meet Him in the air. This means the signs Jesus talks about in Matthew 24 and 25 refer to His return and should not be applied to the rapture.

I realize this is a bombshell that will shake up what many have always believed, but this is good because it causes us to study, and that is never bad. The first thing we should ask ourselves is: Where in the Bible do we find what signs we should look for that will indicate the rapture is imminent? You won't find any because the rapture will come as a complete surprise. It will happen on a day like today. There will be signs that we are living in the end times and that Jesus' return may be near, but there will be no signs indicating the rapture is imminent.