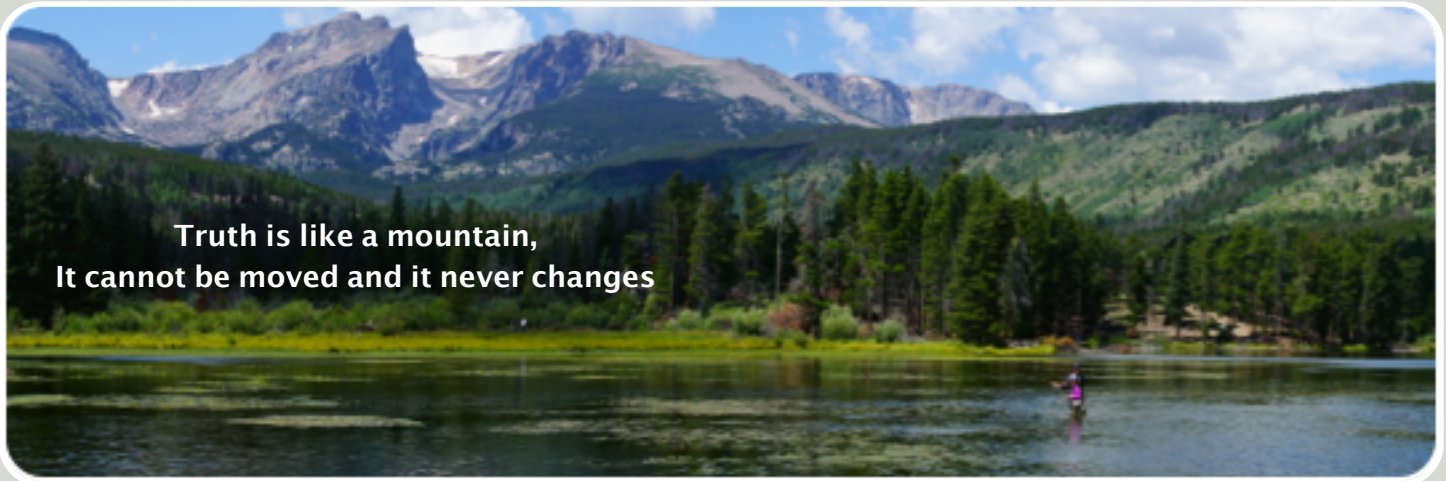


NOVEMBER 2024

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

We are publishing this on November 1st, only days away from an election day I consider the most important in American history. I also believe most people don't realize what is at stake.

The last four years have been a disaster for this nation. Inflation, homelessness, crime, open borders, and Russia's bold invasion of Ukraine have left America weakened and vulnerable. The Biden/Harris administration has failed America, and the thought of four more years of this is genuinely terrifying.

Equally terrifying is the realization that the church doesn't seem to be able to rise up and do anything about it. Where is the victorious church that is supposed to attack the gates of hell and prevail? Why are pastors afraid to take a bold stance and lead their congregations in a battle to reclaim our nation for righteousness?

IT IS TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO RISE UP!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Why Am I Here?"

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!

When we first published our newsletter, our dear friend, Mary Gonzales, volunteered to proofread it. She was such a blessing and faithfully continued doing this until a bad case of Covid made it impossible for her to continue. Rather than send out an appeal for someone to replace her, we decided to try an online service called Grammarly. Grammarly does a good job, but it has a problem: It does not understand spiritual concepts.

Recently, I sent someone a letter and wrote, "Every day, we pray that God will make us a blessing." Even though that sentence is straightforward and easy to understand, Grammarly had a problem with it. It insisted that the sentence read, "Every day, we pray that God will bless us." No matter how I tried to rewrite it, Grammarly couldn't accept that anyone would want to be a blessing!

This got me thinking: Why am I here? Did God have a divine plan for my life, and if so, what was it? Many people struggle with these questions, and as a result, they often feel empty and frustrated.

A while back, I read an article about Johnny Manziel, the famous football player who the Cleveland Browns chose as the number one draft pick in 2014. Here is what he said about that moment: "I had the chance to walk across the stage at Radio City Music Hall and be a No. 1 draft pick in the NFL. I had everything I could have ever wanted. I had money. I had fame. ... And, for some reason, when I got there and got everything I wanted, I think that was truly the most empty I had ever felt inside."

Johnny Manziel is not alone. Many have pursued their dreams and achieved what they set out to accomplish, only to find that it brought them no happiness or fulfillment. Others spend a lifetime feeling like failures because they cannot obtain their goals. If you relate to either of these scenarios, I want you to know that there is an answer.

When we retired, we had to revisit that question. Pouring our lives into Rez had brought us such fulfillment, but overnight, our lives had changed. Now, what did God want us to do? As we searched for an answer, we stumbled upon a great truth: **God's plan for our lives had not changed. His plan was never for us to build a large church; His plan was for us to bless as many people as possible.**

The church became large because, first and foremost, everything we did was done in an effort to bless people. Every thought and every action came forth out of this matrix. That is why we started RCS, Praise In The Park, and Fall Fest. The list goes on and on. We soon learned that the more we blessed people, the more people we had to bless. We had found the perfect formula for church growth.

Many pastors fail to understand this simple concept, and as a result, they resort to preaching a message contrary to God's Word in hopes it will be palatable to more people. When this happens, God's blessing is lifted, and they are doomed to failure. At Rez, we never experienced this because our first desire was to be a blessing to our community and those who chose to make Rez their church home.

I counsel you that no matter where God has planted you, begin each day by asking God to help you be a blessing to those you cross paths with. In the workplace, try to be a blessing to your boss and your co-workers. In your neighborhood, try to be a blessing to your neighbors. In your church, try to be a blessing to your pastor. When you go to a restaurant, bless the person serving you by leaving a generous tip. You will soon see God using you in amazing ways. I must warn you: Grammarly will not understand you, but be assured, God will, and it will put a smile on His face. You will have found God's perfect plan for your life.

God has put you here to be a blessing!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“It Is Time To Repent”

Repentance is necessary when we come to Christ; this is Salvation 101. If there is no need to repent, then we have no need of a savior, and the entire message of the cross becomes foolishness.

But we all know that is not how it works. Before we come to Christ, we are slaves to sin, and our thoughts and actions reveal how undone we are. This knowledge causes us to come to Christ, confess our sins, cast ourselves upon the mercy of God, repent, and turn from our wickedness. To reject this message is to remain in our lost, deplorable condition with no hope of salvation.

This is the basic message of salvation, but there is something else we need to consider. **After coming to Jesus, what part should repentance continue to play in the believer's life?** Few have considered this question, and as a result, they may be in great danger. To help you understand this, I want to start by looking at the world we live in.

We are living at a time when sin and rebellion against God and His Word have become more rampant than ever, maybe even worse than what was happening before the great flood of Noah's time

and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's time. Finding movies without vulgar language and immoral scenes has become almost impossible. Almost daily, we are told to accept sins as normal human behavior that God says are an abomination to Him. Because this is the environment we live in, we need to ask ourselves, what effect this is having on us? Are we becoming desensitized to the wickedness we live in? Let's take a look at that question.

The Bible teaches that we have all been given a conscience that helps us discern right from wrong. Every human has a conscience regardless of their spiritual or cultural condition. However, the Bible also teaches that sin can weaken or corrupt our conscience.

Titus 1:15 KJV

15...but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 KJV

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

These warnings suddenly become very relevant because they are specifically directed to those who will be living in "the latter times."

"It Is Time To Repent"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Billy Graham said this about our conscience:

"Tragically, however, our conscience—this inner moral compass that ought to point us to right and wrong—can become dulled and suppressed, and we may not even be able to hear its warnings. Instead, we deliberately choose to do wrong—and the more we do this, the more calloused or hardened our conscience becomes."

This is very serious because it places us in great danger.

1 Timothy 1:19 KJV

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

When I look at the church today, I cannot help but wonder if this verse describes our spiritual condition and where we are headed. Has our conscience become hardened? Far too often, the church looks very similar to the world. Not only do we look like the world, but we talk like the world. We embrace entertainers of the world even though they live ungodly lives and promote ungodly causes. In an effort to reach the world, many accept the sin of the world. How can we not see that we are headed for shipwreck?

I believe we are, and I submit our nation as proof. The United States of America is no longer "united." Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." That was a quote taken directly from the Bible, and you can be sure it will come to pass.

Our country is at war with itself and the outcome of that war is becoming very clear.

Without God's intervention, the nation we love will soon cease to exist. We are quickly reaching the point of no return, yet church leaders sound no cry of alarm. Why? God's Word declares that judgment must begin in the house of the Lord, which means the church must repent.

2 Chronicles 7:14 King James Version

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

It is not too late, nor impossible for God to turn this around, but if that is to happen, God's people must repent. It is time for the church to wake up and be the church described in the Bible.

Matthew 16:18 KJV

18....I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



"Keep Praying!"

Once every four years we have an issue of 'TRUTH' that is very difficult to write. We want to be relevant, but how can we write about something that has not yet happened? I speak of the outcome of the elections. I do not claim to know in advance who will be elected and God doesn't need to tell me because it would appear there are many others who already have this inside information. (And yes, I am being sarcastic.) So, what can I share that will apply no matter who is elected?

To answer that question, I must remind myself that no politician or political party can fix the mess we are in. No matter who our next president is, we will still be in deep trouble. Donald Trump was our president for four years and did a very good job. But, in spite of this, after four years, Trump was voted out of office, and we were forced to endure four years of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. My point is that we must not allow ourselves to be filled with either great joy or overwhelming sadness, no matter who is elected, because no politician can fix what is wrong with this nation. Currently, our nation is on a path of destruction, and this year's elections will not change that.

However, this does not mean we should sit around wringing our hands, expecting disaster and destruction to rain down on our nation. We have choices! Even if God has marked this nation for destruction, we still have choices.

The best proof of that is what happened to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. God marked that city for destruction, but because of His great mercy, He sent Jonah to offer them a chance to repent. When Jonah told them what God was going to do, the king of Nineveh called the people to repent.

Jonah 3:9-10 KJV

9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and **God repented** of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

God repented! Who has ever heard of such a thing? Yes, God changed his mind and spared that wicked nation. So, precedent has been set, and that is why you and I must never give up our hope for America. It does not matter which political party has gained control; God is the one who will make the final decision about the future of this nation and then bring His plan to pass.

I want to point out that there is a remnant of Bible-believing Christians who are praying fervently for this country. Will God turn a deaf ear to their cries for deliverance from evil? I find nothing in scripture that would make me believe such a thing is possible. God will not be limited by who is sitting in the Oval Office or which party controls Congress. He will do whatever pleases him, and man will never stop what God has ordained.

Already, I am seeing signs of new spiritual life springing up. Unfortunately, I am not seeing this happen in many churches, but throughout church history, God has never been limited by what churches were doing any more than by what party controlled Congress. God usually does not pour new wine into old wineskins but still makes new wine available to those who thirst for it.

My message is simple: Never give up hope because of what happens in politics. Keep praying with thanksgiving because your prayers are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds!

Isiah 43:19 KJV

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.