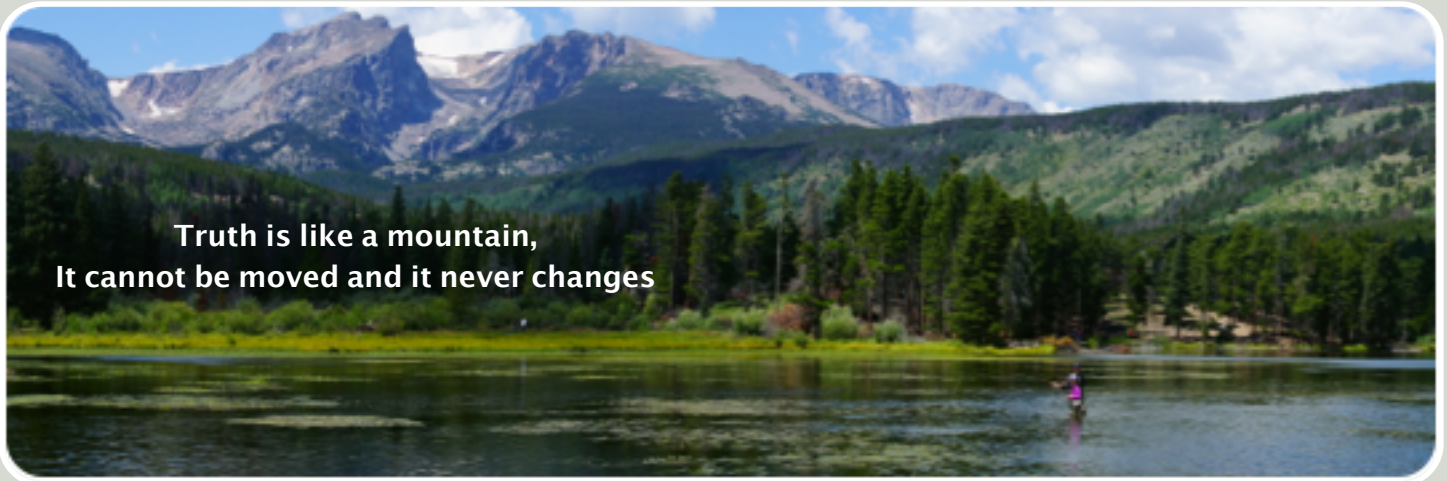


MARCH 2024

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

Our world continues its death spiral into oblivion, and with that comes the challenge for each believer to find a way to walk in victory no matter what is happening all around them. Victory is possible, but if we are to walk in it, we must let God's Word guide us.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This month, we bring you three great articles designed to help you live in God's best, no matter your situation. God has not left you or abandoned you!

Keep your eyes on Jesus!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Humans And Diamonds"

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!

Did you know that humans and diamonds have something in common? Well, they do. Diamonds are formed deep in the earth when carbon atoms are placed under intense pressure for long periods of time. And what about humans? The human body is made up of 18.5% carbon which will also form diamonds if placed under intense pressure. So, how does this apply to you and me?

About a month ago, I had breakfast with someone I had not seen in a couple of years. Naturally, our conversation started with each of us talking about how things were going, what our children were doing, how our health had been, etc. My friend shared that he had changed jobs, so I asked how he liked his new job.

He shared that he really liked what he was doing but said he didn't know how much longer he could continue because of the intense pressure of the job. We talked for quite some time about what was causing the pressure and what he might do to somehow alleviate it, and then, out of the blue, I said, "I want to remind you that diamonds are formed under intense pressure."

I don't know why I said that, but I strongly suspect it was not meant just for him. None of us like being put in a situation where each day we feel like an extremely heavy weight is pressing down on us, and yet that is exactly what life often gives us. Like my friend, that pressure may be job-related but can also come from medical issues, financial problems, or a failed marriage. The list is endless. We pray and ask God to make a way for us to escape this horrible pressure, but our prayers never seem to get answered. Nothing changes, and as time goes by, we begin to feel buried beneath the burden, and like a diamond deep in the earth, our world becomes a very dark place. From time to time, we feel some hope when a Bible teacher tells us that God has a wonderful plan for us and that we need to hold on until the time comes for that plan to

be revealed. But that future time never seems to find its way into our present.

I am sure that many reading this can relate to what I am saying. In fact, you may feel as if I am telling your story. I wish I could tell you how to escape your dark situation, but I can't. Instead, I only have one thing to say:

What you are experiencing has purpose!

The pressure-filled darkness in your present has a purpose; the pain you feel and your endless perplexity has a purpose. God is at work creating a diamond, and even though you feel like you are about to be crushed, God has you. You will come forth as a diamond so hard that nothing you will ever encounter will be able to break you! You may feel like a lump of coal, but never forget

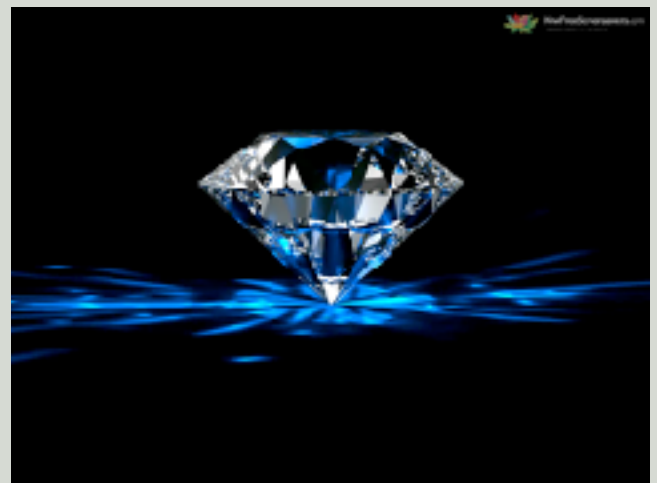
God is creating a diamond in the rough!

Speaking of that, as my friend and I were getting ready to leave the restaurant, I turned to him and said, "Next comes the cutting room where the diamond is cut and polished."

I don't think he got too excited about that.



Why just wear one, when you can be one!





A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Be Watchful!”

F a i t h f u l a n d a b s o l u t e l y t r u s t w o r t h y i s H e w h o i s c a l l i n g y o u [t o H i m s e l f f o r y o u r s a l v a t i o n] a n d H e w i l l d o i t. [H e w i l l f u l f i l l H i s c a l l b y m a k i n g y o u h o l y, g u a r d i n g y o u, w a t c h i n g o v e r y o u,

and protecting you as His own].

1 Thessalonians 5:24 AMP

What a wonderful verse! There are many wonderful verses in the Bible, but I think this has to rank up there with the best. To think that the God who created the universe is watching over us, guarding us, protecting us, and making us holy blows my mind. It becomes even more meaningful when you consider the world we are living in. Our world has become a very dark and ugly place. It is filled with hatred, violence, compromised corrupt politicians, crime, wars, and lukewarm churches that can only produce lukewarm Christians.

In addition to having to cope with all these things, our personal lives often become difficult because there are financial obligations and commitments we have become encumbered with, health issues, and concerns for our family. Thank God we have a God who is always watching over us!

But does all this mean there are no obligations incumbent upon us? For sure not. We can count on God to do His part, but the Bible clearly states that we must do our part. And what is our part?

Ephesians 6:10-11;18 King James Version

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

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Revelation 16:15 AMP

15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is he who stays awake and who keeps his clothes [that is, stays spiritually ready for the Lord’s return], so that he will not be naked—spiritually unprepared—and men will not see his shame.”)

Luke 21:36 AMP

36 Keep alert at all times [be attentive and ready], praying that you may have the strength and ability [to be found worthy and] to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man [at His coming].”

These are just three of the many scriptures that make it clear that our responsibility is to take care of our spiritual condition.

"Be Watchful!"
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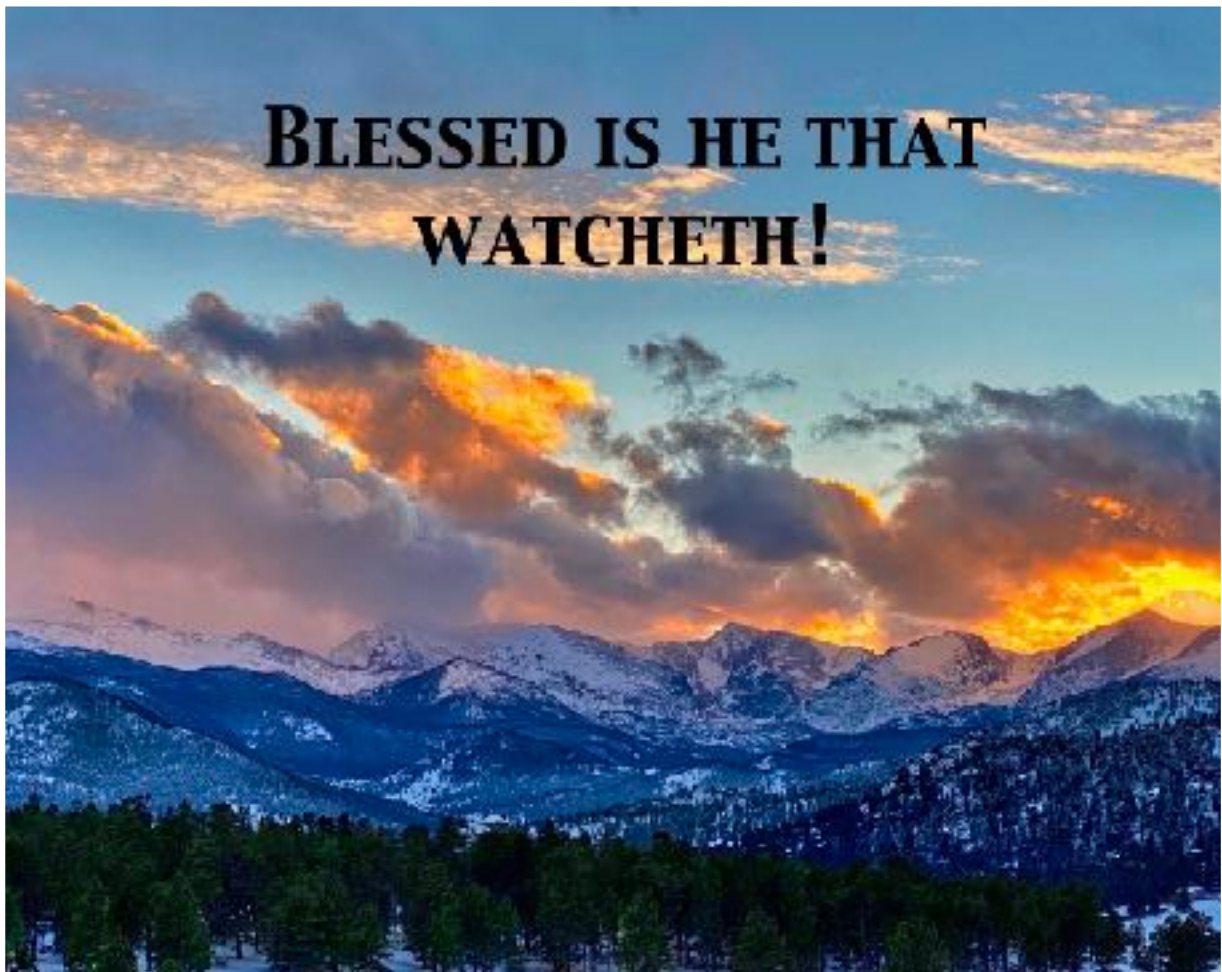
I fear that few Christians really take these admonitions seriously. Our lives seem so caught up with things the Bible tells us are, "temporal". That is a word the King James Bible uses that simply means: "Here today and gone tomorrow." And what might those things be?

2 Corinthians 4:18 KJV

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

As usual, the Bible is very plain and easy to understand. Anything you can see with your physical eye today will pass away in the future. That includes all the hatred, bloodshed, and violence. It also includes all the material things we work so hard to obtain. I must ask, why do we spend so much of our lives pursuing things that will pass away while neglecting the eternal things?

WATCH AND PRAY



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

"How To Know You Are Ready"

No subject I can think of evokes greater debate than the rapture. Most of this debate has centered around the timing of the rapture in relation to the great tribulation, with some saying it will occur before the tribulation while others insist it will happen either in the middle or at the end of the tribulation. Then there are those who don't believe a "Rapture" will ever happen. But, believe it or not, the debate does not stop there.

Recently a pastor sent me a very long article that debated who would go up in the rapture and who would be left behind. He was very concerned because he felt he was obligated to do everything he could to ensure his flock was properly informed about this issue. What a breath of fresh air!

As I have said, the article was very long and covered what various writers have said about the subject. I noticed that all of them arrived at their conclusions based on what Jesus taught in parables about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. As I read, I noticed a pattern I have always tried to avoid.

They would go to a parable and then try to find proof for their position by focusing on a specific detail of something Jesus said. Unfortunately, this did not result in the question being answered in such a way that the debate could end. I think there is a better approach.

I have always believed that the best way to view the parables of Jesus is to look for the one basic thing He wanted to help us understand. Each parable has one basic truth that we should look for, and if we follow that guideline, it should answer the question of what being ready for the return of Jesus should look like.

As we study the parables, it becomes obvious that not everyone will find the return of Jesus to be a blessing. Five times Jesus said, "There shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." So,

how can we know we are ready? Or can we know? There is one parable that I feel answers the question best and leaves no room for debate. It is found in Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:44-46 KJV

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

There it is; it is plain and simple. When He returns, you will be blessed if you are doing what He has asked you to do; if you are not, you won't. So, let me ask you a question, what has He told you to do? Believe it or not, some people who attend church every week cannot answer that question. They are clueless.

They are clueless because they have no personal relationship with Jesus. He is not their Lord, and they do not see themselves as His servants. They may attend church and believe in Jesus, but they have never committed their lives to Him. Church, I want you to know that this is not true Christianity. True Christianity calls us to live in obedience to our Lord and Savior. We are not called to offer lip service only but to live a life of complete surrender to the will of God, and this is not debatable.

So, I will ask you again, what has God told you to do? If you cannot answer that question, I strongly suggest you set aside a part of each day to get into God's Word, pray, and wait on the Lord for marching orders.

Get ready for your life to be radically changed!