

**AUGUST 2021**

# "TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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

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## UPDATE

If during the last month, any of you have felt led to lift us up in prayer, we thank you. Shortly after publishing our July issue, we had our computer die. While this proved to be costly, that was not the biggest issue. The Mac store was able to retrieve and transfer all our data, but then the trouble started.

The new computer we purchased had the latest software, so many of the programs we used in the past had to be updated. Unfortunately, the new programs were very different from the old which meant that once again, we didn't know how to use them. UGH! 😞 😞

We learned two valuable lessons. First: We will never come to a place where we don't need to trust the Lord. Accept it! Second: When you feel led to pray for someone, just do it. There is a reason God wants you to pray. Believe it!

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "What Do You See?"

**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!**

All our readers know about the Cameron Peak fire that roared through Northern Colorado last year. For us this was not just another wildfire we heard about on the evening news. It was a very personal event that impacted us and our neighbors when it burned through a part of our subdivision. Some lost their homes and many others were faced with the colossal task of removing hundreds of ugly, burned trees that presented both an eyesore and an ongoing threat of falling and doing great harm.

Late last year our grandson, Jordan, came up for a few days and we cut and removed about 10 of these trees. Then a very harsh winter set in and all tree removal came to a stop. In May we hosted a family reunion for Miss Linda's siblings which was followed by a grandson's wedding. For us, family takes precedent over everything else; the burned trees could wait.

Yes, they could wait, but that didn't make them go away. In June life started to return to normal, but then we experienced the most intense heat wave we have ever had up in the mountains. Temperatures soared into the 90's and I decided that getting the burned trees cut down and removed would have to wait for cooler weather. This is when I had my encounter with a wonderful truth.

Miss Linda and I love to eat our breakfasts out front in the morning shade. It is the coolest spot we have and we love the sound of the fountain I built. (I am really proud of that fountain!) It is perfect except for one thing - those ugly, black, burned trees refused to magically disappear. They spoiled our view, but even worse, they constantly reminded me of the task I still faced.

I found it amazing that these dead, burned trees seemed to actually continue to grow. With each day

that went by, they seemed larger and uglier. This was indeed a miracle!

Then they developed the supernatural ability to control my thoughts and emotions. I started to feel like I was carrying a heavy weight and each morning I felt my stress level growing. Those burned trees had become demonic!

We have all been there and done that, and it does not take a wildfire for it to happen. I would dare say that every person reading this can find something in their life that may be controlling them in exactly the same way. It feels like a heavy weight and it stresses you out. How are we to deal with it? Is there a secret that will give us relief?

Yes, there is an answer. Stop, be still, and listen to what God is saying. I truly believe I could have gotten victory over those trees much sooner had I taken time to be still before the Lord and listen to what He had to say. Our excuses for why we can't do this may be very valid, but excuses change nothing; they only enable us to continue avoiding the thing we know we should be doing. If you want help, you must take the time to be still and give God a chance to give you the help you need.

This is what I did on June 15th. I am a morning person, so I got up about 6:00 AM and went out front to enjoy the cool and quiet of the day. Unfortunately, and just overnight, the burned trees had nearly doubled in size! Once again, I felt troubled and stressed, but as I sat quietly before the Lord, I heard Him ask, "What do you see?" I responded by saying, "What kind of question is that? I see burned trees that need to be cut down and hauled away." Again, I heard the Lord say, "Look again, what do you see?" This was repeated several times until my eyes were finally opened and I said, "Lord, I see green trees."

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"What Do You See?"  
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The photo above is the exact spot I was looking at. If I asked you, "What do you see?" you would probably say, "What kind of question is that? I see green trees." And you would be right. But I must point out that the photo on the right is a small cropped portion of the photo on the left. The reason I was struggling emotionally was because I focused on the negative to the point that I lost sight of the blessing of God's miraculous intervention. Believe me when I tell you that very easily, every tree in both photos could have been completely burned. Many of my neighbors experienced that heartbreak.

So, what is my point? I am not telling you to ignore the burned trees in your life. They probably are not going to go away without some effort on your part. But I am telling you to keep focused on how many green trees you have. Earlier I said, "I would dare say that every person reading this can find something in their life that may be controlling them in exactly the same way. It feels like a heavy weight and it stresses you out." Now I am telling you to remember all the things you have to be thankful for, and don't allow a few burned trees to cause you to lose sight of God's faithfulness



I also need to point out the obvious; there are many more green trees than there are burned trees with brown needles. Perhaps you are feeling as if this is not the case in your life, but you may be wrong. When I read Facebook posts, I quickly become aware that even in times of great trial and trouble, some folks always find a reason to offer praise and thanksgiving to their Lord. In fact, there have been times when I stood in amazement at their attitude of praise. Truly they are an inspiration to all of us.

In contrast are those who only report how difficult their life is and constantly ask everyone to pray for them. Perhaps what they need to do is ask God to show them the green places in their life. Trust me...if you know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you are dwelling in green pastures.

**Philippians 4:8 Worldwide English (New Testament)**

"Here, my brothers, are some things I want you to think about. Think about things that are true, honest, right, clean and pure, things that are lovely, and things that are good to talk about. If they are good, and if they bring praise to God, think about these things."



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



## Is The Church Relevant?

Is the church of today relevant? This is a question that has haunted church leaders for decades. In 1968 Christianity Today magazine addressed this question and here is part of what

they said.

### **Christianity Today-October 11, 1968**

"Much is being said to the effect that the Church is no longer being relevant to the world in which we live. A prominent entertainer said that the Church has no meaning to young people because it has no answers, either for their personal problems or for the problems of the world."

I have never been one to place much value on what entertainers have to say. It seems to me that most of them need to get their own lives fixed before they try to tell the rest of us how to live. However, this is an indictment that at least needs to be explored. Has the church in America become irrelevant? If so, what has caused this and how can it be fixed?

Before I get into that, I must be sure you understand that I am not one of those who feel criticism is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Nothing grieves me more than to see churches painted as evil and of no value. Even if a church has ceased to be relevant, it still has value. Some may be unable to see this, but I assure you it is true.

When you pastor for half a century, your view of things is very different than that of someone who spent fifty years facing the other direction. You realize that church is more than just what happens on Sunday mornings. Real church is what happens the other six days of the week. It involves people with real needs reaching out to one another in

tangible ways and holding one another up in prayer. It involves births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. It includes both celebrations and times of weeping with those you have come to know and love. And none of that changes, even if the message of the church is irrelevant to a dying world.

But this does not mean church leaders should be given a free pass when it comes to the issue of the church being relevant. We are living in a time when our world has been thrust into intense chaos. Every day we are confronted with news of disaster and death. This is not just confined to those who live somewhere else, but far too often happens right where we live.

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## "Is The Church Relevant?"

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I want to also point out that this chaos is not limited to just natural disasters; there is also moral disaster. For some strange reason, men want to masquerade as women and women want to become men. Relentlessly we are pressured to accept that men wanting to marry men is normal. Women murder their own children and children murder their parents. Racial hatred has become epidemic, and hatred of police and authority has become the norm.

#### **Our world is totally broken!**

It is fair to ask, "Where is the voice of the church in all this?" Now more than ever it should be easy for the church to provide relevant answers that bring a guiding light to a very dark world. But this is not the case. The world has no answers and unfortunately, the church also seems to have no answers. Why?

The answer to that question is found in the Christianity Today article I quoted from earlier. The article goes on to say:

"It becomes utterly irrelevant when it preaches a Christ who is not the Christ of the Bible but has been divested of his supernatural and miraculous nature; when its primary concern is with the condition of the prodigal in the far country, trying to make him happy, comfortable, and prosperous rather than to bring him home to his Father..."

This is so right on that it shocks me. It brushes aside all the debate and cuts right to the heart of the issue by boldly declaring that Jesus has the power to change broken lives; and that the church becomes irrelevant when this message is abandoned. It saddens my heart to say that it appears this is happening today. So many churches seem to want to make the sinner happy and comfortable in their sin rather than tell them the truth. The truth is, sinners are living in a filthy pig

pen and they need to return to their Heavenly Father and allow Him to clean them up.

The Christ of the Bible did not come to coddle sinners; He came to offer them a way to escape the bondage of their sin. He came to offer them a new life as born-again creatures. This is the Christ of the Bible, this is still His message, and it is more relevant today than ever. This is also the message the apostle Paul preached.

#### **Romans 12:2 Amplified Bible**

"And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you]."

I fully realize some will not agree that this message will make the church relevant. For many, the message of "love" is what they believe has been missing in the church. Well, you have your right to believe whatever you want, but I promise you, your love will never change anyone. In fact, God's love alone will never change anyone. God loves the entire world and yet the world remains broken. Why? It is because man has rejected God's love and His invitation to come and experience something totally life-changing.

What you must understand is that I am simply saying that Jesus still has the power to heal broken lives. He has come to set the captive free and to bind up broken hearts. But this can only happen when the broken humble themselves, cry out for His mercy, and completely surrender their lives and their futures to Him.

**This message will never cease to be relevant.**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

# PROPHECY UPDATE

## "Days of Deception"

### PART 3

In this series we have looked at two deceptions that have become a part of our modern religious culture and should be avoided at all cost by anyone who calls themselves a true Christian. This month we look at another deception that is totally offensive and disgusting. It is something churches seldom talk about and when they do, they seem more concerned for the welfare of the guilty than their victims. I speak of the atrocity of abortion, but I refuse to sanitize it. I will call it what it is; it is murder. It is selfish women who murder their own defenseless, innocent babies. How dare anyone call it anything else and how can any woman do such a horrible thing to her own child?

Since 1973 when the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that murdering your own children was lawful, over 60,000,000 innocent babies have been slaughtered. Trust me, the day is coming when the world will find out that the United States Supreme Court is not supreme. The judges who made that decision in 1973 will stand before The Supreme Court of Heaven and will be held accountable for the murder of every precious, innocent life that was slaughtered.

The murder of our children is a crime against humanity that will not go unpunished by a righteous God. In Jeremiah's day, the people of Israel were sacrificing their children to the idol Baal, and God did not turn a blind eye to it. He sent Jeremiah with a dire warning.

#### **Jeremiah 19:3 New Living Translation**

"Say to them...I will bring a terrible disaster on this place, and the ears of those who hear about it will ring!"

Yes, it is a sin that God will judge, but is it deception? It has to be. I find it amazing that some

women who call themselves "Christian" have tried to justify this despicable act as being the right thing to do. Some say that by doing this they have spared their child the horrors of life they would have faced had they been born into this world. This is so twisted that it boggles my mind. How deceived must someone be to murder their own child and then say it was the right thing to do?

#### **This is the ultimate deception!**

Let's let the Word of God expose this as the total deception it is. In Romans Chapter 1, Paul begins his letter to the church at Rome by talking about the total depravity of man. He devotes five verses to the sin of homosexuality and in verses 29-30 lists 17 other gross sins. Then in verse 31 he describes them as:

#### **Romans 1:31 Modern English Version**

"...without natural affection, calloused, and unmerciful..."

The Greek word for affection is "astorgos" and its definition is: **"hard-hearted towards kindred--without natural affection."** The verse also says that they are "unmerciful." I ask you; how much mercy has been extended to the unborn when they are poisoned, chemically burned, ripped piece by piece from their mother's womb, and thrown into a garbage can? The word "calloused" has to be the right word to describe these murderers.

Ecclesiastes 3 says, "There is a time to be born and a time to die." Any reasonable person would agree that the time to die must come after the time to be born. Those who say otherwise are rejecting what the Bible plainly teaches, and in so doing have become a part of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH