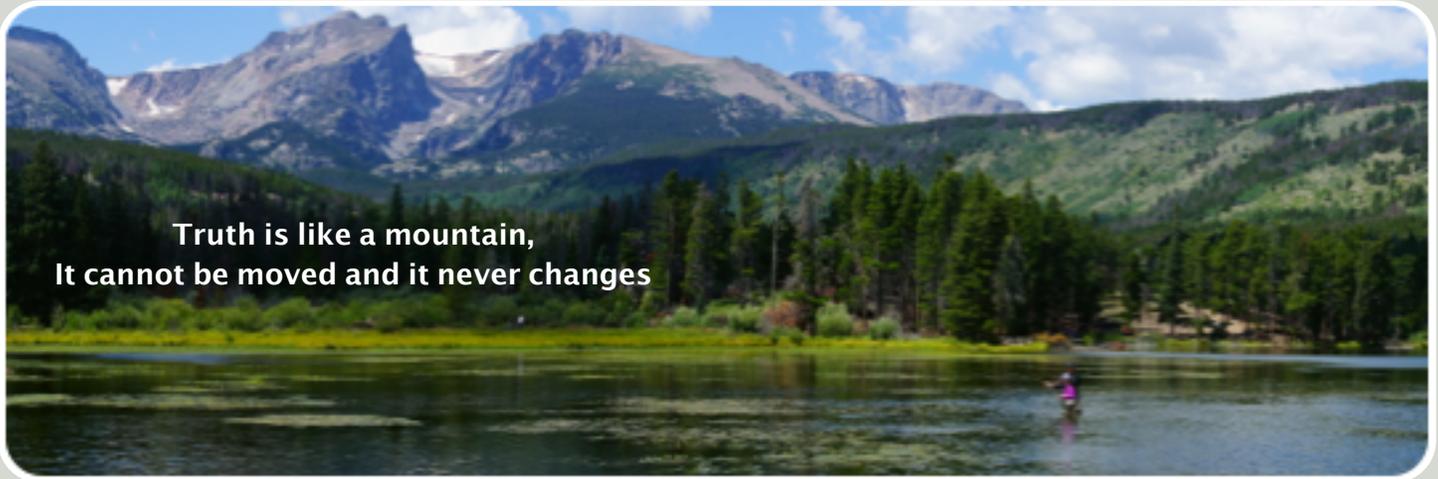


APRIL 2021

“TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE ARTICLE

“What Brings You Pleasure?”

Page 2-3

A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA:

“Delinquent Dads”

Page 4-5

PROPHECY UPDATE:

“A Miracle In The Making”

Page 6

UPDATE

We want to say a special thank you to those who have shared our Facebook post and Linda’s Instagram post each month. You need to know that we have seen a direct connection between the total number of views and total number of shares we get monthly. Many do not realize how great an influence they can have by simply sharing our post.

Usually, we have between 2000 and 3000 views. However, a couple months ago we had the highest number of shares we have ever had, and for the first time ever, our views reached nearly 4000. It was then we realized the connection.

While there is certainly reason to criticize Facebook, it remains a wonderful way to stay in touch with one another, share prayer needs, and get the word out about the TRUTH newsletter. We wanted you to know that you make a difference when you share our post.

FEATURE ARTICLE: "What Brings You Pleasure?"

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!

Last month Miss Linda brought us an amazing article about what brings God pleasure. She built her article around Psalm 149:4.

Psalm 149:4 Amplified Bible

"For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify the humble with salvation."

From this verse she observed that the pleasure God gets when He looks at us is not derived from seeing our good works, but rather from seeing His amazing work of salvation. Our good works will always be as filthy rags in His eyes, but His work of salvation is a beautiful thing that will always bring Him great pleasure. He has taken fallen and broken humanity and has beautified them with salvation.

I must confess, this thought had never crossed my mind. If someone had asked me, "When God looks at you, what might He see that would bring Him pleasure?" I am very sure I would not have given the right answer. Certainly, what He told Isaiah is true.

Isaiah 55:8 God's Word Translation

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,..."

As I considered this, I began to think about what brings us pleasure. We are a society that pursues pleasure like none before, so it is imperative that we answer some questions. Are the things that bring us pleasure the same as the things that bring God pleasure? If not, are we missing the true pleasures God wants us to experience?

I want to start by reminding you that pleasure is not a sin.

Psalm 16:11 New King James Version

"You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

As you can see, God does not consider pleasure to be a sin. But how we go about getting it and what we draw pleasure from is where we can get into trouble. If we don't get this right, the pleasures we experience will be both temporary and possibly even destructive. To observe this, all we need to do is look at our own lives. I am very sure many of us can look back and see just how destructive the pleasures of sin were. This is something that will never change.

We must also consider that pleasure obtained from the wrong things will always be very temporary. Here each of us could write a book using our own life as our source of illustrations. Your favorite sports team wins a championship and it brings you great pleasure. But as all Denver Bronco fans can attest, you had better enjoy those pleasures while you can because the next five years may bring you nothing but grief and frustration.

Another illustration would be our material possessions. We have all experienced the pleasure of buying something and being so excited about it only to find our pleasure short-lived when it breaks, or our neighbor gets a newer version of the same product. I do not need to take any more space to show you what I want you to see. We have all been there and done that. Somewhere in our closet is the T-shirt we bought.

(Mine is a Bronco jacket from 2015.)

So, must we wait until we walk through the gates of heaven and stand in His presence to experience pleasure that lasts for all eternity? No, but we must come to the realization that true and lasting pleasure can only be obtained by following the example God has given us. His pleasure came from seeing our lost condition and providing for us what we couldn't provide for ourselves. This is the exact same way we must think if we want to experience lasting pleasure that is not destructive.

“What Brings You Pleasure?”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This kind of pleasure will never come from obtaining material possessions, but rather from putting someone else's needs before our own. It comes from giving, not getting. It comes when we pour our lives out so someone else can see their life turned around and forever changed. Tell me, what can possibly bring more pleasure than that?

Unlike Miss Linda's article, this is not a new thought. We all know that God has called us to a life dedicated to serving others, and yet we seem incapable of making this calling more important than catering to our own selfish desires and needs. In fact, for most, the idea of purchasing something for someone else instead of ourselves isn't even considered an option. It's amazing! We can afford to buy almost anything we want, but when it comes to giving to someone else, we suddenly develop an overwhelming feeling of being poverty-stricken.

What is the root problem and how can we fix it? I will show you the answer, but you may not like it.

Galatians 5:13-14 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

“For you, brethren, were [indeed] called to freedom; only [do not let your] freedom be an incentive to your flesh and an opportunity or excuse [for selfishness], **but through love you should serve one another.**

14 For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied with in the one precept, **You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.”**

These are words we desperately need to hear today. Our failure to reach out and help those less fortunate than ourselves reveals that we do not love the way God loves. It also shows us why we continue to chase things that will never bring us lasting pleasure. Unlike God, we love ourselves more than we love others. We don't like to admit it, but we cannot argue with it. To prove it is true, I will ask one simple question: What was God's

motivation when He gave His own Son? The answer is found in the most famous verse in the Bible.

John 3:16 New King James Version

“...God so loved..., that He gave...”

The message is clear and simple. Love is what caused Him to give. Not only did He give His own Son, but the Bible declares it brought Him pleasure to do so.

Isaiah 53:10 Christian Standard Bible

“Yet the Lord was pleased to crush him severely.

When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the Lord's pleasure will be accomplished.”

You will find no greater pleasure in life than to follow the pattern God has given and reach out to others in an effort to change their life and their situation. The pleasure this brings is not fleeting, but permanent. It fills your entire being with something that can never be taken away.

But I must warn you, do not try to do this without first experiencing a heart change. Without a heart change your good deeds will be the product of condemnation rather than love, and therefore will leave you feeling empty and frustrated. Our good deeds should never be the product of condemnation, but rather a heart filled with God's love for mankind.

If this makes you feel uncomfortable, I would encourage you to take it to the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to fill you with the same love that caused Him to do whatever was necessary to free mankind from the bondage of sin. Make that your everyday prayer until you begin to see how God intends life to be lived. Then get ready to really begin to live. The words of Jesus tell us what will happen.

John 13:17 The Passion Translation

“So now put into practice what I have done for you, and you will experience a life of happiness enriched with untold blessings!”

AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“DELINQUENT DADS”

Over the years John and I have seen something that has grieved us beyond words. Thankfully it is very rare because it has resulted in terrible tragedy. I am speaking

about fathers who announce with great pride that they have decided the best way to raise their children is to just stay out of their lives and let them figure it out for themselves.

How they can totally ignore what Scripture teaches is a mystery to John and me. We call them “delinquent dads” because God’s Word plainly tells us to train up our children in the way they should go. If you are a parent and you love your children, you teach them how to live, and also correct and discipline them when it is necessary.

But the subject of this article is not about raising our children; it is about our Heavenly Father. He loves us too much to just leave us to ourselves and hope we somehow figure it all out. Like it or not, He tells us that He plans to teach us and, if need be, correct us. For sure, He is not a “delinquent dad.”

Proverbs 3:11-12 Amplified Bible

“My son, do not reject or take lightly the discipline of the Lord [learn from your mistakes and the testing that comes from His correction through discipline]; Nor despise His rebuke,

12 For those whom the Lord loves He corrects, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.”

We don’t think about this very often because today we are being taught that we are all okay and if we sin, God will have mercy and the blood of Jesus will cover it. But I must warn you: if you think this is the whole truth, you will suffer great harm because the Bible adds something else to the equation. How we live has consequences, and the death of Jesus on the cross did not change that. Galatians 6 teaches us that what we sow, we shall also reap.

This is why we should walk carefully before the Lord and submit our lives to Him every day. We should spend time in His Word because it is the manual for how life should be lived, and we should always be listening for His voice of correction. He has promised to correct us, and He is not a delinquent dad.

Don’t make the mistake of applying this only to the things that you might consider major sins such as adultery, fornication, and drunkenness. There can be little things in our life that God knows will hurt us if they are not dealt with.

Years ago, my husband was the director of Youth and Christian Education for the Assemblies of God in Nebraska and he traveled extensively. I was left at home with 3 toddlers for many days at a time and it drove me to drink...coffee!! I found myself drinking more and more coffee every day - to the point I began to feel very strung out. One day I heard the Lord tell me to stop drinking so much coffee.

"Delinquent Dads" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

At first I ignored it, but finally realized it was for my own good and the good of my family, so I obeyed. It made such a difference in how I felt emotionally, and I am so thankful I listened to the Lord's correction. I could have said, "Drinking coffee is not a sin," but I would have been the loser and failed to experience God's best.

I am quite sure there are many people reading this or listening to the audio who feel the Lord is dealing with you concerning things in your life. It may be big issues or it may be something as small as a cup of coffee, but I want to encourage you to yield to God's voice and surrender to His will. Father knows best!

Don't make the mistake of believing you can live any way you want and that God's love will cover it. God will warn you gently, but if you ignore His gentle voice, you may find yourself out behind the

wood shed. This can take many different forms and for sure none of us like any of them. But if that is what it takes, then we should all thank our Father for His intense love and faithfulness to His children.

Because God loves us so much, He will allow unpleasant things to happen in order to accomplish His perfect will for our lives. He knows every step we take, every thought we think, and every word we speak. Wisdom tells us that to live an overcoming life, we must submit to the Lord's discipline and correction and never abuse His grace.

Recently John and I came across a group called "We The Kingdom." They have a song called, "Holy Water" that really dovetails to this article. I thought it might bless you so I have included a link below.

Warning: It is Christian rock, but we loved it!

<https://youtu.be/AfY7CGU8sck>



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

PROPHECY UPDATE

"A Miracle In The Making"

In 1947 the United Nations approved a plan to partition Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. Then in May 1948, Israel was officially declared an independent state with David Ben-Gurion selected as the prime minister. While this historic event seemed to be a victory for Jews, what followed was an invasion by five Arab nations (Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon) in what became known as the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Arab violence has now continued for over 70 years.

What many do not know is that when Israel became a state, Iran immediately recognized Israel and for nearly 30 years the two states enjoyed a very good relationship. They worked together on many projects including the development of military weapons. During the 1967 war, it was Iran who supplied Israel with badly needed oil.

All this changed in 1979 when the Shah of Iran was overthrown and radical Muslims took control of the country. Today Iran is recognized as Israel's greatest enemy and has vowed to destroy the tiny nation. As part of this effort and with the help of Russia, she has established many military bases throughout Syria. The threat of these bases has forced Israel to conduct over 1000 air strikes.

It is a very bad situation and it appears as if it is about to get much worse. The entire world knows that Iran has been working nonstop to develop a nuclear bomb. The Obama administration gave Iran a huge gift when it agreed to the Iran nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This deal resulted in sanctions against Iran being lifted, but never stopped the development of nuclear weapons because regular inspections of all of Iran's nuclear facilities was never granted.

So how does all this fit into Bible prophecy? If we are to live free of fear, it is important to answer that question. In Ezekiel 38 there is a verse that may give us some insight.

Ezekiel 38:13 Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition

"Saba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tharsis, and all the lions thereof shall say to thee: Art thou come to take spoils? behold, thou hast gathered thy multitude to take a prey, to take silver, and gold, and to carry away goods and substance, and to take rich spoils."

I will not attempt to tell you who Saba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tharsis are, because to be honest, I don't know. Who they are is really not important. What is important is that although they object to what Iran is attempting to do, they do nothing to stop them. I believe the reason for this is because, at this point in time, Iran will have finally obtained nuclear capabilities and therefore, no one will dare attempt to stop them. In Iran, those in power will believe the time has come for them to fulfill their destiny which they believe is the total destruction of Israel.

From this we can assume that the US will have either ceased to be a world power, or that the one sitting in the Oval Office will be an anti-Semite. It has happened before so it could happen again.

For sure, it will not be Donald Trump!

The thing I find so encouraging is that obviously God knows what is ahead and He has already determined the outcome. This is a lesson we must apply to everything we see happening in our world today. It is so easy to look at our world and become overwhelmed, but this is not how God wants us to live. He wants us to be like David, who when confronted by Goliath and his death threats, had not even a moment of fear. His faith was unshaken because of his intimate relationship with God.

This gives us the formula for victory today. Know what the Bible says, believe it with all your heart, and stay in close fellowship with God. If that is where you are, you will never know a minute of fear. In fact, every time you see another dark cloud your excitement will rise, because you will know...

"Another great miracle is in the making."

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH