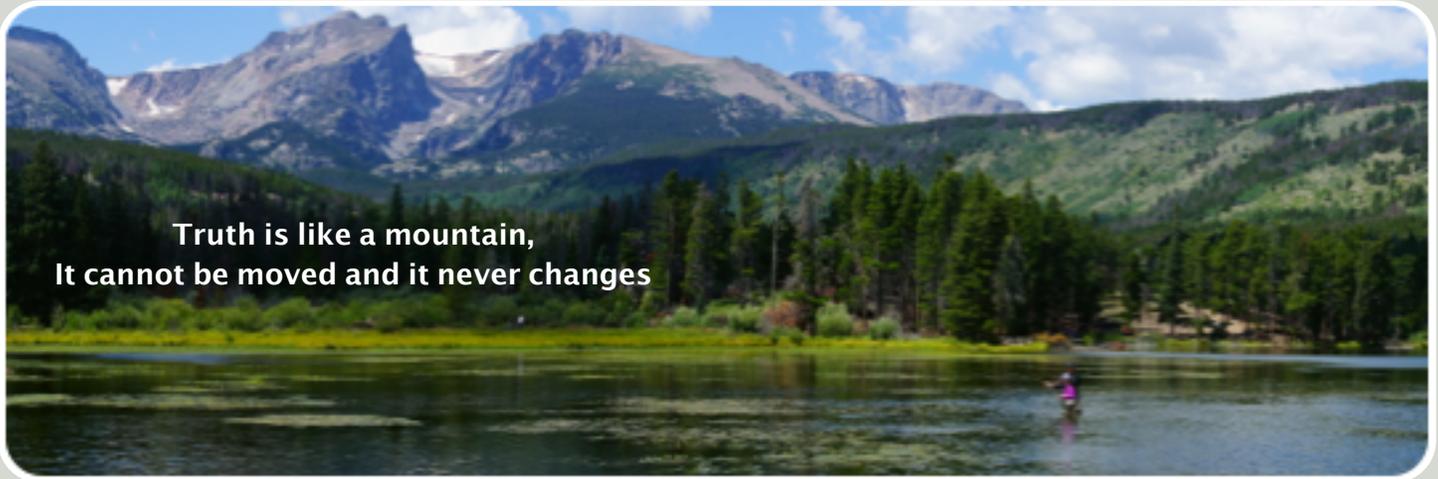


MAY 2021

“TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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UPDATE

It has now been about five months since Joe Biden took control of the country. Usually, when we elect a new president, it takes a year or two before we begin to see the effect of the changes they make, but such has not been the case with this administration.

As I write this, our southern border is being overrun with millions of illegal aliens attempting to gain entry into our country. The numbers are the highest in history. This has become a true humanitarian crisis.

Other crises have developed with Russia conducting a massive military buildup on the Ukrainian border, and open warfare breaking out between Israel and Iran with Israel destroying their nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz, and Iran conducting a missile attack on an Israeli owned tanker.

In our Prophecy Update I point out the reason all this is happening. Don’t miss it.

FEATURE ARTICLE: "What Brings You Pleasure?" **Epilogue**

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 I piggybacked on an article Miss Linda wrote back in February that dealt with the question of what brings God pleasure. Her article was filled with great insight and caused me to start thinking about what brings us pleasure. I came to the conclusion that the reason we struggle to find lasting pleasure is because we try to obtain it from things very different than the things God gets it from. God gets pleasure from giving, but we attempt to get pleasure from getting. As a result of this, the pleasure we get is temporary and sometimes even destructive. Yet, in spite of this, we continue to pursue pleasure from these things.

The space we have available for these articles is limited, so unfortunately, I was unable to include any illustrations of how this has worked in my own life. This is not good because the preacher should always live what he is preaching, and if he doesn't, he has no right to tell anyone else how to live. So, this month, I want to give you illustrations from my own life.

Back when I was pastoring, I accepted very few invitations to go out as a guest speaker because I have always believed a church deserves a full-time pastor/teacher, not a pastor/evangelist. However, the one exception I made was for my brother who pastored a church in Midland, Michigan. Once every two or three years he would invite me to come for a spiritual emphasis weekend. The schedule varied but would usually start on a Friday night and conclude on a Sunday night.

Miss Linda and I felt a special connection to this church because we had the wonderful privilege of giving input to my brother and his wife shortly after they accepted the church's invitation for them to come be their pastors. They came to visit us in Loveland and were so overwhelmed by the amazing praise and worship that they wanted to know how they could have it in their church. They sat at our

kitchen table with tears running down their cheeks and told us they were unwilling to have anything less. I assured them this was all God was looking for and if they truly meant what they were saying, they would have the desires of their heart.

They must have been sincere because that is exactly what happened. Their church in Midland soon became home to some of the best praise and worship I have ever experienced, and was the main reason we loved going there. We always left feeling spiritually renewed and overflowing with praise. When our heart is after God, He gives us the desires of our heart. Not only did they have amazing praise and worship, their congregation also had a great thirst for God's Word and were some of the easiest people to teach I have ever been exposed to.

We never asked for or required any financial remuneration, but they always would take up one love offering for us on Sunday night and whatever came in is what they would give to us. They had been taught the blessing of giving, and because of this we always received far more than we felt we deserved. I cannot remember exactly how many times we went there, but would guess it must have been at least eight times and the love offerings we received were always extremely generous.

However, there is one love offering that stands out above all the rest. On this particular Sunday night my brother had a young man come up and share what had been going on in the life of he and his young wife. I do not remember the exact details, only that they had just experienced some really bad financial things and were asking the church for their prayers. While he was sharing, I heard the Lord tell me to give our entire love offering to that young couple. I checked with Miss Linda and she said she was feeling the exact same thing.

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“What Brings You Pleasure?”

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I then slipped over to where my brother was sitting and asked him if this would be acceptable to him. He looked a bit concerned and asked me if I understood that this would mean we would get nothing. I told him we did and were totally okay with it. I cannot express the joy we felt as my brother announced to the congregation what we had decided, and then brought this young couple forward and put offering buckets in their hands which quickly overflowed as people came up to show their love for both us and them. It was one of the most amazing things we have ever experienced in a church service. This was real church!

Now, here is my point. It has now been about 20 years since this happened. I have been thinking about it and about the thousands and thousands of dollars the church gave to us over the course of many years. And you know what, even if my life depended on it, I could not tell you even one thing we spent any of that money on. But I clearly remember the joy of giving one of those love offerings to a young couple in desperate need. Still today, I get immense pleasure when I think about it.

I do not know what ever happened to that couple. I don't know if they took advantage of what happened that night or if they wasted what was given to them. For me, that is not the issue. The only thing that matters is the love we poured on them in the Name of Jesus and the lasting pleasure it brought us. There is nothing we could have spent that money on that would have brought us even half the pleasure. Are you starting to get the message?

I want to share one more illustration. While we were pastoring, I never had a desire to do missions trips. I never criticized pastors who did these types of trips, but it just wasn't my thing. I had tried it and didn't like it. However, not long after we retired, I felt we needed to go to Argentina to visit Linda's brother and see the ministry Rez had supported for many years. When we were pastors, the church would have paid all our expenses, but now the cost

was going to come out of our own pocket. That did not matter because following Jesus is far more important than money.

After retiring we really missed the close fellowship of our pastoral staff, so I asked David and Kathy Melson to join us. The four of us would travel together and share the speaking responsibilities at the Bible school. It was an amazing time that I will never forget. Lives were touched, God's destiny was established in so many young people, and the time spent with people very dear to us was so special. The joy and pleasure this memory brought to me has never faded and it never will. It is permanent and eternal. Once again, the point is, where else could we have spent our money and gotten so much pleasure? Nowhere!

This explains a question I have had for many years. Why do people get so hooked on doing missions trips? I have always been intrigued by people who place themselves in an uncomfortable situation, come home broke, and then immediately begin planning to do it again. Many obviously can't afford it, but that never seems to stop them. Why would anyone do this? For years I had that question in the back of my mind, but after our trip to Argentina I had the answer. Where else could they spend their money and get such immense lasting pleasure and joy?

Have I made my point? What I have given you is the ultimate “give to get” message. But I assure you; it is not the same message the televangelists preach. They preach “give to get” for material things that can never bring lasting joy and pleasure. I offer you what Jesus offered, which is the joy, peace, and pleasure of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is real and it is eternal.

Isaiah 55:2 God's Word Translation

“Why do you spend money on what cannot nourish you and your wages on what does not satisfy you?”

Let the wise hear what the Lord is saying.

AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Above All, Get Wisdom”

May is the month we celebrate Mother’s Day. I was privileged to have a godly mother who impacted my life in so many ways, and I always viewed her as a

Proverbs 31 woman.

Proverbs 31:26 Amplified Bible

“She opens her mouth in [skillful and godly] wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue [giving counsel and instruction].”

She taught me so much about life, but most importantly, she taught me to always seek the Lord for His wisdom. No matter what stage of life we are in, we need godly wisdom because even decisions we make as teens can drastically affect the rest of our lives. This includes choosing a mate, our education, or what occupation we will pursue. The list is endless, and can have wonderful or disastrous consequences depending on the source of our wisdom.

Unfortunately, many never get to a place where they totally depend on God because they have been programmed to trust their own wisdom. Graduation cards often have messages that say, “Believe in yourself” or “Follow your dream.” When is the last

time you saw a graduation card that said, “Now more than ever, you desperately need God.” Don’t misunderstand me, self-confidence is good; but it can never replace our need for godly wisdom. God has given each of us talents and abilities, but they should never be allowed to blind us to the fact that we still need God in our lives.

So, where are you at? Do you truly feel your need for godly wisdom, or have you allowed your talents, abilities, and successes to fill you with a pride that causes you to trust the wisdom of this world? We all want to believe we have it right, but God’s Word has a wonderful way of revealing the truth and Psalm 111:10 does this.

Psalm 111:10 King James Version

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments:...”

Because of this translation, many think God wants us to be afraid of Him, but I assure you, that is not what God wants. Rather, He is telling us to be afraid to live outside of His blessing, guidance, and wisdom. Is that truly how you feel? Many will say the right thing, but this verse reveals that what they say may be nothing more than empty words. If we really believe we cannot live a blessed life without God’s wisdom, then we will keep His commandments. The Living Bible says it this way, “For growth in wisdom comes from obeying his laws.”

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"Above All, Get Wisdom"

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If you honestly believe you need God's wisdom, you will keep His commandments. Those who ignore what God tells them cannot claim to be seeking godly wisdom.

This also applies to how important the entire Bible is in your life. There is more wisdom contained in the Bible than all the books man has ever written combined. To claim to be seeking godly wisdom and yet place little to no value on God's Word is total deception. This is more common than we want to admit. So few churches today are teaching the importance of living according to the Word of God. As a result, true wisdom is trampled in the streets and men resort to the wisdom of this world. Truly, this is a recipe for disaster.

John and I look back on our lives and realize that every blessing we have ever enjoyed came as a result of having a great dependency on God's wisdom. Before coming to Loveland, we received an invitation to go to a large church that was offering a huge salary, a new car every year, and many other benefits. Anyone in their right mind would have jumped at such an opportunity. We had worked hard and this appeared to be God rewarding us. However, we both knew that we needed to seek the Lord for His wisdom concerning this situation and when we did, He said, "No!" **Times like these are when you learn where your heart is.**

Several months later we received a call to come pastor a small congregation of about 50 people in Loveland. This church had gone through many struggles and worldly wisdom would have told us not to even consider it. The package they offered us was not even one tenth of what the church in Florida had offered. Some of our friends told us we were crazy to accept this pastorate and were very vocal about it. But, once again we prayed and asked the Lord for His direction and wisdom. Much to our dismay, this time the Lord told us to go and confirmed it in a number of ways. Needless to say, it was the best decision we have ever made, and to

this day we are eternally grateful for the Lord's wisdom that was given freely when we asked for it.

As I recall how God led us and how easy it would have been to make a mistake, I cannot help but wonder how many times people have relied on their own wisdom and missed something amazing that God had for them. Could this be what 1 Corinthians 3:19 is talking about?

1 Corinthians 3:19a King James Version

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."

To understand this, all we need to do is look at any decision we make from our viewpoint and then look at it from God's viewpoint. We make our decisions based upon things that are carnal and temporary like money and fame. This is what the Bible calls "The wisdom of this world." But the Bible says this wisdom is "foolishness with God." Why? Because God looks at our decisions and knows what pain we have created for ourselves and what could have been had we sought His wisdom. In His eyes, what we thought was such a smart decision is actually viewed as total foolishness.

I don't know if God ever gets frustrated, but it would almost seem impossible that He wouldn't. He has told us to humble ourselves and ask, and has promised to liberally give us wisdom, and yet our pride causes us to view His wisdom as being unneeded. My husband would say, "How dumb can you be and still breathe."

I want to leave you with one more scripture that sums up everything I have tried to say in this article.

Proverbs 4:5-6 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

"Get skillful and godly Wisdom, get understanding (discernment, comprehension, and interpretation); do not forget and do not turn back from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake not [Wisdom], and she will keep, defend, and protect you; love her, and she will guard you."

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

*Wisdom is more
Precious than
Rubies!*



Proverbs 8:11 NIV

*11 Wisdom is more precious than rubies,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.*

P R O P H E C Y U P D A T E

“IT’S TIME TO TRUST THE LORD”

During the four years Donald Trump was in the Oval Office, there was relative calm in the Middle East and other parts of the world. The key word being “relative.” I am not saying there was peace and good will, because that wasn’t the case. What I am saying is that since Joe Biden took office, there has been a dramatic increase in open acts of war and rumors of war. It is my opinion that this has been caused by the fact that Joe Biden is viewed in the eyes of the world as being weak.

A good case in point would be the Middle East. On April 10th Iran informed the world that it would start using IR-9 centrifuges that could enrich uranium 50 times faster than the old IR-6s they have been using. This was probably in response to a speech made by Benjamin Netanyahu marking Holocaust Remembrance Day. In that speech the Israeli prime minister said that Israel would not be bound by any agreement the Biden administration and Iran might enter into. In a warning shot to the U.S., Netanyahu said that Jerusalem would not hesitate to “prevent those who seek to destroy us from carrying out their plan.” He went on to say, “Even to our best friends I say: Make no mistake; an agreement with Iran that will pave their way to a nuclear weapon — a weapon that threatens to destroy us — any such agreement will not bind us one iota.”

A few days later we heard of a mysterious fire that occurred at the Natanz nuclear facility in Iran. At first, we were told this fire was most likely caused by an Israeli cyber-attack on the electrical system powering the centrifuges at the facility. This seemed plausible because Israel is one of the most advanced nations in the world in terms of cyber security capabilities.

However, we have now learned that what really happened was far more than just a fire. We now know there was a massive explosion that basically took out nearly all of the centrifuges and completely stopped the uranium enrichment process. You have

probably heard all of this on the major news networks.

What you may not have heard is that the bomb that was detonated was probably planted in the heart of the facility two years ago. Debka news reports, “The attack on Iran’s nuclear center at Natanz on April 11 totally destroyed two of its three uranium enrichment halls. Our sources also reveal that the explosive material, which caused the blast, was planted there two years ago and awaited a remote signal to detonate. Contrary to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s claims on Monday that the attack caused only minor damage and just disrupted the old centrifuges, our sources disclose a different reality. Iran is now unable to move enrichment up to the 60pc grade as Tehran boasted because most of the advanced IR-6 centrifuges with that capability were wrecked in the blast.”

To all this I say to God’s people, “Fasten your seat belts, we are in for a wild and bumpy ride.” I am reminded of the words Jesus spoke.

Matthew 24:6-7 The Passion Translation

“You will hear of wars and revolutions on every side, with more rumors of wars to come. Don’t panic or give in to your fears, for the breaking apart of the world’s systems is destined to happen. But it won’t yet be the end; it will still be unfolding.

7 “Nations will go to war against nations and kingdoms against kingdoms. And there will be terrible earthquakes, horrible epidemics, and famines in place after place.”

It is amazing to see how words spoken 2000 years ago are still relevant today. Yes, these are troubling times, but nothing is happening outside of God’s plan and that is why we need not fear.

Here is a link to another “We The Kingdom” video we listen to nearly every day. It will bless you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4KEgwLDLHw>