

February 2017

"TRUTH"

A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY



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

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WEBSITE UPDATE

This month we are making available for download the eight part series entitled, "**How To Deal With Offenses.**" It is a wonderful teaching on a subject all of us must face from time to time. How you handle offenses will set the future direction for your life. Learn how handle them right.

We also want to draw your attention to our "Photo of the Month". This is a wonderful photo Miss Linda captured. It has been put on the Estes Park News website and has over 3000 views and nearly 2000 shares. I keep telling her she is famous!

There is one thing in the photo that was photo-shopped in. We are offering a free Scripture Lullabies CD to the **first person** who writes to us and is able to spot what was put into the photo. Good Luck!

FEATURE ARTICLE: “SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT”

WARNING: You are entering the “TRUTH ZONE”. You may not like what you read. It may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to help you and 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!

During the last two years I have written about the apostasy (defection from truth) that is happening today. For decades this has been of great concern to me because whenever the Bible says something is going to happen, it happens. For sure the Bible has said it, and for sure it is happening today.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (AMP)

“For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine and accurate instruction [that challenges them with God’s truth]; but wanting to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires and to support the errors they hold, 4 and will turn their ears away from the truth and will wander off into myths and man-made fictions [and will accept the unacceptable].”

2 Peter 2:1 (AMP)

“But [in those days] false prophets arose among the people, just as **there will be false teachers among you, who will subtly introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.”

Without question the Bible has issued a strong warning. This month I want to take another look at this but I do not want to re-plow the ground. **I want to say some things I have not said before that I believe need to be said.**

Recently I was searching the internet for material for my newsletter. I came across a website put up by a rather well-known radio Bible teacher. He was offering a video about false teachers. As a graphic, he had assembled a photo that contained the pictures of people he considered to be “false teachers.”

I was amazed to see some really good people in that photo.

There were some I know personally because when I pastored Resurrection Fellowship, I had them come speak. In fact, I had one come several times! I have a policy of not using names in my articles, but I think to make my point I will violate that policy this month.

In that photo I saw my good friend **Marilyn Hickey**. I also saw my good friend **Joyce Meyers**. I also saw **John Hagee**, a man I highly admire and respect. These are good people and some of the best Bible teachers on the planet! As I continued my search, I found a website that said **Beth Moore** was also a false teacher. One website had a list with about 140 names of people they consider to be false teachers.

So what is going on? **Are these people really false teachers or not?** Why on earth would anyone call them false teachers? Have they succeeded in deceiving me? If they are not false teachers, how did they get on the list?

The answers are really very simple. First of all let me state the obvious: **Just because someone is put on a list of false teachers does not make them one.** The people I have named are not false teachers. Listen to what I am about to say. They got on the list because they taught something someone else didn’t agree with. How sad it is when a person is labeled a “false teacher” just because they teach something someone else doesn’t agree with.

In the Body of Christ, there are millions of teachers. Some of them feel they have a calling to major on a specific theme. About every time you hear them speak they will be in their “wheel house.” This does not make them a false teacher. It is what they teach on. One may teach on Bible prophecy while another may teach on supernatural finances. Still another may focus on self-esteem and self-acceptance.

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“ SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT “

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Another may seem to always bring messages aimed at the conversion of the lost. Billy Graham would certainly fit that description. **Believe it or not, I have seen some websites that put the label of “false teacher” on Billy Graham!**

Earlier in my ministry, I had that accusation directed toward me. In fact, I am quite sure there are some who would still consider me to be a false teacher. **The thought just occurred to me, I am in some pretty good company!**

The thing I want to say about all this is we need to be very careful about putting that label on Bible teachers. Yes, the Bible warns us about false teachers, but what makes someone a false teacher? If they teach something we don't agree with, does that mean they are a false teacher? Let's carry this a step further. If they teach something we feel is contrary to Scripture, does that mean they are a false teacher? Let's carry this thought even further. If they teach something that absolutely, without question or doubt is contrary to Scripture, does that make them a “false teacher?” Not necessarily.

Does my answer surprise you? Does it cause you to label me a false teacher? **They may have taught something that was error, but that does not make them a false teacher. I need to explain.**

I look at this through a different set of eyes than most. Over the course of over fifty years, I have given thousands of sermons. There have been times when, as I was teaching, I had an uneasy feeling about it. Obviously I felt it was right when I prepared my message, but as I taught it, it just didn't feel right. As I studied it more, I began to realize why I had that feeling. What I taught wasn't right. That did not mean I was a false teacher.

All who teach the Bible are human and therefore there will be times when they may say something that is not right. When that time comes, we need to be very careful not to add to their burden by placing the label of “false teacher” on them. There is a good chance they already regret what they said!

It is in this moment when grace and forgiveness need to be extended. We have all found ourselves needing grace to be extended to us, and therefore we should be quick to do the same for those who are trying their best to lead us toward fulfilling the thing God wants us all to become.

But, you may ask, isn't there a time to call it what it is? Isn't there a time to recognize that someone is a false teacher? Of course there is. But what I am trying to say is, give them a chance to make it right, and before you label them a false teacher, give them a chance to explain their position. Maybe they see a Scripture differently than you do. That does not make them a false teacher. **That label should not be based on one or two sermons. Rather it should be based on where they stand on the basic tenants of the Christian faith.**

There are many different teachers and each has his or her own ideas about what the Bible says. That is why we have many different denominations. This does not mean only one is right and all the rest are false teachers. That statement is true even if they often don't act like it is.

But, the one thing they all must agree on is Jesus. Earlier I used 2 Peter 2:2 where Peter tells us false teachers will, “deny the Master who bought them.” The theme of the Christian faith is the finished work of **Jesus** on the cross. **Jesus** was God in the flesh. **Jesus** gave His life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. **Jesus** tore down the barrier that stood between God and man. **Jesus** made reconciliation to God possible. **And it is through Jesus alone that man can come to God today.**

These are the basic tenants of the Christian faith. These are the things we all must agree on. In fact, I find it hard to believe anyone can be genuinely saved if they don't agree with what I just wrote.

If a teacher cannot or will not answer with a firm “Yes” when asked if they agree with these things, run as if your life depended on it because it does.

But, do not let an accusation on the internet, decide for you who is or isn't a false teacher.

And that my friends,
is the truth!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“THE SEASONS OF LIFE”

It is February, and already I am eager for spring to get here. I have never liked winter but spring is my favorite time of the year. For me spring is a time of new beginnings. Gone is the grey cold of winter. Everywhere you look you see new life. Wild flowers begin popping up almost in defiance of the cold that caused them to shrivel and die. The bluebirds return and baby fawns begin to appear. My husband teases me and says surely I will wear my camera out. I tell him if I do, he will just have to buy me a new one. It is wonderful!

But this month, rather than talk about the seasons of the year, I want to talk about the seasons of life. In some ways, the seasons of our lives are much like the seasons of the year. The Bible speaks of this in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (KJV)

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

This is one of the things I love about God’s Word. It doesn’t just talk about religious things, it talks about life. It talks about times of joy and sorrow, victory and defeat. It talks about good times and bad times. It talks about the seasons we all go through. We may not choose them, but nevertheless, we all go through them, like it or not.

Quite often it is a specific event that ushers us into a new season of life. With great fondness I recall two such events that changed our lives forever. For seven long years, I was in a season of barrenness. The doctors said we would never have children. Then we adopted our daughter Trina and one month later I got pregnant. Truly we had entered a new season! Today our three children have given us 10 wonderful grandchildren.

Our move to Loveland was an event that put us into a season like nothing we had ever experienced.

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That season lasted 32 years, during which we experienced the blessing of God in a way few ever do. We watched in amazement as the church grew from just a handful to thousands and thousands of people. What a wonderful season that was. **We give all the glory to God because we are convinced He did something that went far beyond our abilities and talents.**

Now once again, we find ourselves in a new season. Certainly, when we retired, it was an event that ushered us into a new season. As with all new seasons, there are things we have experienced that made us uncomfortable. However, we are totally convinced God has a plan and a purpose for our lives in this season.

I am sure each of you can look at events in your life that thrust you into a new season. It may have been a season of rejoicing, or it may have been a season of sadness and trials. We all tend to want the seasons of rejoicing, but run from the seasons of sadness. **I want to encourage you to remember that God is the one in control of all the seasons of your life,** and because of this, you can be sure even seasons of sadness will produce some very good things down the road.

My husband recalls how he was raised on a farm. His life was good because a farm is a really good place to grow up. Then one day an event happened that changed everything. His dad was involved in a terrible auto accident. He suffered a serious back injury and was unable to continue farming. They sold the farm and moved to the city. This was a new season that my husband hated. But in that season, God had a plan of blessing. He met me!

I believe there is a great lesson to be learned here. **We must never forget that God is always at work, even in the seasons we find difficult.** If we are going through a rough season, instead of whining and complaining, we can trust God and rely on His help through it all. God has promised to turn our bad situations into good ones.

Romans 8:28 (AMP)

"And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, **to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.**"

I find it interesting that here again we see the word "**purpose.**" We also saw this in Ecclesiastes.

"To every thing there is a season, and **a time to every purpose** under the heaven:" **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

There it is, "a time to every purpose." Another way to put it would be, "a time for every purpose." **God has things He has purposed for your life.** You must not lose sight of that. Many times we find ourselves saying,

"What is the purpose of all this?" I promise you, God has a purpose! So what does that mean? It means even though we may be having a hard time and feel lost and alone, God is there in our bad situation and is working to turn it into something that accomplishes His plan and purpose for our lives. God does not place us into trying seasons, but He inserts Himself into every season to accomplish His purpose and plan.

The reason we find it so hard to accept this and take comfort in it is because we also have a plan and purpose for our lives. When we say, "I don't see what purpose this serves," we are really saying, "**I don't see how this fits into my plan for my life.**" Well, I happen to believe what God has purposed for my life is far better than anything I could ever imagine. We need to let go and let God work out what He has purposed for us. If you do this, you will come out of that cold, dreary season more Christ-like than when you went in. I promise.

If you are in a season right now that seems like a cold, gray winter, please don't allow yourself to get discouraged. **God is at work even in this dark, cold season of your life.**

One summer John and I had a beautiful wild flower come up in our yard. That fall we harvested the seeds before the birds could get them. The next spring we planted them but they never came up. We were so disappointed. Then we learned that before they can grow they have to spend a winter in frozen ground. The next year we had dozens of beautiful flowers.

I think this is kind of how life works. It would be wonderful if we never had to experience a time of cold and darkness, and yet see great beauty in our lives. But it's usually not like that.

We just need to remember, spring is coming!

(Please scroll down to page 7 to see the flower.)

“A Story of Exceptional Courage”

The Prophecy Update this month is not actually a prophecy update, but a remarkable story of bravery displayed in WWII by an American soldier. The article was written by Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz. Adam made Aliyah to Israel in 1991 and served in the IDF as a combat medic. Berkowitz studied Jewish law and received rabbinical ordination in Israel. He has worked as a freelance writer and his novel, *The Hope Merchant*, is available on Amazon. He lives in the Golan Heights with his wife and their four children. I am very sure you will find his article inspirational and encouraging. ENJOY!

“In a remarkable World War II story that almost went untold, a devoutly Christian US Army sergeant refused to turn over his Jewish soldiers to the Nazis, even after a gun was placed to his head. Now, 30 years after his death, the Jewish people are showing their appreciation for his bravery.

“Roddie Edmonds was a humble man and didn’t speak about his experiences in World War II, even when his children inquired. When he passed away over 30 years ago, his widow gave his wartime diaries to their son, Baptist Pastor Chris Edmonds, in Maryville, Tennessee.

“A few years ago, one of the pastor’s daughters read through the diaries for a college project and was amazed at what she found. Despite being taken prisoner of war shortly after arriving in Europe, her grandfather was a hero. He had saved hundreds of Jewish soldiers, motivated only by his Christian belief.

“Edmonds was a Master Sergeant with the 422nd Infantry Regiment in the US Army. On December 16, 1944, just a few months after arriving in Europe, Edmonds found himself fighting in the disastrous Battle of the Bulge.

The last major German offensive campaign of World War II, it caught the Allied Forces by surprise, resulting in 89,000 casualties. On December 19, Edmonds and an estimated 23,000 other American soldiers were taken prisoner by the Germans. ‘We surrendered to avoid slaughter. We were marched without food and water, except for the few sugar beets we found along the road and puddles,’ Edmonds wrote in his diary.

“Taken to the Stalag IXA POW camp near Ziegenhain, Germany, Edmonds was the highest-ranking officer and responsible for the American prisoners of war (POWs) in the camp.

“One evening in January, Major Siegmann, the camp’s commandant, told Edmonds that he wanted the Jewish POWs to line up outside the barracks the following morning. The commandant said that any Jewish soldier who didn’t report would be shot on sight.

“They weren’t killing the Jewish soldiers outright, but they were taking them to Berga,’ explained Pastor Edmonds. ‘It was a labor camp, but they really just worked them to death. The Nazi commandants had orders in all the POW camps to eliminate all Jewish soldiers, up until the very end of the war.’

“When they were first captured, many of the Jewish prisoners were segregated and sent to Berga. Of the 350 Jewish soldiers taken to Berga, over 70 died from brutal labor and horrible conditions.

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The fatality rate in Berga was nearly 20 percent, the highest of any POW camp where Americans were held.

“When he was given the order, Sergeant Edmonds made a decision. He told all of the soldiers, Christian and Jew alike, to report outside the next morning. ‘What my dad did was amazing, but the real amazing thing was that all 1,292 soldiers, went,’ said Pastor Edmonds. ‘None of them refused.’ The commandant was furious and held Edmonds at gunpoint, ordering him to identify the Jews. Edmonds wouldn’t.

“Once the major pulled the gun and pressed it to my dad’s head, any one of those men could have stopped him and told him who the Jews were,’ said Edmonds. ‘But not one of them did.’

“Standing next to Edmonds, their lives on the line, were two Jewish soldiers, Lester Tanner and Paul Stern. They told Pastor Edmonds his father’s response. ‘All I am required is name rank and serial number, and that is all you’ll get,’ Edmonds told the commandant. ‘You’ll have to shoot all of us, and after the war, you will be tried for war crimes.’

“The major shouted back, ‘They cannot all be Jews.’ ‘We are all Jews,’ Edmonds calmly replied.

“His father’s faith was what inspired his heroic action, Pastor Edmonds explained. ‘He was a strong Christian, even in the camp. He did this because his faith required him to be his brother’s keeper, and to honor humanity.’

“Pastor Edmonds has spoken with some of these soldiers. ‘They all said it was a miracle they survived that camp,’ he said. ‘They credited it to my dad’s leadership and what he did.’

“Roddie Edmonds’ act went unrecognized when he was alive and Pastor Edmonds has been unsuccessful at having his father posthumously awarded the US Medal of Honor for Bravery. “But the Jewish people have recognized his courage. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR), an organization that pays tribute to non-Jewish rescuers of Holocaust survivors, awarded Edmond the Yehi Ohr Award last month in New York City.

“In 2015, Edmonds was the first US soldier to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.”

