

"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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The Church of the Living God, the Pillar And Ground of the Truth (1 Timothy 3:15)



Response to the papacy and even Protestants

On July 11, 2007, a headline read, "Pope: So, you're not Catholic? Then you're not in true Church". The article stated, "Pope Benedict XVI has ignited controversy across the world by approving a document saying non-Catholic Christian communities are either defective or not true churches, and the Roman Catholic Church provides the only true path to salvation."

This caused uproars from Protestants. They were all upset that the Catholic Church would be so bold to declare themselves as the only true church. In reality, all that the Catholic Church declared was what all the other denominations already believe of themselves. If every denomination did not think they were the true church then their denomination would have ceased a long time ago and been absorbed under a different name during this ecumenical period of time in Christianity. So they too believe they are the only true church except they are not bold enough to announce it.

So we believe the papacy has done nothing different than what Protestants believe for themselves, however, we disagree with the declaration overall.

What Is The hidden issue? The issue that should get our attention is the definition of the true church. We are told to "try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1). So let us put it to the test. Let us take a quiz.

What does the first angel call for us to do towards the God that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters? In Revelation 14:14, Jesus is symbolically described coming the second time. Before He arrives, God gives three last moment calls to be found on His side. These calls or messages would not be necessary if all were in compliance but because the vast majority is not, God makes these urgent messages known so that if anyone is lost, it is their own fault for not listening to the message. In Revelation 14:7 you will find that the first angel speaks by stating, "Saying with a loud voice,

Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." The answer is worship. The world must not be worshipping God correctly. Today, how many churches claim to be worshipping God rightly? Usually anything goes but we find in Matthew 7:13 it is not good that anything goes. "For wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Accepting any form of worship is wrong.

What two things are required to be a true worshiper of God? According to John 4:23-24, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth." The Spirit and Truth is the answer. Notice that you must have it. It is not optional. And you must have both. Filled only with the Spirit leads to having the wrong spirit. In many cases, this leads to fanaticism. Filled only with the truth leads to legalism because it is based upon obedience alone and that is an attempt to earn heaven. Both are required. The Spirit drives us to want to be in obedience.

Where is truth found? John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." The word is one place. John 14:6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is a second location. Psalms 119:142, "Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and thy law [is] the truth." The law is the third location. So if we do not have and are not obeying the whole law, Word, and Jesus to the knowledge each of us have, we are not His. That means anybody that believes that the Word is an ancient book not practical for today, you may believe yourself as a Christian but you will be lost. That means if you believe the law or Ten Commandments have no application for us to live by today, you may call yourself a Christian, but you will be lost. If you believe that Jesus' death and resurrection allows us to live in any manner we choose to live today as long as we say, "I believe", at some point in our life, you may

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, but not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Debt Reduction Progress

Over our ten year history, \$80,000 in debt has accumulated both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the ministry expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when Jerry's salary was no longer available to carry the ministry due to termination for religious conflict. Now it appears a blessing of finances is occurring in his employment but it requires very long hours and weekdays away from the family. Can you join him in lowering this debt faster?

\$77,100 Prior Balance


993 Reduction


\$76,107 Current Balance

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

WEB SITES TO CONSIDER

 **TSTL.NET** is for the general public

 **TSTL4MINISTERS.NET** is for any minister, bible worker, teacher, etc.

 **TSTL4CHILDREN.NET** is for the children and the contents will be a transfer of children's material from TSTL.NET to this new site.

call yourself a Christian, but you will still be lost.

How important is truth? *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11). One must love the truth and be willing to die for the truth. So anyone faced with a choice involving life or death and they choose to disobey God to live, God says "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25).*

How do we identify God's true followers? *"And the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17). "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). Revelation 12:9 says the dragon is Satan. In both cases, keeping God's commandments is required. It is not to earn the title of follower but because you are a follower that you will obey the commandments. Paul summarizes the keeping of the commandments. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).*

True followers follow the whole Word of God. And in addition, one must also have the faith of Jesus. It is one thing to have faith that God exists, that He will deliver, that He will provide, but it is another to simply take God at His word. The faith that Jesus had was full trust in the Father's Word, all the way to the cross. So despite what man says or thinks, do what God says. Period.

So, do you take God at his Word or excuse it away? "I would believe God created all things, but scientists have found too much proof that we descended from apes." "I would rest on the Sabbath day from my labors, but I have to work to provide for my family and besides, people live just as long as those that do not rest." "I would cease from gluttony, alcohol and tobacco but look at all those that live to be over a hundred who smoked all their lives and ate whatever they wanted." Which is mightier? God's Word or supposed evidence sustained by the devil?

Outside of Revelation, the Bible clearly teaches, *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4).* Here we see that many may declare they are followers of God but if they keep not the commandments, they are not His followers.

How important is doctrine? *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they*

might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also]" (1 John 2:18-23).

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:1-6).

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 1:7-11).

Please note that it comes down to having truth or error, truth or lies, doctrines of Jesus Christ versus doctrines of Antichrist. But all the references mention that one must also believe that Jesus came to this earth. One may say that all denominations believe that. That means you read too quickly. Yes, all denominations believe that Jesus came, but we have way too many that have bought into the lie. Please reread the description again. You will see it is not that Jesus simply came but came in the flesh.

What does it mean to be in the flesh? It certainly does not mean skin with blood. *"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (1 Peter 4:1). "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Galatians 5:24). "[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).* Flesh is a reference to the fact that a person has the ability to sin. They can be tempted.

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



What Is Death (Gen. 2:17)

1. How many deaths are there? **Revelation 2:11**
2. What causes one to die of the last death? **Romans 6:23**
3. If we die the first death, what do we hope to be part of to avoid another death? **Revelation 20:6**
4. What happens to hell in the end? **Revelation 20:14**
5. How do we not be hurt of the last death? **Revelation 2:11**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Put Your Trust In The LORD (Psalms 4:5)

1. What is the one and only way to study the Bible? **Isaiah 28:9-10** "... precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little."
2. What is one purpose of the Old Testament? **Romans 15:4** "... learning, and ... have hope."
3. What may be the result of someone thinking they are all right? **Proverbs 14:12** "... death."
4. What can happen if we do not study God's Word? **Isaiah 55:8** "*For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*" Having wrong thoughts and doing the wrong thing.
5. How can we know what God would have us do? **2 Timothy 3:15-16** "... known the holy scriptures, ...", **John 16:13** "... Spirit of truth,"

Think On These Things

Do You Have The Power?

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Tim. 3:1-5)

Do these things exist in the church? Paul says they would because preachers have turned to the easy message of living in your sins.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

But what God wants is for the church to rid themselves of their sins by the power they are denying. When a church does this, they then represent God's character on earth and who is really in charge. But living in the sins, we declare Satan to be the ruler of this world.

But the vast majority of supposed Christians do not believe that Jesus took on flesh, Adam's fallen nature. They believe Jesus was born as if Adam never sinned. If they did believe that Jesus had Adam's fallen nature then that would mean that they too must overcome sin and be perfect, and that is exactly what is to take place.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21). *"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48). We are to overcome as Jesus overcame. We are to be perfect in the knowledge we have. We cannot be perfect in the knowledge we do not have. Only God in heaven can because He knows all things. But if you carelessly brush off your duty because "everyone else does it", "I feel like enjoying myself tonight", "I don't want to be caught trying to earn heaven", etc., then you are fooling yourself and have been deceived.

Also note that Peter mentioned ceasing from sin, and Paul states that we have crucified the affections and lust of sin. How? Jesus walked after the Spirit, so must we. And that hints at having both the Spirit and the truth. The Spirit is not the ability to sing

well, speak in tongues, jump up and down, laugh and roll on the floor. It is the power of God through the Holy Spirit to overcome the world of sin.

Although Jesus was fully God and fully man, he did not overcome sin with His own divine power. But we have an advantage. *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (2 Peter 1:4). We have access to His divine power.

But some are appalled that Jesus took on Adam's fallen nature. It was predicted. *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away"* (2 Tim. 3:5). Christians have a form of godliness especially when they put on their Sabbath best for church, go to the store afterwards, and stick their noses in the air at those that did not go. But in reality, they themselves indulge in sin because they figure they cannot overcome. They are denying the power. It is not totally their fault. The vast majority of preachers have been telling them that you cannot be perfect, that you cannot keep the commandments, that you do not want to be a legalist, so just come as you are and stay as

you are. All of this with the motivation to keep you coming to church. If you were told to cease from a sin that the preacher knew you were doing, you would get offended and leave. They leave God to help you cease when in reality God gave the responsibility of bringing such things up in public. In other words, most preachers deny their calling and simply enjoy the title. *"Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (James 5:20).

Conclusion

As you see, God's true denomination is made up of individuals in all denominations that live up to all the light or knowledge they have. Are you one of them?

Now go forth and conquer the Antichrist. Rid yourself of the poison and be overcomers *"through Christ which strengtheneth"* you. Those who do are those in the "true church". Will you join God's Church or follow Antichrist? Do you believe all sin can be overcome because Christ came in the fallen nature of man and overcame or do you believe Antichrist who pronounces that Christ did it all at the cross for our credit to enter heaven while still sinning?

AUGUST 2007

Where Is the True Church?

(Main article)

What Is Death?

(Bible Study)

Republicans are Second Commandment Keepers.

Nobody Goes To Hell!

(News)

**WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?
AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?** (Isaiah 53:1)



» 20/20, July 12, 2007 -
**'Nobody Goes to Hell':
Minister Labeled a Heretic**

"I couldn't reconcile a God whose mercy endures forever, and this torture chamber that's customized for unbelievers," Pearson said. "How can you really love a god who's torturing your grandmother? And that's what I went through for years." The more he studied, the more Pearson saw the Bible not as the literal word of God but a book by men about God -- primitive men prone to mistranslations, political agendas and human emotions.

COMMENT: So when Jesus said, "*And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth*" (Matthew 13:50), Jesus was primitive? This man's problem is in misunderstanding hell. "*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea*" (Revelation 21:1). "*And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and*

compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Revelation 20:9). Hell does not burn throughout eternity or this man is right -- that is not a loving God. However, this life on earth is a big joke if everyone goes to heaven anyways. That is not loving either. But God removing sin loving people from the face of this earth and recreating it for the faithful is a loving solution to sin.

» Time, July 11, 2007 - **The Second Commandment Republicans**

"I'm a 'grace' Christian," Huckabee told me over lunch recently, "not a 'law' Christian. The Second Commandment--do unto others--is the basic tenet of my faith. Presidential candidates like Robertson, Pat Buchanan and Gary Bauer have loaded up on the "Thou Shalt Nots" and rarely, if ever, mentioned the grace and serenity that come from doing "for the least of these."

COMMENT: So does Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas and former Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, two presidential candidates ignore the first? They must. "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets*" (Matthew 22:37). Note that all of the law hangs on these two. That is because the first four of the ten commandments is how we love God and the last six is how we love our neighbor. And last we checked, because we come from an unsaved life of sin, we must be told what to stop doing. The commandments are full of "Thou shalt not!" Grace does not do away with the law. Therefore, these two guys, and those that believe like them, are basically saying that they believe in disobedience and do not love God. Truly they do not even love their neighbor.