

"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)

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 10

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Pilate Saith Unto Him, What Is Truth? (John 18:38)



Are we as a people willing to accept multiple truths?

Are we no different than others who say, "You believe what you want; I'll believe what I want, and we both will meet in heaven!"?

What does the world say?

Since the 1960's, there has been an acceleration to move away from absolute truth, to an abstract concept, to even an acceptance of anything goes. It is in the world. It is in the military. It is in our schools. It is even in our churches. The 1960's were a blatant era of rebellion against authority. Most of those with this mindset have taken on leadership roles. They have held office even in the White House, hold seats in Congress, sit on benches as judges, sit on school boards, are teachers and principals, have infiltrated the media, and have greatly influenced religion in all denominations.

Holding someone to the truth is a rejected principle today. Even when churches have been condemned for their erroneous practices, and members have been rebuked for their unchristian behavior, there are sympathizers that defend to the uttermost. Even trusted individuals that seemed to have sided with the truth do not fight. They accept the status quo. God, however counts them with the erroneous ones.

Sure it causes arguments. Sure it causes uneasiness. Sure it causes people to say, "Where can we go to worship God in peace without having to be on guard? Can't we all just get along?"

This should tell us that the end is near. "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your

heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). The devil is using every ounce of influence to stop all forward progress of preaching not only the gospel, "but speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

Does God Have A Single Truth?

"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" (1 John 2:18-21). That means, accepting even the smallest amount of error along with truth is not truth. Any ounce of a lie believed from Satan is still a lie.

According to 1 John 4:3, the spirit of Antichrist is in the world. And what is that spirit doing? "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 4:6). Those on God's side listen to the spirit of truth – not truths.

"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" (2 John

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, 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 10 year history, \$80,000 has accumulated in debt 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 lost his job due to religious conflict. Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment but it requires very long hours, especially now with traveling home each night to see his family (1.5 hr drive), and then he must stay up late to do the work. Can you help lower this debt faster?


\$67,759 Prior Balance
- 646 Readership
- 1,580 O'Donnell's
\$65,533 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.

1:7-9). And as we see, the battle is over what you believe or in other words, doctrine.

One cannot believe that life eternal is immediately after death or that it is after a period of sleep or that it is after a period of reincarnation. Only one of these is the truth.

One cannot just accept infant baptism, baptism as an adult, baptism by sprinkling, baptism by immersion, baptism by proxy, no baptism required, baptism is spiritual, baptism is just symbolic, etc. when the Bible says, "*One Lord, one faith, one baptism*" (Ephesians 4:5). What is the truth?

Are the commandments nailed to the cross, changed, or the same as it was handed to Moses? We cannot accept each as truth. Only one is the truth?

Society changed a day of worship into an hour of worship into a moment of worship into whenever you feel like it. What is the truth on this?

This is just the tip of all the mixed up beliefs we have in Christianity. Then let us move to inside denominations.

Does God like drums to beat up the music and down with the old hymns? Does God accept practicing homosexuals in leadership roles, especially as pastors and ministers? Are they to remain celibate or marry or unite? Are women to have pastoral roles?

What is truth?

Although lately truth has been defined by what Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6), we must not forget that Jesus said, "*Thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). And Jesus was not referring to Himself when He used the word "Word". The word meant the scriptures.

Also, "*thy law [is] the truth*" (Psalms 119:142).

What is the penalty for not obeying the truth?

"But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile" (Romans 2:8-9).

But yet people call those obedient to truth legalists. People who shy away from obedience are no different than the Galatians of old. "*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"* (Galatians 3:1).

It is not a matter of should we obey the truth but rather how. If we obey thinking we will enter into heaven, we are lost. If we obey because we have truly been converted and want to be an instrument in Jesus' hands, then we are on the correct path.

How much are we to love the truth?

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10). If we do not love the truth so much that we would rather die than to live anything but the truth, we are deceiving ourselves in claiming that we are eternally saved. Only those willing to die for the truth they currently know and are willing to grow through grace into more truth shall be saved according to this verse.

Too many times we read or hear the news describe people in tight situations who lie to get out of it. This is not the love of the truth. This is saving their necks. God is looking for people who "*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). "*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it*" (Matthew 16:25).

Conclusion

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7). Ever wonder what you are to ask, seek, and knock for? Deuteronomy 13:14 states that in anything, proving one way or another, "*ask diligently; and, behold, [if it be] truth, [and] the thing certain.*" Jeremiah 5:1 states that a pardoned person is one that seeks the truth. And after knocking and the door opened, it is understanding and knowledge of the scriptures (Luke 24:32).

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.



Set Forth For An Example
(Jude 1:7)

1. What people does Enoch and Elijah represent as an example (hint: Genesis 5:24)?

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

2. What people does Cain represent (hint: Genesis 4:15)? **Revelation 13:17**

3. What people does Moses represent (hint: Deuteronomy 27:1)? **Revelation 14:12**

4. What does Noah and those saved at that time represent (hint: 1 Peter 3:20)? **Matthew 7:14**

5. What condition does Daniel's friends represent (hint: Daniel 3:6)? **Revelation 13:15**

sin upon ourselves for in our sins we would die. Therefore, in B.C. times, God instructed the Israelites to symbolically act out the removal of sin from the sinner to something else. What was that something else?

Leviticus 16:21 "And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send [him] away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness."

2. In place of the removal of those sins, what is imputed or given to us freely?

Romans 4:22-24 "And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead."

3. How can it be that they are found with no guile when prior to confessing and forsaking their sins they have sinned many times? **Revelation 14:5** "And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

4. God says He will then instruct us in the way to conduct our lives. Where does that instruction primarily come from? **2 Timothy 3:16** "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

5. Those who do not search the scriptures, confess, and forsake their sins are considered to be what? **Psalms 78:8** "And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation [that] set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God."

Think On These Things

Samson, The Spoiled Child

And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, [Is there] never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well (Judges 14:2-3).

Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name [was] Delilah (Judges 16:1-4).

And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, The Philistines [be] upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house (Judges 16:18-21).

The strongest man ever to live was the weakest in self-control, even to the disrespect of his parents. Your weakness may not be the same, but do you have a weakness that you cannot overcome? Bring it to the Lord in prayer. Find scripture on what God thinks of it. Find scripture that supports victory over it. It may not be specific in the Bible, like drugs, but it can be generic enough like Deut. 29:18, 20 condemns the use of "wormwood", which is any harmful substance intentionally placed into the body.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven (Psalm 32)

1. "Impute not iniquity" is the request of not placing the accountability of the

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**Pilate Saith Unto Him,
What Is Truth?**

(Main article)

**Set Forth For An
Example**

(Bible Study)

**It appears there is a
conflict between
Matthew 25:46 and
Revelation 20:14.**

(pg 4)

QUESTION #1– It appears that Matthew 25:46 shows an eternal lasting hell while Revelation 20:14 views it as a limited amount of time?

ANSWER #1– *Matthew 25:46. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal",* Notice that this is not everlasting punishing. Punishment is the event while punishing is the act. What punishment do the wicked receive? Death according to a "Thus Saith the Lord". Rereading the verse then, "And these shall go away into everlasting death: but the righteous into life eternal." Remember, if the wicked burn in an everlasting hell, would they not have life eternal as well? The verse does not read "And these shall go away into life eternal of punishment but the righteous into life eternal in heaven." It is simply the fact that the lost are punished with death or cessation of existence, and the righteous have life eternal, which the Bible declares is heaven.

Is there a "Thus Saith the Lord"?

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord

Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." So in the day God destroys the lost, that destruction will be eternal. God will not a million years later bring Judas back from the ashes and let him live again. The destruction, the punishment will be eternal – never changing, unlike the popular belief of going on forever.

Let us also address Matthew 25:41 since it is so near to this verse. "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." You have been told that this means that the fire will burn everlastingly without consuming. First, only the fire is stated to be everlasting – not those that are burned up.

How does everlasting fire burn? Jude 1:7 "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Notice that the same eternal fire burned Sodom and Gomorrah. Are Sodom

and Gomorrah still burning? No. In fact, notice the purpose of these cities. 2 Peter 2:6 "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an example unto those that after should live ungodly." Sodom and Gomorrah are examples for the end of time. Since they are not burning today, neither will hell burn through all eternity.

This is reinforced in Luke 17:28-30, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." God will destroy Satan and the wicked as well. The word "destroy" means to obliterate, wipe out, or cease to exist.

What then is everlasting fire or eternal fire? The recording of the event will last throughout all eternity. That means that the events of burning Sodom and Gomorrah as well as the burning of the wicked at the end of time will stand eternally and everlastingly. They will have been permanently recorded in history.

[Comments and other supposed proof texts are welcomed.]