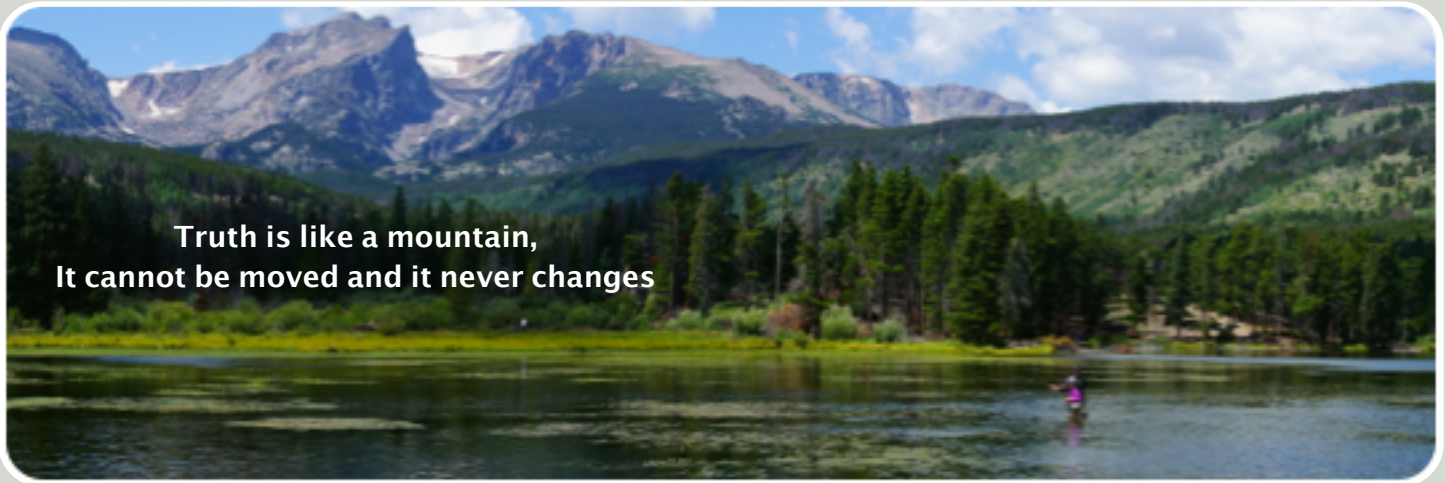


**MAY 2020**

# "TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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

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## UPDATE

This may be the most important issue of "TRUTH" we have ever written. Usually just the last article deals with Bible prophecy, but this entire issue could be labeled as a "Bible Prophecy Update" because it contains teaching that is essential for your future well-being.

We are living in unprecedented times; times when God's people need spiritual guidance as never before. The coronavirus pandemic we have been dealing with will eventually pass, but we assure you it will not be the last plague this world will face. What future plagues will look like, we do not know, nor do we know how to prepare for them. Even if we did, is that what we as Christians should be doing?

As you read these articles, you will come to know how to prepare for what is surely coming. It may not include what you currently think it should. But it is the most important thing you could ever do, and it is based upon what God's Word tells us.

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "Are You Prepared?"

**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!**

Since January we have been walking through a time like none of us have ever experienced. It has thrust us into stress that is very real and very difficult to manage. While most seem to be handling it quite well, there are some who have allowed themselves to be shaken to the core by those who are using current events to shape their theology.

What am I referring to? I speak of those who are teaching that everything we are experiencing is a conspiracy designed to usher in a one-world government and bring the Antichrist to power. To give what they are saying credibility, they point to the fact that already churches have been closed and pastors arrested. I find it interesting that they seem to forget that baseball, basketball, hockey, movie theaters, and schools have also been shut down.

There are many variations of this teaching, but they all have one thing in common; they base their teaching on news articles they have read or watched. I listened to one teacher who read many quotes from news articles but hardly used any scripture to back up what he wanted people to believe. The only scriptures he used were the ones that talk about the coming of a one-world government and the mark of the beast.

Unfortunately, this causes people to be filled with fear and to become totally focused on their own survival. They forget that in times like these we are to be a shining light in a darkened world and we are supposed to bring a message of hope.

When it comes to Bible prophecy, I have learned to be very careful about being too dogmatic. However, the situation we face today requires that someone stand up and fearlessly call people back to God's Word. I intend to do that. I will not attempt to convince you by referring to news articles or YouTube videos. Instead, **I will use God's Word to establish truth.**

Believe it or not, what some are teaching today is exactly what some were teaching back when the

Apostle Paul was alive. That is why a study of what he wrote in 2nd Thessalonians is totally relevant to our situation today. In this letter Paul writes to a church that was experiencing great distress.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:4 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

"Therefore, we speak of you with pride among the churches of God for your steadfastness [your unflinching endurance, and patience] and your firm faith in the midst of all the persecution and [crushing] distress which you endure."

Paul then goes on to remind them that God plans to bring judgment.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

"For after all it is only just for God to repay with distress those who distress you, 7 and to give relief to you who are so distressed and to us as well when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire, 8 dealing out [full and complete] vengeance to those who do not [seek to] know God and to those who ignore and refuse to obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus [by choosing not to respond to Him]."

Now we have the context for what we read in the next chapter. Please remember that the key to establishing a timeline is to understand verses 1-2.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

"Now in regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to meet Him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to be quickly unsettled or alarmed either by a [so-called prophetic revelation of a] spirit or a message or a letter [alleged to be] from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has [already] come."

Apparently, someone had come with a letter they claimed Paul had written saying that the day of God's vengeance was already happening. Paul wrote to assure the church that this was not possible and gives some reasons why. **The first being that the church had not been "gathered together to meet Him."** The Thessalonians knew exactly what he was referring to because in a previous letter he had written to them about this great event.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

"For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the [blast of the] trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain [on the earth] will simultaneously be caught up (raptured) together with them [the resurrected ones] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord! **18 Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words...."**

If we understand that this is what he is referring to in 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 verse 1, then it is easy to see that he is telling them that before Jesus returns to judge this evil world, the rapture of the church must take place. Then in verse 2 he talks about something completely different. He talks about: "that the day of the Lord has [already] come." In every place in scripture where this day is mentioned, a terrible picture is painted of what God's judgment will look like. **There is no comfort connected to it.**

Paul then goes on to tell them what else must happen before the day of judgment comes. After the rapture of the church, then will come the rise of the Antichrist, (verses 3-7) and **then** God's judgment will follow. This order certainly seems to make sense.

If you leave out verse 1, you will fall victim to the same false teaching that was going around in Paul's day. But we must not leave out verse 1. You should not allow yourself to believe for one second that the time has come for the rise of a one-world

government, the revealing of the Antichrist, and the judgment of God. **Rather, I beg you, prepare for the sound of the trumpet and the catching away of the church to meet Him in the air.**

To be unprepared for this great event will mean that you experience terror and fear like you have never known in your entire life. I want you to think with me what that will be like. In the blink of an eye, life as you have known it on planet earth will change forever. Truth and righteousness will have been removed, and within a short time the Antichrist will rise to power with none to oppose him. Yes, and then very soon all will be required to take his mark and pledge their allegiance to him or die.

**How foolish to try and prepare for the coming of the Antichrist or future plagues when you should have been preparing for coming of the Lord.**

**Luke 12:37-38 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

"Blessed (happy, prosperous, to be admired) are those servants whom the master finds awake and watching when he arrives. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, he will prepare himself to serve, and will have them recline at the table, and will come and wait on them. 38 Whether he comes in the second watch (before midnight), or even in the third (after midnight), and finds them so **[prepared and ready]**, blessed are those servants."

**What does "ready" look like?** How can we prepare for the coming of the Lord? I encourage you to read the Prophecy Update below to learn how to be ready for His coming. **If it were to happen today, would you be ready? Would you be caught up to meet the Lord in the air or would you be left behind?** The day after the rapture every church in America will be filled with terror-stricken people. Sounds of weeping and wailing such as you have never heard will fill the air. (Matthew 24:51) Some pastors will be missing while others will try to explain how things really aren't so bad. But the truth was not in them before, and what they have to say now will also contain no truth. **For those left behind, their worst nightmare will just be starting.**





## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### *“Perfect Peace”*

Over and over I am amazed at how God’s Word is so relevant to whatever it is we may be facing. When faced with a great need or trial, one verse

will come alive and become the promise on which we stand. I am quite sure this has been happening for many because truly, this has been a time unlike any we have ever seen and it has forced us to grab hold of God’s Word in a fresh new way. For me that one verse has been Isaiah 26:3.

#### **Isaiah 26:3 King James Version (KJV)**

“Thou wilt keep him in **perfect peace**, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

This is the only place in the Bible where the translation of the Hebrew word “shalom” adds the word “perfect.” But it is the right translation because the definition of shalom means not only “be safe, be well, be happy; (abstractly) it also includes prosperity, peace, favor, (good) health, rest, and welfare,” and also includes “all is well.” It is perfect and complete with no room for improvement.

When the world talks about peace, they are talking about something very different than this. Recently we saw a spare tire cover on the back of a Jeep with a graphic showing the peace sign and each section surrounding it showing the symbols of different world religions. Immediately I remembered John 14:27.

#### **John 14:27 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

“I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!”

The message on the tire cover and the message of Jesus are very different. **The peace Jesus gives is not fragile; instead it is “perfect peace.”**

Now we come to the big question: Jesus gives it, but how do we get it? As with salvation, it is offered to all, but not all avail themselves of the free gift. If we are honest, we have to admit that whatever peace we have far too often feels very fragile. We wear it like the message on that spare tire cover. But when faced with a pandemic that fills the globe, we find ourselves too easily becoming agitated and fearful. My friends, this is not how perfect peace is supposed to work!

**Is there a key and if so, what is it?**

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## "Perfect Peace" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Well, there is a key and you and I have been given it. We have already read about it, but let's look at it one more time.

### Isaiah 26:3 King James Version (KJV)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

It really boils down to what we are filling our minds with. There are so many voices today telling us how to go about getting inner peace. Some will tell us that the path to inner peace is meditation. By this they mean: Zen meditation, transcendental meditation, Yoga, Chinese or Hindu meditation, guided meditation...all of which have their origins in new age and Eastern religions. **I promise you, the perfect peace the Bible talks about cannot be obtained through the practices of Eastern religions.** At best, all they can produce is a very fragile peace that will only function until the next storm comes; and we have all learned that it will come.

But there is a way that will produce lasting inner peace. I love the Amplified version of Isaiah 26:3.

### Isaiah 26:3 Amplified Bible (AMP)

"You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You—in both inclination and character], **Because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation].**"

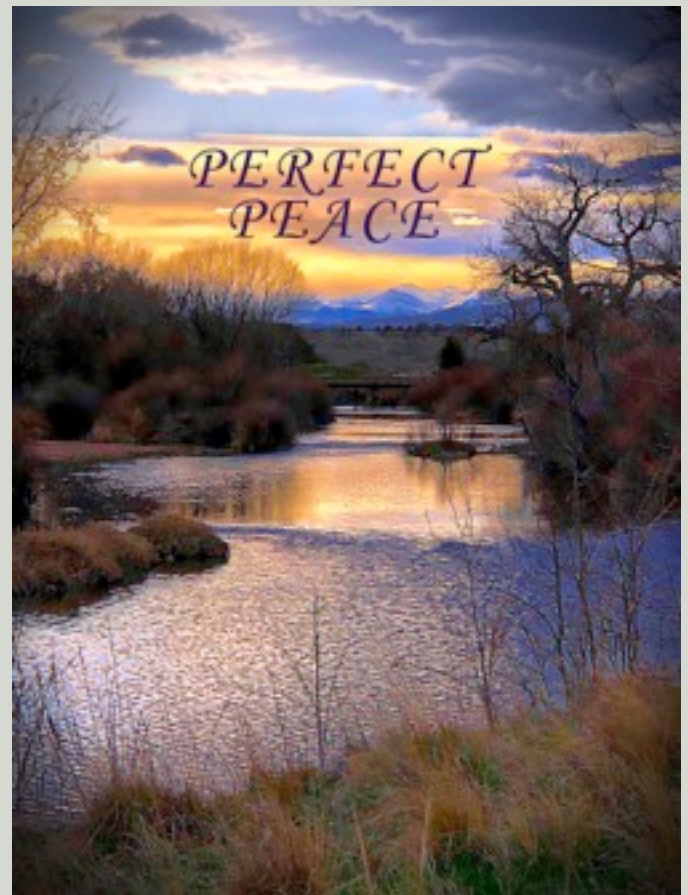
There it is. It is not complex, nor confusing. It is not limited to some transcendental master or Hindu priest. It can be obtained by both the mature Christian and the one who has just come to faith in Christ. It does not require miracle working faith. In fact, it does not require anything of you except your willingness to keep your mind stayed on the Lord and His great loving character. When you do this, it

will generate its own faith because when your mind is stayed on the Lord, you will trust in the Lord.

My prayer is that the trial we are going through at this time will become the fire that refines your faith and prepares you to walk victoriously through any adversity that the enemy will ever throw at you. If you want to fill your mind with something, fill it with this last verse God wants me to leave with you.

### John 16:33 Amplified Bible (AMP)

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world." [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]"



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

# P R O P H E C Y   U P D A T E

## “What Ready Looks Like”

There is one portion of scripture that is not mentioned in churches today. In fact, I cannot remember the last time I heard a message on this scripture. This is very concerning because this message could be the most important message this generation may ever hear. It is 1st Thessalonians 4:16-18.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the [a]rchangel and with the [blast of the] trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain [on the earth] will simultaneously be caught up (raptured) together with them [the resurrected ones] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord! **18 Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words....**”

These verses speak of an event that is referred to as the rapture, when the Lord Himself will come to catch away His church. What causes me such concern are the things the Bible tells us will happen immediately after this great event takes place. Trust me when I tell you it is not going to be something you want to experience. It will be the time spoken of by the prophet Daniel when he says, **“There will be a time of trouble such as has never been.” (Daniel 12:1)**

To not be ready and to miss being among those caught up to meet the Lord in the air will be the worst nightmare anyone will ever experience in this life. The terror of this can only be exceeded by the terror of dying and finding yourself slip into eternity knowing that you are eternally lost without hope, separated from God’s love.

It appears to me that so many today have given little thought as to whether or not they are ready for the coming of the Lord. This blows my mind. Maybe

they think that because they attend church, this makes them ready. It would be nice if every church member and every person who ever made a profession of faith in Christ would be considered “ready.” However, the scriptures make it very clear that such is not the case.

The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 speaks to this very issue. When the bridegroom appeared, the five wise went in and the five foolish were left outside. This parable is the reason I believe that not all who profess faith in Christ will go up in the rapture. This is confirmed in Matthew 7.

### **Matthew 7:21 (CEV)**

“Not everyone who calls me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the ones who obey my Father in heaven will get in.”

**This brings us to the question of what “being ready” looks like.** Jesus made this simple and I want to make it just as simple. In Luke 12 Jesus condenses this down to just two things. The one I want to look at first is found in verse 43.

### **Luke 12:43 (KJV)**

“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”

**What has God been telling you to do? Are you doing it? It is that simple.** Please don’t put this in the context of your vocation because if you do, you will miss what I am trying to say. What I am talking about is a deep personal relationship with Jesus, where each day you listen for His marching orders and are quick to do what the Lord wants you to do. Whether you are a teacher, a janitor, or a doctor, has nothing to do with it. What matters is your relationship with Him. Words are cheap, just because you call Him “Lord” does not make it so.



The only ones who will ever hear Him say “good job” are those who, in the course of their everyday life, have been listening for and obeying His voice.

The second thing Jesus tells us is found in verse 37.

#### **Luke 12:37 (KJV)**

“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching:...”

To give this some context I want to go back to the parable of the ten virgins. Please remember that the five who were not allowed to go into the wedding feast were called foolish. **Would I be wrong to suggest that it is very foolish for us to not be looking eagerly for His return today?** I think not. And yet today so many Christians focus on what is happening in our world while totally ignoring the fact that we are told to be looking for the return of Jesus.

#### **Hebrews 9:28 (KJV)**

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; **and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.”

If you want an illustration of foolish, all you need to do is look at those who are convinced that the rise of Antichrist is upon us. Some are obsessed with conspiracy theories that teach that the COVID-19 pandemic is a created plot to usher in the Antichrist and his kingdom of darkness. Some believe Bill Gates is the Antichrist, while others believe it is Donald Trump. This is unbelievable. They are actually looking for and anticipating the coming of Satan. **Why are you wasting your time looking for the Antichrist when we have been told to be looking for the return of Jesus?**

I challenge anyone to show me even one verse of scripture that tells us to be looking for the Antichrist. But, come to think about it, perhaps both those who are looking for Jesus and those who are looking for the Antichrist may get the one they are looking for. Think about it.

How can anyone be ready if they ignore what Jesus taught about His coming? I take the words of

Jesus very seriously because I want to be ready when He comes. Every day I think about His coming and pray, “Come quickly Lord Jesus.” This world offers me nothing but pain, death, and destruction. Oh, how I long for Jesus to return!

Nor is there a day when I do not try to hear His voice and do what He wants me to do. This is not something I have just recently started doing, but rather, this has been my life’s story because I have truly made Jesus the Lord of my life. Because of this I eagerly await the sound of the trumpet and the soon coming of my Lord.

I want to conclude this article by asking you to seriously consider the things I have shown you from scripture. Do you have an intimate relationship with Jesus? When is the last time you heard Him speak to you and then did what He was asking you to do? Do you live your life to be a blessing to others, or is the focus of your life the obtaining of the material things you long for? I beg you, be brutally honest.

I also want to ask you to consider whether or not you are truly watching and looking for the return of Jesus. It is so easy to get caught up in the things of this world that we completely forget about the things of the Lord. Right now, there is nothing more important than Jesus and the Kingdom of heaven.

Jesus is coming back and that is not debatable. For some, that day will be the greatest day in human history and for others, it will be the worst day of their entire life. I cannot imagine the horror of realizing that Jesus has come for His people and you have been left behind. For those who have missed the rapture, now will be the time to start looking for the Antichrist. They will not have to wait long. Those who stood for righteousness and have restrained the evil one will be gone, and spiritual darkness will quickly fill the earth. I beg you, now is the time to truly make Jesus Lord of your life.

#### **Titus 2:12-13 New Life Version (NLV)**

“We are taught to have nothing to do with that which is against God. We are to have nothing to do with the desires of this world. We are to be wise and to be right with God. We are to live God-like lives in this world. **13 We are to be looking for the great hope and the coming of our great God and the One Who saves, Christ Jesus.**”

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH