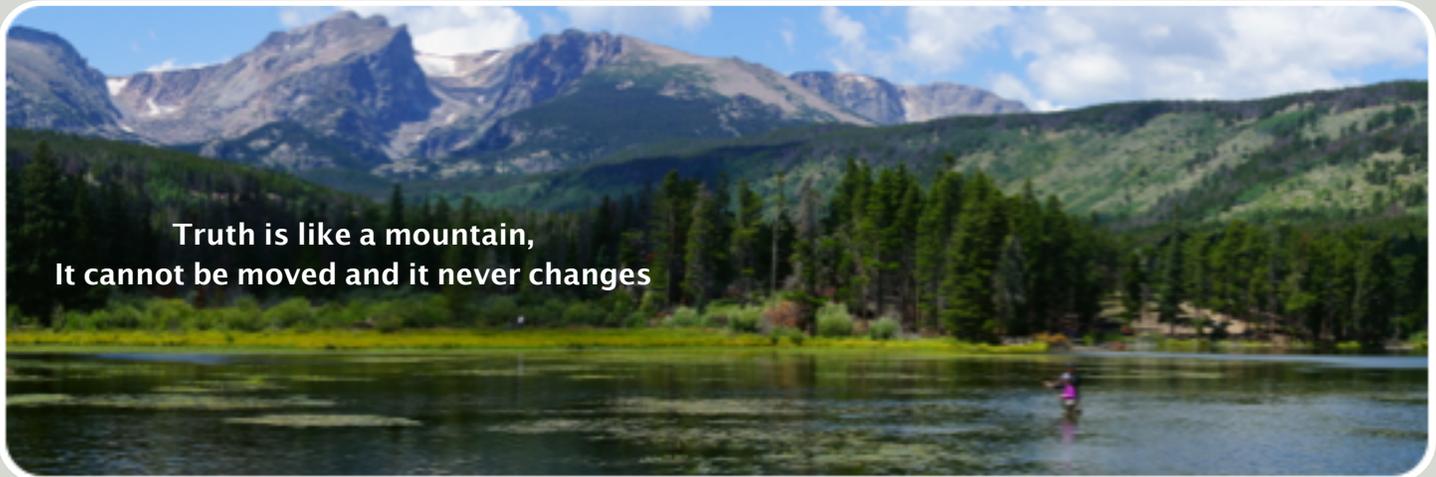


**JUNE 2020**

# “TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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

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This month we are excited to release a new feature on our website that many have been asking for. From now on, in addition to the newsletter you read each month, there will also be an audio version available.

The audio version will include everything that is in the printed version, plus some additional comments that space does not allow for in the printed version. This feature will replace “The Message of the Month” we have had in the past. All of the sermon series we have offered in the past will still be available for listening and downloading.

To listen to the audio newsletter, go to the website and look for the “June Newsletter.” Under it you will find a “Read” button and 3 new “Listen” buttons. Click the article you want to listen to and enjoy.

A special word of thanks to all those who have encouraged us to add this feature. Your feedback is always appreciated!

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "WHO IS THE RESTRAINER?"

**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!**

Back when I was pastoring, one of the things people enjoyed most was when I would do a teaching that was based on what I had uncovered while doing an in-depth study of God's Word. By in depth, I mean a study where truth is discovered by digging deep into either the Hebrew or Greek texts, looking at verb tenses, and then reconstructing how a sentence should read based on what I had learned in my study. There is nothing in ministry I enjoyed more than this type of sermon preparation.

The situation we have been living through has caused me to believe that once again a teaching such as this is badly needed. There is so much being passed around that has caused many to focus on things that only produce fear. This happens because people do not know their Bible. They listen to teachers who present their own opinion about what the future might hold, get caught up in that teaching, and then start spreading it to as many as will listen. Soon it spreads through the body of Christ faster than COVID-19 at a birthday party.

I want to be kind, but I must be blunt. This type of thing does not put us in the place God wants us and it should not be happening. What we need today is sound biblical teaching that gives us reason to hope and believe that God has a great future for His people. That is what you are going to receive as you continue reading. You will receive biblical truth and not my opinion. You will receive fact rather than conjecture. You will receive an in-depth study of God's Word. You will receive something that will set you free and keep you free from fear.

The scripture verse I want to study with you is 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:7 King James Version (KJV)**

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, **until he be taken out of the way.**"

**The first thing that should be done in any Bible study is to establish context.** What situation is Paul talking about? If you read the entire chapter, it is very easy to see that Paul is talking about the coming of the man of sin (the Antichrist). Paul is also telling us that something (either a person or an entity) is restraining or standing in the way of this wicked one being revealed and coming to power.

The word "**letteth**" in the King James Version creates some confusion. You and I look at that word and interpret it to mean "allow," when in fact, it means just the opposite. The Greek word used here is "**katecho**" which means: "to hold down, in various applications (literally or figuratively)." **Twenty-seven translations get this right by using the English word "restrain."**

**Now we come to the big question:** Who or what is hindering and restraining this wicked, evil person from being revealed and destroying the souls of billions of people? I have only heard of two possibilities. One is the Holy Spirit and the other is the church.

Once again, the King James Version creates confusion when it inserts the English word "**he.**" Those who are of the opinion that the restrainer is the Holy Spirit use this unfortunate translation to prove their opinion. They say it cannot be referring to the church because the church is the "**bride of Christ**" and a bride cannot be masculine in gender. I suspect they arrive at their conclusion by reason instead of study, but I must acknowledge that indeed, a study of the Greek does confirm that the English word "**Church**" (**Greek: Ekklesia**) is feminine in gender.

But does this prove that the Holy Spirit is the restrainer or is there a possibility that the Holy Spirit is also feminine?

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## “Who Is The Restrainer?”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

A careful word study reveals that in the Old Testament the word **“Spirit” (Hebrew: Ruwach)** is also feminine in gender. This may seem strange to some but it shouldn’t. Think about this: We believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. If the Father is masculine, and the Holy Spirit is also **supposedly** masculine, how can there be an only begotten Son? That doesn’t work! Well, it doesn’t need to work because that is not how it is. This is made clear and confirmed in Genesis 1:27.

### Genesis 1:27 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

**“So God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself. He created them male and female.”**

So, the only thing we have proven is that it is a huge mistake to focus on the word “he” when trying to determine who or what the restrainer is. In fact, as we continue to study 2 Thessalonians 2:7, we discover that the word “he” was not even used in the Greek text! Let me explain.

The Greek language is so expressive that many times one Greek word can require up to four English words to properly convey its meaning. When this is done, Greek scholars refer to it as **“word clusters.”** This is what we have in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 where the English text reads “he who now letteth.” As I stated above, the word “He” isn’t even found in the original Greek text. Rather, the translators put it in as part of a word cluster that tries to give meaning to the Greek word that is translated “letteth.” **So, a better translation of 2 Thessalonians 2:7 would be: “...only what restrains will restrain until it be taken out of the way.”**

But can our study still reveal a clue as to what has been restraining the evil one? Paul goes on to tell us that this restraining force is going to be **“taken out of the way.”** In the Greek text the word “taken” is used in the aorist subjunctive tense. This tense speaks of a simple one-time action. It is not an ongoing progressive action; it is a one and done!

When we factor in this piece of information, it begins to appear Paul may be speaking about the rapture of the church. Indeed, when we look at other ways this same Greek word is translated in other passages, the identity of the restrainer becomes quite clear. In Luke 24:31 it is translated **“vanished.”** In Acts 15:25 it is translated **“assembled”** and in Romans 7:7 it is translated **“married.”**

For me, this settles the issue. I see no way the word “taken” can be applied to the Holy Spirit. But if it speaks of the church being “taken” (i.e.: **vanished, assembled, and married**) then everything works. We now have a hope, and an understanding of what our mission is to be. We are here to restrain evil from taking over this planet. **We also can be assured that the Antichrist will never be able to rise to power as long as the church is here!**

But after we have been “taken” up in the rapture, things will change faster than you can ever imagine. Think with me what it could look like. Let’s assume that both Mike Pence and Donald Trump are born-again Christians. I know some of you do not believe that our president is born-again, but for sake of this illustration let’s assume that he is. Do you know who would be sworn in as president the day after President Trump and Vice President Pence vanish? Are you ready for this? Nancy Pelosi is next in line to take the oval office. Yes, you heard me right! I think it is safe to say that because some other senators and congressmen would also be “taken,” radical liberals would most likely control both houses of Congress. Think about what the Supreme Court would then look like. I could go on and on.

We have seen what fear can do to people. The last few months have caused people to willingly surrender their freedoms all because they were ruled by their fears. What we have seen is nothing compared to what will transpire after the restrainer has been taken. More prophecy will be fulfilled in a few days than you have previously seen in your entire life. Once again, I urge you...

**Make sure you are ready for the rapture!**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS  
IS THE TRUTH!



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### *“My Safe Hiding Place”*

For the last two months we have been told to stay in our homes if we want to be safe from the COVID-19 virus. On the highways we see signs telling us to “Stay

home and save a life.” All this has served to remind me of our need to have a “hiding place” in the Lord.

When we were young, we loved to play “hide and seek.” We looked for a hiding place where we were least likely to be discovered. It was a fun game because there was not a real enemy who would cause us harm if we were found. However, as we grew to adulthood, we quickly learned that sometimes finding a good hiding place can mean the difference between life and death.

A good example of this would be the men and women of our military. These heroes are taught that finding a hiding place in battle is sometimes essential to their survival. Many veterans tell of their experiences in the foxholes during a battle where their lives depended on where they would hide.

We need to remember that we are in a battle against an enemy who is very real and is committed to causing us great harm.

#### **1 Peter 5:8 King James Version (KJV)**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Satan plots and schemes to find a way to trap us, discourage us, and bring us down. You need to know he will use the things we face in life to accomplish this. What we have been experiencing in the last several months is a good example of what I am trying to say. Obviously, not all of us will be infected with the virus, but that does not mean we will not face great challenges that may be very discouraging.

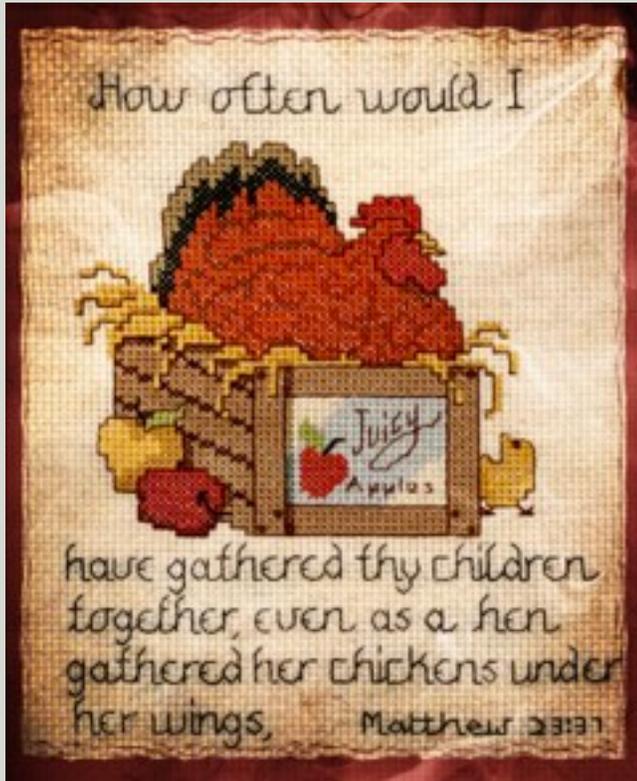
Some will struggle with feelings of abandonment caused by their forced isolation. We have not been created to be alone; our time with our families and friends is a very important part of our lives. Also, some will face financial hardships that they will have to deal with long after the pandemic is in the rearview mirror. The list goes on, but I think you get the point. We are in a battle and this is not a game. We need to find a hiding place and our Lord is that place of safety.

#### **Psalm 32:7 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

“You are my hiding place; You, Lord, protect me from trouble; You surround me with songs and shouts of deliverance.”

## "My Safe Hiding Place" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

About 30 years ago I made a cross-stitch of Matthew 23:37 that has been very meaningful to me and still hangs on my kitchen wall.



When I made this cross-stitch, there wasn't room for the entire verse so I had to leave out **"and you would not."** So many times, we make this mistake. When it seems like things are getting better, it is so easy to forget how we felt during the pandemic. We need to be reminded that we live in an unsafe world and never know when the next plague may appear. I do not tell you that to create fear, but rather to make you aware that our hiding place in the Lord should be our place of safety in both good and bad times. If this is not how we view life, then we place ourselves in the category of those Jesus spoke of in Matthew 23:37 when He said, **"...and you would not."**

I do not want to appear to be proud or arrogant, but I must tell you that during this time, when the entire world was hearing nothing but terrifying reports of death and darkness, never once was I overwhelmed by fear. This is not because of my human strength and resolve, but because I have made Jesus my hiding place. He was my hiding place long before the world ever heard the word coronavirus, and He will continue to be my hiding place long after a cure and a vaccine has been found that eliminates this threat.

I cannot begin to tell you how real and practical this has been for us. It is the kind of thing that is easy to observe when you face severe challenges like we have just gone through. When this pandemic erupted, John and I had a verse of scripture that we prayed over our family many times every day. It was a part of our hiding place, and has now become a key part of the weapons of our warfare. It was Psalms 91:9-10.

### **Psalm 91:9-10 King James Version (KJV)**

"Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;  
**10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."**

John and I spent most of our time up at our place in the mountains where we were totally isolated. Some of our family could also stay at home, but some couldn't. Like it or not, their jobs required them to be in daily contact with the public. **It was so amazing to wake up each morning with an assurance that no plague would come near their dwelling.**

Once again, I want to remind you that we have not seen the last pandemic. When will the next one come? I do not know and I do not care. This is because the same God who brought us through this will still be sitting on His throne in total control of the entire universe. He wants us to run to Him and learn to let Him be...

### **Our Hiding Place.**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

# PROPHECY UPDATE

## LETTER WE RECEIVED THIS MONTH

Below is a letter we received this month from one of our subscribers. We wanted to share it just as we received it because we believe it confirms the importance of the things we have been writing. We always appreciate all the feedback you send us.

Subject: May newsletter

Message: Hello

John and Linda! Just wanted to write and thank for for the powerful May newsletter. The things you both shared gave me peace, hope and some balance that I desperately needed in my life. There have been so many respected (Spirit-filled) people out there building conspiracy theories around the (seeming) events that point to an imminent antichrist. Their messages fill our hearts with the kind of fear and panic that consumes the world at this time—the kind of fear that causes us to hoard, go survivalist, buy up all the toilet paper, hand soap and ammunition they can get their hands on! In paranoia we see everyone as a potential threat which causes us to pursue a completely self-absorbed lifestyle. Your articles helped me to re-focus on what is important—to be looking for Jesus and spend our days seeking to please Him, not become some misanthropic Howard Hughes type as we wait out the tribulation.

I really don't know if I'm pre-Trib, mid-Trib or post-Trib, but just want to focus on being ready to go at any time (come, Lord Jesus!), sooner than later! Thanks again for this good word! Hope you all are doing well. We think of you often!

Love you guys,  
Martha

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH