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70 TH

ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

TRUTH
— MAGAZINE —

70TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The Rebirth of “The Herald of Truth”: A 70th Anniversary Celebration

Pastor/Editor: Byron Lee Sanchez



A Retrospective Look Ahead:

This year marks the 70th anniversary of “The Herald of Truth”. This publication from the 7th Day Church of God is known for delivering mature Biblical content to those who seek solid food in the Word. As we commemorate this 70-year milestone, we will reprint some classic material from older issues while also introducing fresh, thought-provoking content from a diverse list of contributors. My name is Byron Lee Sanchez. I am the Pastor and President of the Caldwell 7th Day Church of God and the new Editor of “The Herald of Truth”. As a licensed minister of the General Council of the Churches of God (7th day) Inc. I currently serve on the Publications Committee, as a regular contributor to ACTS Magazine, and as Vice Chairman of Maranatha Bible College.

I am thrilled to announce the reintroduction of this esteemed Biblical religious magazine. Our goal is to make both digital and print copies available through our sister organization using the Meridian Publishing House. This initiative aims to provide a doctrinal, theological, and prophetic focus that complements, rather than competes with, the foundational truths presented in “A.C.T.S. (Advocating Christ The Savior) Magazine.

Celebrating 70 Years of Biblical Insight

“The Herald of Truth” has been a beacon of light, offering profound Biblical insights and fostering spiritual growth for seven decades. Our retrospective edition will feature seminal articles that have shaped the magazine’s legacy, reminding readers of the rich history and enduring relevance of our publication. Articles from past issues will provide a historical context and reaffirm the timeless truths found in Scripture. As Hebrews 13:8 states, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever,” emphasizing the unchanging nature of God’s Word and its applicability across generations.

The Significance of Mature Content:

The magazine has always been geared toward those who seek more than the basics of Christian doctrine. Hebrews 5:14 underscores this mission: “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Our readers, accustomed to such solid food, have come to rely on “The Herald of Truth” for deeper theological discussions and prophetic insights that challenge and edify their faith.

Fresh Perspectives on Doctrinal and Theological Issues:

In addition to revisiting classic articles, we are excited to introduce new content that will address contemporary issues through a Biblical lens. Our contributors, who are experts in various fields of Theology and Biblical Studies, will bring fresh perspectives and robust analysis to our readers. Today we face moral and cultural issues our predecessors probably would not have imagined 70 years ago. These articles will delve into complex doctrinal issues, theological interpretations, and prophetic understandings that may not be covered in other magazines.

Prophetic Insights for Today’s World:

One of the hallmarks of “The Herald of Truth” has been its focus on Biblical prophecy. In a world filled with uncertainty, our readers seek guidance and understanding of God’s plan as revealed in the Scriptures. As Amos 3:7 states, “Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.” Our contributors will explore prophetic passages and provide insights into how these prophecies relate to current events and the future.

Expanding Our Reach:

In response to the evolving needs of our readers, we will make “The Herald of Truth” available in both digital and print formats. This dual approach ensures that we can reach a broader audience and provide convenient access to our content. As the Apostle Paul utilized every available means to spread the Gospel, we too will leverage modern technology to disseminate our message. 1 Corinthians 9:22 reminds us, “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

Resource Management and Staff Considerations:

We are mindful of the workload on our Publishing House staff and have carefully planned our publication schedule to offset the bi-monthly issues of “A.C.T.S. Magazine.” By releasing “The Herald of Truth” on an August/September cycle, we can ensure a steady flow of content without overwhelming our team. This staggered approach allows for thorough preparation and high-quality production of each issue.

Complementing “A.C.T.S. Magazine” in A Harmonious Relationship:

It is important to emphasize that “The Herald of Truth” is not intended to detract from the valuable work of our sister publication “A.C.T.S. Magazine.” Both publications serve unique and complementary purposes within our community. While “A.C.T.S. Magazine” aims to reach a broad audience with fundamental Christian truths, “The Herald of Truth” will strive to present more in-depth and challenging content. Romans 14:19 encourages us to “make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” By offering diverse content, we can edify the entire body of Christ in different yet harmonious ways.

A Call for Collaboration:

We invite contributors from both magazines to collaborate and share their insights, fostering a spirit of unity and mutual growth. This collaboration will enrich both publications and provide our readers with a well-rounded spiritual diet. As Proverbs 27:17 states, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Together, we can sharpen each other’s understanding and bring glory to God through our collective efforts.

Building on a Firm Foundation:

We are filled with anticipation and excitement as “The Herald of Truth” prepares to build upon the foundation that has been laid for us. The reintroduction of this magazine, with its rich history and renewed focus, promises to provide valuable resources for spiritual growth and understanding. We are committed to delivering content that is doctrinally sound, theologically rich, and prophetically insightful. By making both digital and print versions available, we aim to reach a diverse audience and meet the needs of our readers in today’s fast-paced world.

We are grateful for the support of our contributors, staff, and readers, and we look forward to the continued impact of “The Herald of Truth” in the lives of those who seek the deeper truths of God’s Word. May this magazine continue to be a source of enlightenment, encouragement, blessings, and edification for many years to come.

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Byron Lee Sanchez

Editor, “The Herald of Truth”

FROM “THE HERALD OF TRUTH” ARCHIVES: OUR PAPER

Vol. 1 No.1 August 1954

By M.L. Ogren (First Editor)

By the reports from far and near, and the messages of truth that will appear in THE HERALD OF TRUTH the reader can see how far the truth of God’s Word is being sent. This part of the Lord’s work will grow as each of us put forth the effort. Our desire is to always put out a good clean paper with saving truths that are essential to salvation; truths, we have treasured up in our hearts a good many years. “The truth shall make you free.” (John 8:52).

The true words of life are found in the Bible, the book of truth. Jesus was the Word. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14) Jesus is the light of the world and we must lift Him up through our publications. Time spent in sending out a pure, soul-saving message will bring lasting results, and those with the message will receive blessings from on high. As there can be but a short time until Jesus will appear again, a few years at the most, it behooves the Church of God to step out ahead in every good work. Let us take the charge that Paul gives us in 2Timothy 4:1,2: “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; :2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” Many are hungering and thirsting for the truth; therefore, laborers must be sent.

The pure word of God sown in fertile fields will bring great results. We have the truth, the pure word of God, and it should be the desire of every member to help publish it worldwide. May the Lord pour out His spirit on the Church of God, that it may glean a rich harvest of souls for His soon-coming Kingdom. (Reprinted from “The Herald of Truth,” Vol. 1, No.1, August, 1954)

Martin L. Ogren served as the Editor of THE HERALD OF TRUTH from 1954-1982

Paul A. Woods served as the Editor of THE HERALD OF TRUTH from 1982-2009





IMPORTANT?

By Paul Woods

(Paul Woods was a former editor of the Herald of Truth for over 25 years. This is a reprinted editorial from the December 2009 edition of the Herald of Truth.)

“My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the herb, and as the showers upon the grass: because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:2-4, KJV)

God was faithful in the beginning to establish doctrine (instruction) for the children of Israel, setting forth guidelines that would enable them to live godly lives. Had they heeded God’s doctrines and commandments they could have saved themselves a heap of trouble and averted the judgment of God.

How important is doctrine for us today?

Have you ever had to stop and rethink your position on a particular doctrine? Perhaps you are one who has or had the idea that “if the doctrine was good enough for my parents, it is good enough for me.” Or, you might be one who tends to grasp onto whatever doctrine is popular at the time. The Word tells us not to be carried about with every wind of doctrine, but especially for the elders to labor in the Word and in doctrine. The Apostle Paul reminds us that all Scripture is profitable for doctrine (2 Timothy 3:16).

Some people go to church, listen to the preacher, and quote whatever he may have said (with their own interpretation) to be gospel, without searching the Word for themselves to see if the doctrine be true.

I trust you are not one of the above-mentioned, but one who proves all doctrine by God’s Word

Today, we live in a world where almost any doctrine is taught; Jesus termed that as “traditions of men.” Doctrines are oftentimes formed by people adhering to what the founder of a particular denomination teaches. Many times the founder of a denomination is exalted to equal, or even above, status with Jesus Christ. Any time this happens there is a serious flaw and the doctrine becomes faulty. Why? Because Jesus Christ, and He alone, is the Head of the Church!

“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste.’” (Isaiah 28:16).

Ephesians 2:20 says “... Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Ephesians 1:22; 2:20; 4:13,15 and Ephesians 5:23-27 all tell us that Jesus alone is the Head of the Church. The writer of the book of Hebrews declared that Jesus Christ is the Apostle and High Priest of our profession (Hebrews 3:1). If we really believe this, we will not put man’s commentaries and denominational interpretations above God’s Holy Word.

Jesus said in John 14:26 that when the Holy Spirit was sent, He would be our teacher. Now do you suppose this Teacher is going to teach each one of us a different doctrine? No! Because the Word and the Spirit agree (I John 5:7-8).

In today’s world, we have such a vast amount of varied doctrines that it becomes confusing when trying to sort out what is of “sound doctrine” and what is not, according to the principles of God’s Holy Word. If you have access to the Internet you can literally waste precious hours and days of time searching for “doctrine” when we have God’s written Word and the infilling of His Spirit available to lead us to life eternal. The people in Jesus’ time were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught with authority. That authority is for us today. Oh, that we would have an ear to listen to what Jesus is saying to us through His Word. If we do His will we will know of the doctrine (John 7:17).

Probably one of the most difficult things to do is to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts concerning the things we have been taught and then make the necessary changes in our thinking according to God’s Holy Word. Some of the doctrinal changes God may require of you may not be comfortable. Why? Because it may be a religious teaching you were raised with and believed all your life, or it may be a doctrine that would alter your lifestyle or the lifestyle of someone dear to you. This has happened to this writer more than once. On a particular occasion forty-three years ago (58 years ago at this reprinting), the Spirit of God was dealing with me about keeping the Sabbath day holy. I was not raised to do so. Matter-of-fact, growing up as a child, we didn’t even keep Sunday very “holy,” even though we

were very diligent to be in church every time the doors were open. There came the time I had to choose between “sound doctrine” and the doctrines and commandments of men. To this day, I’ve never regretted the decision to follow the unktion of the Holy Spirit and be in obedience to the principle of God’s Holy Word.

Did I have to make some major changes? Yes! Am I sorry I did! No! Why not? Because God has blessed me abundantly for following the precepts of His Word and not the traditions of men.

If you are struggling with a doctrinal issue, receive the challenge to submit to the principles of God’s Holy Word.

The Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, thanked God that they had obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered to them (6:17). We find in Scripture that in the early church new believers were committed to certain defined standards and conduct based on principles and the believer’s relationship to Christ. The “sound doctrine” referred to in the epistles is for us today. The assumption that

Christianity has no pattern of teaching (doctrine) that regulates thought and practice is foreign to Paul’s concept of the faith.

Do not be deceived into thinking that doctrine is legalism. A legalist substitutes outward acts or words for proper inner attitudes that come from being born of God. Such a person “*honors God with his lips, but his heart is far from Him*” (Matthew 15:8).

In this day of grace we, as Christians, remain under the instruction, discipline, and duty of obeying Christ’s doctrines.

May we embrace the admonition given to Titus by Paul, by “*showing ourselves a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ... That others may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things*” (Titus 2:7,10).

How important is doctrine to you?

(Reprinted from “The Herald of Truth,”
Vol. 55, #2, December 2009)

(Paul and his wife, Sherry, now reside in Texas.)

The Love Commandments of Jesus

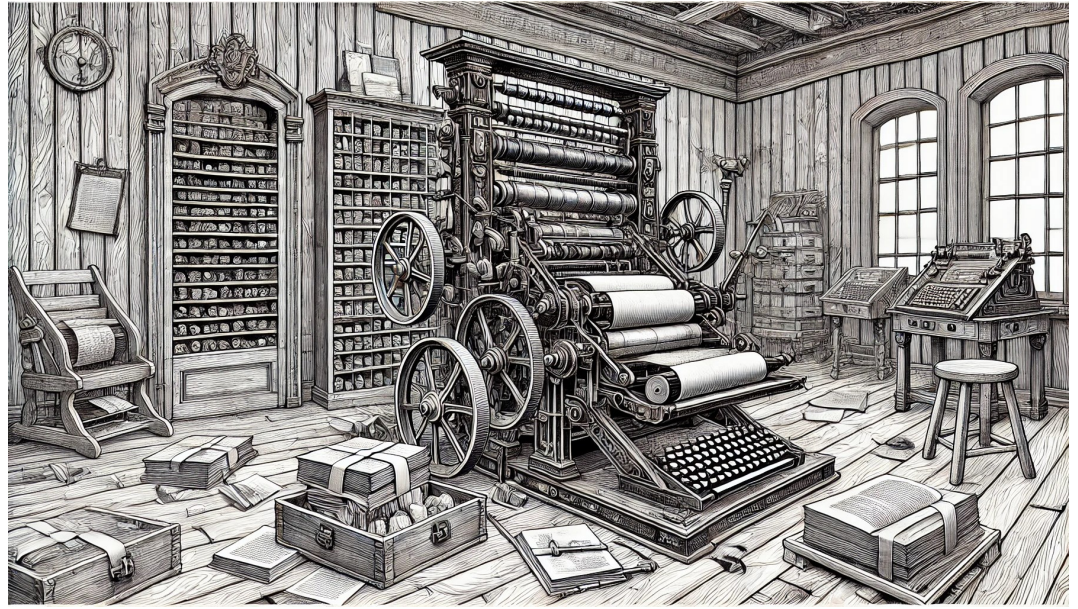
By Pastor Wes Higgins

Most Christians are aware of Jesus’ statement “If you love Me, keep My commandments”, but there are four other specific commands about love that Jesus made. When a lawyer asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus quoted directly from the Old Testament: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart - soul - and mind. And He said that the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself (see Matthew 22:34-40). There are two other direct commands that Christ gave that are not found in the old covenant. The first is given in John 13:34 - a new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The last one is found in Matthew 5:43-48 - love your enemies, bless those who use you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who - persecute you.

The last two commands are not even possible without the help of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORIES OF DOROTHY OGREN

The Publishing Ministry was started in 1954 – the year I was born. The Herald of Truth was the name of the monthly magazine, and also printed were Sabbath School Lessons for each quarter and a variety of tracts. My earliest memories of the printing ministry is when I was maybe 3 years old. My Dad, Martin (M. L.) Ogren, had rented office space in downtown Caldwell above the stores (it was on 4th St. between Main and Arthur streets). My Mom (Virginia) was



the typist, among other things, so when she needed to type the articles or do other work there, she would, of course, take me along. My two sisters (Carole and Linda) were both in school, so most of the time it was just me and my Mom there if it was daytime; but then in the evenings the whole family were there, including Carole and Linda, assembling the pages of the Herald of Truth or the Sabbath School Lessons, etc., getting them ready for mailing.

I remember going to the windows in that upstairs office and looking out over the town (the bus station was on the corner). I also remember taking naps there. My Dad had purchased two wooden tables from the Post Office that they were discarding, and one table had a wooden shelf (or a wide slate) underneath. That shelf is where my Mom would have me take a nap.

Later, when I was 8 years old, we moved from our home in the country into Caldwell to be close to my Grandma Sheffield who needed care. About that time, my Dad bought a piece of property at the end of the alley from our house that had a one-room house on it. That became the headquarters of the Office, and it was a very convenient location, being just one block down the alley from us. In about 1968 or maybe 1969, my parents sold that property and moved the printing operation to our garage. It was a small one-car garage, so it accommodated the printing press and tools and equipment, and a dark room for developing the negatives for the plates that were used on the printing press, but the typewriter found a home in my

parent's small bedroom, set up in the corner. It was tight quarters, but convenient for my Mom. She could work on the typing part of the operation in between other chores, etc., that come with housekeeping and mothering. A few years later, a brother in the local church here in Caldwell, a carpenter named Pat Hathaway, helped my Dad put an upstairs addition over top of our garage and he was able to have a desk of his own to work at, the typewriter was moved up there, and there was adequate storage for the tracts, etc., room for assembling the publications, etc.

I think it may have been around 1976 when the Lord impressed upon my Dad that He wanted him to write a correspondence course. So he set out to do that. He wrote a lesson a week until there were 48 lessons total, with a test after each fourth lesson. When the Lord first told my Dad to do this, there was no money for the production of it, nor for advertisement, etc., so my Dad asked the Lord that if He was really leading in this, would He send a sizeable offering in the mail that day to cover the initial costs. God never fails to persuade us of His will. That very day when my Dad went to the Post Office to get the church mail, there was a check for \$200.00, enough to cover the initial costs. The course was called Zion Faith College and I will guess that thousands of people took the course over the many years, many of them being men who were incarcerated. One time he received a letter from a ministry in Finland wanting to know if they could translate the course into Russian because they had a ministry across the border in Russia. Of course, permission was given to them.

My Dad took two missionary trips to Nigeria and the Philippines, somewhere between 1978 and 1980. It had been a long-time desire of his to meet and encourage the brethren in those places. So he waited until he was past 63 to begin Social Security. At that time, they would backpay you to age 62, so he took that backpay money to take the first trip overseas. He came home with lots of testimonies to share – and also came home with Malaria. The Dr. didn't know what he had, but there was a male nurse on duty who had served overseas in the military and he recognized the symptoms immediately. So they began treating him, and through God's healing power, he recovered and was able to take another trip over there two years later. My Dad passed from this life in May of 1982 of a fast-growing cancer and is awaiting the sound of the Trumpet to wake him from sleep so he can meet the Lord in the air.

After his passing, the elders of the various churches in the affiliation of the fellowship of the Feast observing churches asked Paul Woods (son-in-law of Martin, and my brother-in-law) if he would step in and continue the printing ministry. My Dad had previously taught Paul how to run the printing press so he was somewhat familiar with the operation. After he and Linda (my sister) prayed about it, they agreed to do that. A few years later, Paul was able to get an office building for free from a businessman here in town, and he, along with help from church brothers here in the valley, moved the building to the church grounds, where it remains today. All the printing operations were moved from my mother's house to this new office site, so she was then free to sell her house when it became necessary.

Over the years equipment was added to make the work easier and to increase the volume of printing. Collators, folders, and big paper cutters were added. Bro. David Hingston from the church in Everett, WA worked for the local phone company. He got a used computer from their company and donated it to us – that was our leap of faith in learning to operate a computer. But it proved to be a big help, and over the years we updated the computers in the office once or twice and used them in conjunction with the printing press to make the paper plates, print the yearly calendars, etc. Over the years, the volume of printing increased until we were sending out a mailing list not only here in the U.S., but thousands of Herald of Truths and Sabbath School Lessons overseas, mainly to Nigeria, the Philippines, and to India. Once each year we would send as many Bibles to Nigeria as we could - 100+, as there was always such a need for them there. Then the brethren said the print was too

small for some of the older ones to read, so we began sending reading glasses to them with the Bibles. Sis. Brenda Kellogg worked in a drug store in Republic, WA, and she was able to donate many pairs at the end of each year that the store gave to her. God blesses in many ways, not always with dollars, but in ways that meet the needs.

During Paul's years as editor of the Herald of Truth and pastor of the local church here in Caldwell, he was able to take two trips to India, with a stop in the Philippines, to visit the Hebron Orphanage in Palakol, India, as well as many local Churches of God in that area of India. He also came back with wonderful testimonies of how the Spirit of the Lord was/is working in those places.

One project that we took on during those years was to print copies of the Gospel of John in Spanish (I can't remember if it was 5,000 or 10,000) for Bro. Elmer Bolt to distribute in Mexico on his next missionary trip there. Several in the local church got involved in getting those put together, and what joy to be printing the pure Word of God to be given out.

In later years, Paul's older brother Allen, retired and needed something to fill in his spare hours. So he came to the office faithfully for many years and did the collating and stapling for us. What a blessing he was to us.

After Paul's wife, Linda, passed away, he felt the need for a change so he took a short leave of absence. He returned to the work but was getting to the point where he really wanted to retire. A replacement could not be found at that time, so the printing office was shut down in December 2009. It has remained shut down until now.

There is a story in Genesis about Isaac and his herdsmen. Abraham had dug wells for his cattle to drink from. After Abraham passed on, enemies had filled in those wells. As Isaac's herds increased, he had a need to redig those wells for water for his cattle. Sometimes, we need to go back and redig some wells that have been closed for a period of time.

God has brought us into a new season and has put a vision in Bro. Bryon Sanchez's heart to resume the printing ministry, maybe not as it was exactly but for the season of time we are in now. The physical work has changed – printing presses are a thing of the past, as are some of the other equipment we previously used. But as we embrace the new methods, we trust that the Lord will have His blessing on what is done in His Name.

God, The Second Law of Thermodynamics, and the Consequences of Sin-

By Byron Lee Sanchez



The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that the total entropy of an isolated system can never decrease over time, implying that the universe is moving toward a state of maximum entropy or disorder. This law highlights a finite amount of usable energy in the universe, affirming its finitude. In contrast, God self-identifies as the “I AM” (Exodus 3:14), the eternal, self-sustaining creator and sustainer of all dimensions. This article explores the interplay between these concepts and the profound theological and existential implications of sin, death, and eternal life.

The eventual cold, dark state of the universe, often referred to as “heat death” or the “Big Freeze,” is the ultimate fate predicted by the Second Law of Thermodynamics. As the universe continues to expand, the finite amount of usable energy will gradually dissipate, leading to a state of maximum entropy where all energy is evenly distributed, and no thermodynamic work can occur. In this distant future, stars will have exhausted their nuclear fuel and burnt out, galaxies will drift apart, and black holes will

slowly evaporate through Hawking radiation. The cosmos will become an expanse of cold, dark emptiness, devoid of any life or activity, marking the end of all physical processes. This stark reality underscores the necessity of an eternal, sustaining force outside of the natural order—God, who transcends time and space and offers eternal life beyond the temporal confines of the universe.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics and Its Implications

The Second Law of Thermodynamics is a foundational principle in physics, describing the natural tendency of energy to disperse and systems to progress toward disorder. It implies that:

1. **Energy Dissipation:** Energy transitions from usable (low entropy) to unusable (high entropy) forms.
2. **Finite Universe:** The finite amount of usable energy suggests the universe has a beginning and will have an end.

This scientific principle resonates with the biblical assertion of a finite, created universe. Genesis 1:1 states, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” The universe, therefore, is not self-sustaining; it requires an external source of energy and order—God.

God: The Creator and Sustainer

God, as revealed in the Bible, is described as the eternal “I AM” (Exodus 3:14), highlighting His self-existence and self-sufficiency. Unlike the universe, God is infinite and unchanging. He is the source of all energy, life, and order. God is the “To Be” that counteracts “Not to Be”.

- **Creator:** “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).
- **Sustainer:** “He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17).

God’s nature is further elucidated in John 1:3-4: “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” God’s creative power and sustaining presence are the bedrock of all existence.

God’s Eternity and Independence from Time

God’s self-identification as “I AM” signifies His existence outside of time and space. Unlike the created universe, which is bound by the dimensions of time and space, God is eternal and uncreated.

- **Eternal Nature:** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God” (Psalm 90:2).
- **Uncreated Being:** “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place’” (Isaiah 57:15).

Time is a measurement relevant only to the created order, a dimension that governs the cosmos. God, however, transcends this dimension, existing eternally and independently of time. His eternal nature underscores His role as the ultimate cause and sustainer of all that exists.

Sin: The Absence of God and Life

Sin is fundamentally a transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4) and results in a separation from God. The wages of sin, as stated in Romans 6:23, is death—both physical and spiritual.

- **God is Light:** “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).
- **God is Life:** “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

Just as darkness is the absence of light, death is the absence of life. Sin, therefore, represents the absence of God’s presence and life in an individual. Once man chose good and evil the LORD cut them off from the Tree of Life and sentenced them to death.

Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”

Death: The Natural Consequence of Sin

When God’s law is violated, life ceases to function as intended. The absence of God’s sustaining force leads to death. This is not merely a punitive measure but a natural causal result. James 1:15 succinctly explains, “Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Eternal Life: The Gift of God

In stark contrast to the death brought about by sin, God offers eternal life through Jesus Christ. Romans 6:23 continues, “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This gift is a restoration of the life and relationship with God that was lost through sin.

- **Jesus as the Light:** “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (John 8:12).
- **Jesus as the Life:** “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

Through Christ, believers are reconciled to God, receiving not only forgiveness but also the indwelling presence of God’s Spirit, which sustains them.

The Positive Motive Force: God as “To Be”

God embodies the ultimate “To Be,” the positive force that opposes the “Not to Be” of sin and death. His nature as the sustainer of life is crucial for understanding the gravity of sin and the transformative power of His grace.

- **God’s Creative Power:** “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host” (Psalm 33:6).

- **God’s Sustaining Power:** “And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17).

Scientific Corroboration and Theological Harmony

The interplay between the Second Law of Thermodynamics and the biblical narrative provides a coherent understanding of the universe’s finite nature and humanity’s dependence on God. The increasing entropy aligns with the biblical perspective of a created, finite universe awaiting renewal.

- **Finite Universe:** Scientific evidence supports a universe with a definite beginning (the Big Bang) and an eventual end (heat death), aligning with the biblical account of creation and final redemption.
- **Dependence on God:** The universe’s reliance on an external sustaining force parallels humanity’s spiritual dependence on God for life and sustenance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Second Law of Thermodynamics underscores the finite nature of the universe, pointing

to the necessity of an infinite creator—God. The biblical depiction of God as the “I AM” affirms His eternal, self-sustaining nature, contrasting starkly with the entropy and mortality inherent in creation.

Sin, defined as the transgression of God’s law, results in death—the absence of God and life. However, through Jesus Christ, God offers the gift of eternal life, restoring the relationship and life lost through sin. This profound theological truth underscores God’s role as the ultimate “To Be,” the positive motive force of the universe, opposing the “not to be” of sin and death.

As believers, recognizing God’s sustaining power and the consequences of sin deepens our understanding of His grace and our dependence on Him. The harmony between scientific principles and theological truths provides a robust framework for understanding our existence and the hope we have in Christ.

God’s eternal existence outside of time, His uncreated nature, and His role as the sustainer of the cosmos highlight the profound depth of His sovereignty and love. This understanding encourages believers to live in the light of His presence, avoiding the darkness of sin, and embracing the eternal life offered through Jesus Christ.

Mr. Murrey’s Q. & A.

*“You got questions,
Al’s got Biblical answers.”*

QUESTION:

I’ve always been taught pre-rapture before tribulation. Is there a book that has all these articles in it that I can purchase? Or is there an author who teaches this truth that has written a book. Where can I go to on YouTube to listen to these sermons?

Thank you so much.

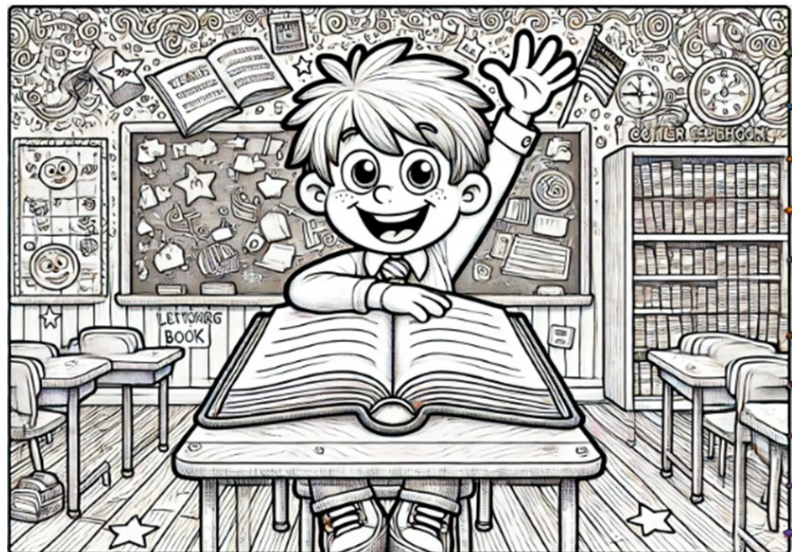
Greetings: Thanks for sending your question to BibleStudy.org. Scriptural citations are from the New King James Bible.

BibleStudy.org has two articles on the rapture that you can read by going to:

<https://www.biblestudy.org/beginner/definition-of-christian-terms/rapture.html>

<https://www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/when-will-the-rapture-occur.html>

The second article supports a mid-tribulation rapture. As you likely know, there are three major beliefs on the timing of the rapture: pre-trib, pre-wrath and mid-trib. I personally lean toward a pre



-wrath rapture. The pre-wrath resurrection/rapture would occur just before the trumpet plagues beginning in Revelation 8. You probably know that, although the word rapture is not found in the Bible, the words "caught up" as in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, in Latin is "raptura" from which comes rapture. All rapture beliefs are speculation, in my opinion. Prophecy is difficult to understand as the Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 13:9-12.

Believers do not NEED to know when the resurrection/rapture will happen as long as we are in a close relationship with our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Read:

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Mat 24:36 **"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat 24:38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

Mat 24:39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat 24:40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:42 **Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.**

Mat 24:43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Mat 24:44 Therefore **you also be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Mat 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"

Mat 24:46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Mat 24:47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

Mat 24:48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

Mat 24:49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Mat 24:50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

Mat 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Always keep watching world events and praying for God's Kingdom to come (Matthew 6:10, 33). Note Luke 21:36 that Jesus said to **watch and pray.**

Sincerely,
Team Member, Al

Alfred (Al) Murrey was born in Hayward, CA, and grew up in a rural area near Modesto. While attending school, Al had an inclination towards mathematics and physical sciences. He attended Modesto Junior College graduating with an Associate of Arts degree in 1958. Al attended the University of California, Berkeley graduating in January 1962. And so, Al began a career in engineering, working in the private and governmental sectors.

In 1960, Al married Patricia. Together, they had 5 children, 3 boys and two girls. They sadly had a newborn son die after only two weeks of life due to hydrocephalus. Their first daughter was accidentally killed when hit by a car trying to cross a street in 1965 at the age of 5. As one can imagine, the deaths of Lisa and Michael had a significant impact on the whole family and church.

The Eternal began to call Al and Pat in about 1963. They subscribed to the Plain Truth magazine and listened to Herbert W. Armstrong of the Worldwide Church of God on the radio. They began to intensely read and study the Bible. Al's wife Pat held a strong belief in God but Al was more of an agnostic. For the next two years, they came to see the need to repent becoming convinced that Jesus Christ was God's Son who gave his own human life for the sins of the world. They began to keep the Sabbath and stopped keeping Christmas and Easter which was especially difficult for the grandparents to accept. In 1965, both were baptized by a Worldwide Church of God ((WCG) minister. In 1968, Al was ordained as a deacon in the WCG.

In 1971-72, Al gave up a very good job with the California Department of Water Resources to go to college full-time to earn a Master's Degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Sacramento State University. After graduating, he accepted a job as an

environmental engineer for the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality in early 1973.

In 1974 Al was promoted to Chief of the Water Quality Bureau for the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality. Eventually, Al was elected by his peers to serve in Washington DC as President of the Association of the State and Interstate Pollution Control Administrators for a one-year term providing direction for developing national water quality policies.

Meanwhile, because of religious doctrinal reasons, Al and Pat made an extremely difficult decision to leave the WCG in about 1980 in spite of the good brethren they loved dearly. As a result, they were spurned by many brethren we loved because of WCG's teachings about brethren who leave what many believed was the only "true church".

In 1980 Al and his family began to attend Fed Coulter's Biblical Church of God with other brethren who had left WCG. In 1982, Fred Coulter ordained Al as an elder, and later a pastor serving a small congregation for about 9 years. During this time Al also served on the Board of the Association for Christian Development, a Christian outreach, with Ken Westby for several years.

In 1991, Al and Pat moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho where Al accepted a position with the University of Idaho as an Associate Director of the Water Resources Research Institute. This job was terminated in 1994.

Al was unemployed until 1996, when he took a position with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in Pendleton, Oregon. Al was

transferred to a small office in Baker City, Oregon, and then to Ontario.

In 2001, Al's wife Pat was diagnosed with terminal cancer in May and tragically died that September shortly after 9/11. Needless to say, Pat's death was a great loss for Al, their family, and the church.

In 2002, Al retired from a rewarding career serving in the environmental protection area for the state government.

Embracing retirement and new horizons, in 2004 Al married Deb with whom he shared many interests. In the fall of 2004, Al was accepted as a team member for BibleStudy.org, a website dedicated to online Bible-based answers to Bible questions and free Biblical resources. While living in Idaho and since then, Al and Deb were able to meet with various like-minded Church of God (COG) congregations such as the Celebration COG services in Ontario, Oregon, and Paul Wood's Apostolic COG services and Bible studies in Caldwell, Idaho.

In 2017 Al and Deb moved from Idaho to Missouri where Deb grew up and family reside.

Today, though factors such as age and health prevent regular church attendance, Al and Deb enjoy a variety of church services every Sabbath as well as regular fellowship and contact with long-time brethren that only modern technology could make possible.

Al and Deb look forward to an eternity of service to the Eternal God and Jesus Christ according to their will; as they continue to watch, stay busy in fellowship, service, and support of the spiritual church of God, looking forward to the soon coming of our Lord and Savior!

Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people, and questioned the fairness of life?

In John 16:33, Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." This verse acknowledges that troubles are a part of life, but it also offers the hope of Christ's ultimate victory. Suffering can strengthen our character and deepen our faith.

Romans 5:3-4 states, "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Trials are opportunities for growth, leading to a stronger, more hopeful faith. When faced with suffering, seek God's presence and guidance. Trust that He is with you, using even the hardest times to shape and strengthen your character. Lean on the promise that Christ has overcome the world and find peace in His victory.

Abraham Joseph is a speaker, writer, and Bible scholar. He graduated from seminary at Ambassador University in 1995. He currently produces and hosts a YouTube Channel and blog page "My Hebrew Roots" and is a contributing writer for several publications including his favorite "The Herald of Truth". He currently lives in East Texas with his amazing wife Christen and 6 children.



LIES AGAINST GOD

By-Abraham Joseph Sanchez



The other day I was reading an article by the Biblical Archeology Society about the need for yet another Critical Edition of the Bible specifically the Old Testament. The authors' arguments came from pointing out all of the corruptions, errors, and mistakes made by the scribes over thousands of years leading to a wholly inaccurate text. By the end of the article, it leaves the reader wondering if there is any truth to be found in the scripture at all. Yet there was not a single mention of a crucial piece of information: The Great Isaiah Scroll.

Prior to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and specifically the Great Isaiah Scroll, it was the belief of many critical bible scholars that the methods scribes used to copy the bible over time were haphazard, disorganized, and highly inaccurate. And so to them, there was no guarantee that the bible that we currently possess is accurate, let alone resembles any of what the original authors wrote. From these arguments came the Revisers of 1881 and 1885 where a team of critical bible scholars from England "revised" the King James bible using older manuscripts of unknown sources under the belief that older was better and more accurate. Using these older manuscripts they made over 30,000 changes to the New Testament alone and thousands more to the Old Testament giving us the Revised Version.

However, with the discovery and publication of the Great Isaiah Scroll, we have confirmed that the methods used by the scribes were in fact highly accurate. The Scroll of Isaiah from the Dead Sea Scroll is over 2200 years old and matches the Masoretic Text perfectly 99% of the time. And of the

1% of the variations almost all were spelling mistakes. The conclusion that we draw is that the methods used by scribes and monks were highly accurate and it would be ridiculous to believe that Isaiah was copied any differently than any other book of the bible.

And yet there was no mention of the Isaiah scroll in this article. The Elephant in the room was completely overlooked by the "unbiased" atheist scholars. The article was a lie.

In the preface of many modern translations of the bible such as the RV, RSV, ESV, and NRSV, they mention that the King James Version has "serious defects" referring to the errors in the manuscripts. Once again they all fail to mention that over 5,000 Byzantine Greek manuscripts agree 99% of the time and most of the 1% of variations are in spelling mistakes as well. They just lie.

The Documentary Hypothesis is the theory taught by many modern scholars that the books of Moses weren't written by him in the 14 century BC, but were actually written down 400 years later because writing was unknown to the Hebrews until that time. Well, they were absolutely wrong. Cuneiform clay tablets written in Hebrew have been found dating to 2000 BC- over 1100 years before those scholars believed and taught the Hebrews learned to read! Cuneiform libraries found in Nuzi, Mari, Amarna, and others in the Near East show that the historical references in the 5 books of Moses are extremely accurate. The Documentary Hypothesis has been decisively disproven. To this day there is not a single document

supporting this view yet almost all modern biblical scholars still hold to this old lie.

The Theory of Evolution has been shown to be mathematically impossible on multiple levels. The accidental formation of our planet with all of its protections to sustain life is impossible. The accidental formation of the incredibly complex protein molecule is impossible. The accidental formation of DNA either as a language, a storage device or the code itself contained in it is mathematically impossible. And yet almost all biologists today repeat this lie.

For decades the Mayo Clinic, Oxford Academic, and the CDC have conducted studies that show that the behavior of homosexuals, either male or female, leads to a 20-year shortened life span. But since the 1990's almost all medical and psychological institutions have unanimously declared that homosexuality is an equally legitimate and healthy lifestyle. However, there isn't a single study that can support this. It's just a lie.

For decades the FBI and the Bureau of Vital Statistics have completed studies that show how illegitimacy and the breakdown of the family is the biggest cause of crime, poverty, and violence. However, these studies were once again abandoned because they were unpopular. Today academia and the media would like us to believe racism and capitalism are the cause of poverty and crime. As before, it is just a lie.

Our Western culture is built on lies after lies and the primary target of these lies is God. We lie and we love to lie about God.

We lie about The Bible, His creation the power of God's laws, the power of his 10 commandments, the power of His way of life. Our lies have gotten so out of control that many today believe a man can be a woman or a woman can be a man. And that the greatest moral virtue to have is to believe that there are no morals or virtues.

John prophesied about this time telling us at The Time of the End Satan will have virtually deceived the whole world.

Rev 12:9 AFV And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

Paul also warns us of this time of lies that we are currently living in.

Col 2:8 AFV Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ.

And in Romans Paul makes it clear that the wrath of God will be brought upon those who censure the truth.

Rom 1:18 AFV Indeed, *the* wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress** the truth in unrighteousness;

Isaiah is clear that at the time of the end, people will reject the truth and literally ask to be lied to.

Isa 30:9-10 AFV ⁹ That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children. They are children who will not hear the law of the LORD; ¹⁰ Who say to the seers, "See not," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things, speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions;

These are the times we are living in. A time of lies.

In most states in our nation, if you knowingly pass an STD -especially if it is HIV- to a sexual partner without telling them you have an STD, it is a crime. It is a felony. However, California felt that this law was homophobic because it disproportionately targeted the LGBQRST community. So in 2017, they passed SB239 effectively decriminalizing the act. Since 2017 STDs in California have skyrocketed with the rate of infections rising by over 300% in some cities. Well according to the LA Times, the cause of these infections isn't immorality or sin. The cause is racism. The title of the article reads "STDs in L.A. County are skyrocketing. Officials think racism and stigma may be to blame".

We have become shameless in our lies.

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul warns Timothy that in the last days evil men, who despise those that are good, will deceive others and be deceived themselves- In other words, those who hate God will lie and believe their own lies. That is the time we are living in today!

In a time of lies, deception, political correctness, and Fake News, when evil is called good and good evil, The Herald of Truth will cut through the deception and expose the lies.

With little to no respect for man's institutions, pagan holidays, and human religious traditions, we at The Herald of Truth, will rely on the Word of God as the foundation of truth and proclaim the Good News of the coming return of Jesus Christ. We will discuss the teachings of the Bible, decipher end-time bible prophecy, and show the incredible liberty in obeying God's law while rejecting the lies of our day.

It is revealed to us in Daniel in chapter 12 that at the time of the end, "none of the wicked will understand." They will be completely caught up in their own lies. But the "wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars".

We at The Herald of Truth will strive to shine as a beacon of truth to fight the Lies against God.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR MANKIND AND THE CHURCH?

By Herman Everett (Deceased Board Member & Contributor to The Herald of Truth)



In my lifetime we have had two world wars and many minor conflicts. Just this last year, there were more floods, tornadoes, and more upset weather conditions in various places than I have ever known. And in spite of all the food that is produced, there is still hunger in the world.

Despite all the bad news, when we look into the Bible, there is a bright future just ahead for those that do God's will. Many cannot imagine a world without strife, upset weather, war, and sickness—a world where nations are at peace and no family has to worry about sons and daughters being sacrificed on the battlefield, nor a world where tornadoes never touch down, volcanoes are extinct, where rains fall in due season, and where food supplies are more than adequate to support the population of the entire world.

How can a world such as this come about? Not by man, but rather by God. Man cannot have peace without turning his whole life and thoughts over to God. In the first days of the New Testament Church, Peter boldly proclaimed, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the Mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19-21)

There will be some nations that will rebel after Christ comes, but they will suffer and learn lessons the hard way. In Zechariah 14:17-18 we read, "And it shall be that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles."

And also in Revelation 19:15-16, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." So we see when Christ comes to rule the nations it will be with force. Today man lives by his own rules which are not good

in God's way of thinking and not in accord with the Holy Scriptures

In the future, when Christ comes to rule with a rod of iron, there will be no more wars—there will be total peace. Micah 4:1-5 says, "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it. :2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. :3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. :4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. :5 For all people will walk everyone in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever."

Praise God! Then, and not until this comes about, will all nations and people be at peace.

Isaiah, describes the conditions after the Messiah returns in Isaiah 11:6-9 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. :7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. :8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. :9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

I am glad I made my stand on the seventh day Sabbath and have part in the church at Caldwell, and I am thankful for the brothers and sisters in Christ that I have met, and the beautiful fellowship that we have had together. I would love to take this opportunity to thank everyone who prayed for me while I was in the hospital last winter (1983-84). I know if the Lord would not have answered yes to your prayers I would not be writing at this time. Praise the Lord for His supernatural power.

(Reprinted from "The Herald of Truth,"
Vol. 30, #4, August, 1984)

DON'T LET THE STORM BLOCK YOUR VISION

By Dorothy Ogren



Scripture references: Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

The above Scriptures all relate the same incident concerning Jesus and His disciples. Jesus and His disciples are in Capernaum at this time. Jesus had healed the centurion's son by just speaking the word (Matthew 8:5-13) and then they journeyed to the Apostle Peter's mother-in-law's house. Peter's wife's mother was sick with a fever and Jesus healed her (verses 14,15) and then many came to Jesus there to be healed of sickness and delivered from devils, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah in 53:4 - "He took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Matthew 8:18, the multitudes were surrounding Jesus and His disciples and Jesus felt the need for a time of quietness, so He told His disciples to "depart to the other side," meaning the other side of the sea of Galilee. And I believe that in addition to the need to have respite from the pressing crowds, Jesus knew there was a great need on the other side.

So the disciples did just that – they got into their boat and Jesus followed them into it. It doesn't tell us how far they were out onto the water before the storm hit, but far enough from the shore that they felt they might perish in the storm. The waves were covering the ship. Can we relate to this in our present lives?

Have you ever felt that Jesus has told you to do something and in the midst of following His instructions, trials seem to overtake you? Surely Jesus knew a storm was brewing when He told the disciples to launch out into the deep. And not only did He tell them to take the boat out when a storm was brewing, He seemed to be oblivious to the storm around them. They found Him sleeping in the boat. Jesus had what we call peace in the midst of the storm! The disciples were frantic and they awoke Him, saying "Save us - we're perishing!" Jesus arose, but before rebuking the storm, He took time to ask them why they were fearful and had such weak faith. I can relate to them. The "waves of life" feel overpowering sometimes and all I see is water that is going to drown me. But when I cry out to Jesus for help, He calms the "storm," just as He did for the disciples that night.

Why would Jesus send them out into a treacherous storm? As we read on, we see that there was a need on the other side of the lake. The country of the Gergesenes was on the other side of the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum – possibly 7 to 10 miles they had to travel across the water. When the storm obeyed the rebuke of the Master, they continued to the other side, and possibly landed at a place called Hippos in the country of the Gergesenes. In verse 28 they got out of the boat and immediately they were

met by two men who were possessed with devils. They were violent men and not in their right minds. Immediately the devils recognized Jesus, the Son of God, and knew that their doom was imminent. All Jesus had to say to them is “Go,” and they went – into a herd of swine and perished in the waters of the Sea of Galilee. The swine keepers were terrified and went into the city and told what had happened. When the people heard the account of the swine keeper, the whole city came out to beg Jesus to leave. How often do we miss the miracles happening around us because we are fearful and unbelieving? Or because we don’t search for the whole story and just take the word of someone else?

In another passage, in Matthew (14:22-33), Jesus had just ministered to the multitude and fed the 5,000. He persuaded His disciples to get into the ship and precede Him to the other side while He stayed behind to send the multitude away and to spend some time alone in prayer. Again, the disciples obeyed and again they ran into a terrific wind storm out on the water. This time Jesus was not in the ship with them. Yep, I am pretty sure Jesus knew that the storm was out there before He told them to go. But I am also sure that He knew that He had it all under control and that all would be well with them. Before they were overtaken by the waves, He came walking to them on the water. And He spoke words of comfort and faith to them: “Be not afraid – it is I.” Isn’t that all we need to hear when we feel our faith slipping - “Don’t be afraid – it is I – I’m here to save you and lift you up above the waves.” Peter, always the exuberant one, asked to walk on the water also, and when Jesus said

“Come,” Peter didn’t hesitate to do as Jesus commanded. His one mistake was in taking His eyes off of Jesus. Many times that is our mistake as well. It is so important to keep our eyes on Jesus – and His Word. Jesus is the Living Word and we can trust Him in all circumstances. Take note that the storm did not cease this time UNTIL Jesus had entered the boat. We need Him in our “boat” at all times. Just as on their previous trip to this region, there was a need when they landed on the other side in the land of Gennesaret. This time they received a different reception. The people welcomed Jesus and brought the sick to be healed; some were healed by just touching the hem of His garment. But be assured, if Jesus tells you to “go” there will always be a need to be met when you get to your destination.

What you and I can take away from these two incidents is that we need to pursue the course that Jesus is leading us on, regardless of the trials of life that try to stop us. Press on and the trials will be pushed aside by our Helper who has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. We need to keep the goal in sight through our spiritual eyes and keep our hearts set on ministering the love of Jesus and the deliverance that comes through Him to those who are bound by the enemy of our souls.

He speaks “Peace, be still” to us whenever the waves get too high. Trust Him – He never fails. Corrie ten Boom said often, “Jesus is Victor.”

As the hymn says, “Where He leads me I will follow, where He leads me I will follow, where He leads me I will follow; I’ll go with Him, with Him all the way.”

The Importance of Keeping the Holy Days of Leviticus 23

The Holy Days outlined in Leviticus 23 are not just ancient rituals; they are a blueprint for understanding God’s plan for humanity. These appointed times—such as Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles—serve as spiritual markers, reminding us of God’s faithfulness and His unfolding redemptive story. Leviticus 23:2 says, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.’” This commandment underscores their significance as sacred times set apart by God.

Each Holy Day reflects a unique aspect of God’s plan, from deliverance and redemption to spiritual growth and future restoration. For instance, Passover points to Christ’s sacrificial death, while Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit. Observing these days draws us closer to God, aligns us with His purpose, and allows us to celebrate His ongoing work in our lives. Consider the deeper meanings behind these Holy Days and how observing them can enrich your spiritual walk. Set aside time to honor these sacred days, and let them remind you of God’s continual presence and promise in your life.

OBEDIENCE TO THE TRUTH

By Joel E. Ling
(Original Board Member)

“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; we have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in” (Isaiah 26:1,2). Here Isaiah has a song of confidence in God and is waiting for the impending judgment, and for favor to His people; an exhortation to wait on the Lord. Isaiah is also looking forward to the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. “In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; ‘We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks’” (Isaiah 26:1).

When the gates are opened, the righteous nations which keep the TRUTH may enter in. Among the many requirements in the Bible, obedience occupies the first place. This principle was enjoyed by our first parents even before sin entered into the world. The restriction placed on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was a test of their obedience and loyalty to their Maker. During the days of Israel, it was necessary that God should give them a code of laws, which He gave to Moses for His people to obey. This law gave the people a standard by which to live. Obedience to this law meant Life, but to those who disobeyed, it meant Death.

So necessary is obedience in the spiritual life that it becomes a passport for an entrance into the Kingdom of God. To those who are obedient to the Law of God and have received the new birth in Jesus Christ, to them only will the gates swing open. In our text, it seems that they who obey the truth are a righteous nation. Those who keep the Truth will enter in through the walls of salvation, our protection.

How thankful we should be that we are living in this age of opportunity and can speak to those out in sin. Perhaps they do not understand the necessity of strict obedience to God’s Word. Thanks be to God, the Way is still open for all who will receive Christ in their life. God is ready to pardon our sins and clothe us in righteousness and holiness. We must live unspotted before the world; then we can regard ourselves as under the obligation to obey all the commandments. The experience of sins forgiven is so much joy to the soul that we should be willing to walk in perfect obedience to the Word of God. Many people in this world would rather obey the commandments of men than the Truth of God. Jesus said of such, “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do” (Mark 7:7,8).

There are many, many thousands of zealous Christians who may not obtain entrance because they are rejecting the truth of the Ten Commandments of God. It is our worship to God that demonstrates our recognition of Him as Creator of Heaven and earth. Worship is an act prompted by obedience to the Commandments of God.

God has had outstanding witnesses for Him all down through the ages. The three Hebrew men had boldness when they faced the fiery furnace and extinction by fire, but by obedience to God they lived to tell King Nebuchadnezzar of the true God. They were careful to answer his questions, and further asserted their confidence in the Living God to deliver them because of their obedience to the first Commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Praise God for such a Savior!

Again, we see Daniel in defiance to the king’s command to make petition to him alone for 30 days. Daniel did not obey the king’s decree, but opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed to his God. For this Daniel was cast into the lions’ den; but because of his obedience to God, the lions could do him no harm, as innocency was found in him. Glory to His name!

Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that without faith it is impossible to please God. We meet professed Christians who seem zealous and seem to have real passion for God in many respects, but have no will power to obey the Truth. Such we should remember in prayer.

The final blessing is recorded in Revelation 22:14, but it is only to those who obey and DO His Commandments. They are granted a right to the Tree of Life, and can enter in through the gates into the City. Revelation 22:14 is in parallel with our subject. In our text the gates are open to those who keep the Truth. In these verses the entrance depends on obedience to the Commandments of God.

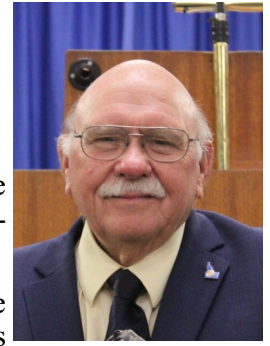
The fourth Commandment, which enjoins obedience in Sabbath keeping, is also embodied in the Law; which is the truth as recorded by Isaiah, the prophet. Very few people profess to love God enough, in these last days, to keep the Sabbath day holy unto the Lord. In Psalm 119:142, we find that Truth and Commandments are very closely linked together by divine inspiration. “Thy righteousness, and thy law is truth.” Those, like the three Hebrew men, Daniel, and many others, have dared to make themselves unpopular by keeping this truth of the Law of God. This makes it very evident that those “who cannot sacrifice” will not be given entrance through the gates into the City. Keeping the truth and doing God’s Commandments requires sacrifice. It seems that those who have made this sacrifice will be gathered at the right hand of Jesus Christ before the gates are opened. It seems the Psalmist subscribed to this thought. “Gather My saints unto Me, those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself.” God, our heavenly Father, sacrificed His only Son. His Son, Jesus Christ, in accomplishing our redemption, sacrificed His life. Through His sacrifice of dying on the cross, those who will accept the plan of salvation may enjoy the blessing of eternal life.

Let us accept Jesus as our Savior and Guide. That is my prayer.

(Reprinted from “The Herald of Truth, Vol. 1, No. 1, August, 1954.)

WESLEY CLAIR HIGGINS

Born in Nampa Idaho February 19, 1945.



You can find my name listed as a charter member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, in Nampa Idaho. With a number of other boys and girls of my age, I attended Sunday School and Catechism. I still have my sister's 1939 Lutheran Catechism which is the one I probably used. I tell you this because it is the Father God who draws us to Jesus but it is up to us, the individual, to choose to follow that calling, or not.

The year was 1962, in my 17th year, we had moved from Nampa to a farm south of Marsing Idaho. Because of distance and finances, we no longer attended Church. One day the Pastor of the Nampa Church came visiting and he invited me to come help clean up and prepare the Church camp for summer use. While there cleaning the camp along with other youths and adult supervisors I was faced with the reality that my life needed to be cleaned up as well. I realized that even though my fellow workers and I may have called ourselves "Christians", we were a long way from being followers of Christ. It was truly an eye-opening experience.

Though there was much work to be done, there was still some personal time. I remember the day when others went off swimming, I needed time to come to grips with what I saw and thought. As I chose to take the time for a long walk, I began talking to God about the issues. Remember, God does the calling, but we have to choose whether to accept the calling or not. In the midst of the conversation, I asked God to come into my life and to use me however He chose. On my part, I committed to God to study His Word and follow it to the best of my understanding wherever it led.

After a few years of prayer and studying of God's Word, my wife and I accepted God's calling to His Sabbaths. We were baptized according to Christ's own words, into the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,

and became members of the Body of Christ - God's Church - on September 30th, 1967.

For those of you who have opted out of this world's religions and religious days of worship, you know the trauma of what happens to family relations. It was the disciple Peter who asked Jesus what was in it for him. Jesus' answer- new family, new home, and in the end eternal life. But God, who is gracious and loving, not only gave my wife and I a new family and new home, but in the process of time He returned our old family as well. Praise be to God and His Son Jesus Christ.

It has been a long and sometimes slow journey, but it has been a rewarding one as well. Through sickness, financial struggles, and deaths, God has always been faithful and true. When I told God I would follow Him and let Him use me however He chose, I had no idea where it would lead.

Ordained as a Local Church Deacon in April 1980 and church Elder in June 1995. Commissioned as Pastor of the Celebration Church of God in July 1997. These many years later God is still faithful- through trials and tribulation He has never left nor forsaken us.

God has led me in other areas as well, in the local community and in the Body of Christ, writing for the Religion page of a local newspaper, currently serving as Secretary of the Ministerial Council of the General Council of the Churches of God 7th Day, Secretary/Treasurer of a local Irrigation District and President of the Board of Directors of the Snake River Heritage Center and Museum.

Still, I strive to keep and follow God's Word where it leads. The journey toward truth and understanding of God's Word has been a wondrous and exciting journey.

Judgment

By Pastor Wes Higgins

Jesus Christ is returning as King of Kings and Lord of Lord's, Revelation 19:16. But have you ever wondered who the kings and lords under Him will be? Look at Revelation 20: "And I saw thrones and they set on them and judgment was committed to them. - Blessed and Holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with Him for a thousand years." Revelation 20:4, 6. It will be the resurrected saints who, along with Jesus Christ, will rule and judge on earth during the Millennium. But, what will be the standard they use to judge the world? Ezekiel 44:24 tells us that the priests in the future will "judge according to My judgements. They shall keep My laws and My statutes and all My appointed meetings, and they shall Hallow My Sabbaths." And as James tells us they will also judge with mercy. "Mercy triumphs over judgment." James 2:13.

Questions of Belief

By Russ Maples



In the realm of religion, we need to be very concerned with what people believe:

-Do you believe in a seventh-day Sabbath or Sunday as The Lord's Day?

-Everlasting torment or annihilation?

-Can a person fall away or walk away from salvation, or is it 'once saved always saved'?

-What do we believe about predestination and free will?

-And what about Jesus? Who is He? Who was He? What did he really do?

We divide ourselves up by these beliefs, and it can be very difficult to have fellowship amid all the disagreements, even after we gather those who largely agree.

These are important questions, and it seems like the discussion and investigation of these things is endless. But fundamentally we do have some simple tests of belief that are used to determine orthodoxy or heresy, and understanding what we believe, especially with regard to those foundational truths, is very important. Our beliefs define who we are, and often what we believe can determine with whom we associate.

But there's a common question I've heard that challenges some basic models of orthodoxy: "Is someone who sincerely believes and does good going to be punished by God because they didn't agree on the details?" or maybe "How could you say that you're going to heaven and someone who loves his neighbor and spends his life serving and loving others

could go to hell because he's Hindu?" There are a lot of ways I've heard this asked. And it's a very good question that tends to get dismissed too quickly, either because we've been taught some simple and pithy responses that keep us from looking deeper or because we don't have good answers and being dismissive is just easier.

So... Is HOW we believe just as important as WHAT we believe?

I think the answer is a clear and resounding YES. HOW we believe might even be more important than WHAT we believe. And I think I can prove it from The Bible.

But I want to start by proving the other side. I want to briefly lay out the evidence that what we believe is pretty much all that matters, because it is compelling and persuasive Biblical evidence:

Genesis 15:6 is a good start – "And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.", which is directly quoted in Romans 4 and Galatians 3, giving us a clear confirmation that the application does seem to be that kind of righteousness.

John 8:24 – "...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." That sure sounds like what we believe is of utmost importance. We either live or we die in our sins, based on believing or not believing who He is.

Acts 16:31 – "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

John 3:18 – “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Acts 13:39 – “And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Luke 8:50 – “But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.”

Mark 11:24 – “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when you pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

Many more passages like these make it undeniably clear that just believing is the mechanism for life, healing, and seeing the power of God in our lives (Obviously not just believing, but believing in the right things and in the right One). What we believe seems to be everything.

But....

James 2:19 – “Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

John 8:31 – “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed”

Romans 2:13 – “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”

We know these passages too, don't we? So, if it's about believing, how do we explain that the demons not only believe but believe enough to tremble (which seems to be more than many Christians I've known).

-”Well, yeah it is about belief, but if we really believe, it will bring a response. Right?” --- Are we talking about genuine responses like trembling (like the way the demons tremble)?

-”But belief and action need to go together. Don't they?” --- That's tough because The Bible clearly teaches that salvation and justification are not by works:

Romans 3:28 – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”

And just to make things a little more complicated, Scripture speaks repeatedly about mankind being judged by their works:

Matthew 16:27 – “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”

Romans 2:5-6 – “...God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds”

Revelation 20:13 – “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

So... Salvation and justification are not by works, but we are judged according to our works, but belief is how we receive life and righteousness and healing, but demons believe too.

This can get pretty complicated. It seems like we're forced to conclude that maybe it has to be both. Maybe if we believe all the right things AND we do the right things, then we will be found righteous.

The field is getting narrow. I mean what are the right things that we need to believe?

Acts 15 indicates that the gentile believers didn't know much about Scripture, but we assume they understood something about Jesus dying for their sins and resurrecting to conquer death and Hell, or at least something like that, or at least some part of that.

What about the heroes of the Old Testament? If the key elements of belief are about the mystery of the gospel... well, I think it was still pretty mysterious to them. How many of them believed in Jesus and the propitiation for their sins on the cross? Maybe there were a few who had been given that revelation. Maybe Abraham received that special revelation, but Daniel didn't understand some of his own prophecies, so is it likely that he knew about Jesus and the crucifixion and the resurrection? Maybe all the big prophets did understand, but does that leave all but that handful condemned? It's all speculation anyway; there is no indication in Scripture that our understanding of the gospel was revealed to anyone, and it certainly was not the clear message of the prophets. The field is definitely narrowing with this theology.

And what are the works that are supposed to come with that belief?

John 6:29 – “Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”

Is that the answer?

I’ve heard this one many times, but I don’t know; it seems a little thin to me. Is this verse really THE KEY to interpret every mention of ‘works’ or ‘deeds’ or ‘labor’? I mean, it really doesn’t cover that very well. Does faith without works mean faith without believing? It seems oddly self-contradictory in its redundancy to say that just having faith isn’t enough because you also have to believe. We can try to insert this idea into all those challenging verses about our works and there are some places that it could fit; but there are also many places where it just does not work (no pun intended).

I just don’t think there is any way around it. What we believe can be the difference between salvation and condemnation. And we are judged according to our works. But this doesn’t easily reconcile with a lot of systematic theology when you really look at it.

There are a few ways to deal with the issue:

-Emphasize your proof texts and gloss over the other ones with some weak excuses (like “the work of God is believing”). Unfortunately, all Scripture is truth, and we need to deal with that.

-We could just chalk it up to contradiction and view The Bible as a little less than how the church has historically venerated its words. But that’s foolish, so let’s not go there.

-Let’s really dig into understanding the passages and the questions that challenge us, rather than focusing on the ones that bolster our current understanding. I promise you; that God’s Word will not collapse under scrutiny. Your faith might get an overhaul, and your beliefs might be shaken and reworked a bit, but in the end, you will find that looking to The Bible for those answers will only bring more clarity and greater consistency in your understanding of the teaching in Scripture.

When we do that, I think some version of the “works flow from our right beliefs” perspective is there. There are a whole lot of places that I think we can see that, but I think reconciling the texts we already talked about gets us there well enough. But, as I mentioned earlier, I don’t think that covers everything, because the demons had a genuine belief, and there are some difficulties of which beliefs we’re talking about and how that can work when we try to apply it to all the Biblical examples of righteous and/or forgiven people.

This is where we come to the idea of FAITH.

I went through all that other stuff because the concept of faith is not widely agreed upon. I think if we recognize that faith and belief are not the same thing, it helps us to see how Scripture describes and defines faith.

It seems to me that faith is the answer to our difficult questions. I am also aware that it’s an easy thing to say without really understanding what it means. Faith is substance and evidence (Hebrews 11:1); by it we live (2Corinthians 5:7), through it we find salvation (Ephesians 2:8), and in it we find access to God’s power and blessings (James 1:6). I think The Bible teaches that faith is the HOW in our belief that flows through our choice and manifests itself in commitment and righteous deeds. And I think understanding that can help us to see how King David, Naaman, the thief on the cross, the ignorant gentiles of Acts 15, and a clueless kid in America might all find forgiveness and salvation in the same gospel with the same God.

Now what about that well-meaning Hindu trying to find God and living a life that’s filled with love and kindness and good works? Does that guy have a chance?

If David, who is tied to the Messiah throughout Scripture, who almost certainly did not know who Jesus was, and who killed a bunch of people as collateral damage in the murder of an honorable man to cover his adultery... if he had a chance, does that give hope to our well-meaning Hindu friend, or our Mormon neighbor, or the Muslim down the road that looks at you sideways?

My answer is probably very controversial: I DON’T KNOW.

And I don’t think you know either. I don’t think you can tell me exactly what it is David believed or the palsied man in Matthew 9 believed or Naaman believed that brought them forgiveness, when the demons also believe the gospel and while others die in their sins and are condemned. There are answers in God’s Word that get us closer and give us more clarity on these things, but it’s not our job to determine who is and isn’t; it’s not our job to separate the wheat from the tares but to share what we do know and believe.

We need to share our understanding of the gospel with the people around us. We should teach them what God’s Word says about salvation, election, free will, sin, and judgment. We should share what we believe from Scripture with them.

More importantly, we need to show them what faith truly looks like, so they can learn how to believe, and we can learn right along with them.

A CHRISTIAN LIFE

By Gladys Moore



There's nothing dull about a Christian life
There's too many things to do.
There's the time of devotion as they read the Book,
Letting God speak to you.

Then they praise and adore and worship Him
And thank Him for loving them.
They lift up their arms, as a little child
While He pours His sweet Spirit within.

The rest of the day many have battles and strifes,
Yet they have strength to make it through.
They conquer emotions as they look to Him,
And He gives them the grace to bless you.

There's nothing dull about a Christian's life.
They are seeking for someone to please.
Their joy comes from giving as they bustle about
After they've prayed on their knees.

There's nothing dull about a Christian life.
There's the hospital sick to see,
There's a little one needing a kiss on a wound,
Or someone else close by who's in need.

There's nothing dull about a Christian's life.
It is joy and peace within;
It is knowing that Jesus is Lord of their life;
They are glad to be free from all sin.
No, there's nothing dull about a Christian's life.
There's too many things to do.
The world is longing for spiritual help;
They are crying for peace in their souls.
They are crying, and dying, and waiting, my friend,
For a word of assurance from you.

Please pray for Bro. Byron as he lets the Lord lead him in this endeavor. You can reach him through the Seventh Day Church of God, Caldwell, ID, Facebook page; you can call the office phone number at 208-459-9755; you can email churchofgodapsotolic@yahoo.com, or you can write to him at Church of God, PO Box 804, Caldwell, ID 83606-0804. Please keep Pastor Byron and the work of the Lord in your prayers.- Dorothy Ogren

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ. When I began working here, this map was on the wall of the 7th-day Church of God Publishing House. Much of the antique equipment has been removed but I left this map up to remind me of a couple of things. The “The Herald of Truth” was worldwide in scope when it was in its prime. This has motivated me to see it grow. Today with digital technology we have the potential to warn and witness to vast new territories of people who have not heard the gospel of the Kingdom of God. By using our online resources you can do your part and share the word of God with others for free and fulfill the great commission. Subscribe to our digital resources and do your part in sharing the hope that lies within you! - Byron Lee Sanchez

