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GOD STAYS TRUTH CHANGES TRUTH IS NOT TRUE ANYMORE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The OLD year is gone and the NEW is here. But have OLD things really passed away? (II Cor. 5:17). Are we walking in the NEW PRESENT TRUTH? I hope so.

Take this New Year for instance. What's God telling you? I'll tell you what He's telling me, since you ask; "What hath the Lord answered? And, what hath the LORD spoken?" (Jeremiah 23:35).

TRUTH IS TIMELY

He is telling me that TRUTH is timely. What was TRUE isn't always the TRUTH. *The Truth changes.*

That's probably heresy to some people but try to follow. When I point out the window and say, "It is light outside," then my friends say, "THAT'S THE TRUTH." But in 12 hours IF I do the same thing my friends say, "You're wrong! That's NOT the truth." What changed? TIME! The time changed. TRUTH IS TIMELY. What was true is not always the truth. Many Christians are bound by old Bible ideas that are not the present truth. Some are searching in the wrong place for answers to perplexing personal problems. The failure of the ministry to speak out on this issue is a tragedy.

GOD'S METHODS CHANGE

But some Bible student will wrongly say, "With GOD the truth is ALWAYS true, it never changes!" A favorite (but misunderstood) scripture is "Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

THE TRUTH CHANGES

Many Christians have not yet matured enough to know that GOD NEVER CHANGES but His METHOD of dealing with us does change as we mature.

THE BURDEN OF THE LORD

"And as for the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, THE BURDEN OF THE LORD, I will even punish that man and his house." (Jer. 23:34)

For a while that did not make sense to me - for the Lord to punish the man and his house, for saying "the burden of the Lord." I knew many Christian people who felt "the burden of the Lord" - and carried it from meeting to meeting. Also, I remembered that other prophets had properly carried "the burden of the Lord." Here are a few examples: Isaiah 13:1,15:1,17:1,19:1,etc. Zech 9:1,12:1, Mal. 1:1. That's enough to show it was O.K. What happened to make it bad?

NOT ANY MORE

We find that the prophets and priests are NOT to carry the -burden of the Lord any more. (Jeremiah 23:24,36,39) "And the burden of the Lord shall ye mention NO MORE" (23:36). In other words, it must have been all right to mention the "burden of the Lord" at one time - but NOT ANY MORE.

The change was, that in the future "every man's word shall be his (own) burden.'" (23:36)

In the PAST, God gave a burden to a prophet who passed it on to the people.

In the PRESENT and FUTURE, God would deal directly with every person. In that realm of PRESENT TRUTH -the prophet was not to tell the person what to do - GOD would tell them directly, man to man, face to face, mouth to mouth.

WHAT DID GOD SAY?

However, in the event of the lack of sensitivity on the part of the people, God established a new pattern. They were to say one to another, "What hath the Lord answered? And, What hath the Lord spoken?" (23:35,37)

In other words, in the future, ask the prophet for the answer - don't expect him to bring it to you. And if you are a prophet - keep your mouth shut until you are asked! Then tell it all! Now that new way was a lot different from the old way. And I believe, THAT'S THE PRESENT TRUTH FOR TODAY.

PAST TRUTH

I am often asked what I think about the XXXXXXXXXXXX MOVEMENT, with its teaching called SUBMISSION, SUBJECTION, SHEPHERDING, SPIRITUAL

AUTHORITY, etc. I think that is the old word, not the present truth. I can't see much difference between them and any other well established old denomination. Each of them is based on an ecclesiastical hierarchy that tells the lower level Christians what to do. I don't believe in lower level Christians (or upper level) and I do believe that is an old idea. It isn't the present truth.

EVERYONE SPIRITUAL

I think that the PRESENT TRUTH is that GOD has made everyone spiritually sensitive enough to hear from GOD for himself or herself. Remember, "Every man's word shall be his (own) burden." (23:36)

That's why I do not set myself up as a spiritual leader for anybody.

CHOKED SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY

But that's not the end of it! God provides for the times in people's lives when the deceitfulness of riches and the cares of this life have choked out their own spiritual sensitivity. In these days of the PRESENT TRUTH, GOD tells those people to say to the prophet, "What hath the Lord answered thee? And, What hath the Lord spoken?" (23:37). So, after being asked, (not before) the present day prophet goes into the spirit to find an answer for the person who asked.

But there are multiplied thousands of people nowadays who believe that God first tells the prophet and then it is up to him to tell the people. I do not agree! I think that was PAST TRUTH. I think the PRESENT TRUTH is that God speaks directly to the people.

But I also admit that very often the people are not spiritually sensitive enough to be "tuned in," so to speak. So, in that case GOD still provides for the leading of the spiritually insensitive. They are to go to a prophet of GOD and ask, "What hath the Lord answered and spoken?"

The prophet is not to take his message to the people any more. Presently it is presumptuous for a Christian to tell other Christians what to do. The bossy Christian also must presume that the other people do not hear from GOD as well as he does. I cannot find anything in the New Testament that tells pastors, elders and/ or husbands to make themselves the head or leader of others. In fact, every N.T. passage tells the younger or less sensitive to submit themselves to the leader. Nowhere does it tell the leaders to subject the followers to their own authority. We are looking at the subject of - who makes whom the boss. Christian leaders are not to make themselves the boss by giving orders. Christian followers make themselves subordinate by asking questions.

Every time I write a Monarch I ask myself if I am bossing the people. The answer to my own question is that by asking to be put on the mailing list - my friend is really asking, "What hath the Lord answered thee? And what hath the Lord spoken" (23:37). That's also the spirit of the reason I keep pleading with people to remove their names when they discover that they don't want any more of my stuff. I don't want to be in a position of telling anybody anything. I want to be in a

position of answering their question. The same type thinking holds when I set up a meeting somewhere.

For instance, I used to weigh my words carefully with an attempt to try to convince someone of something. Really, what I was doing then was trying to force my opinion (my burden of the Lord) on someone. Now I've changed since I've seen what I consider to be the present truth. I now teach my friends who have asked rather than my enemies who are resisting and it has made a tremendous difference in my attitude and delivery.

I used to teach like a college professor trying to convince somebody. Now I teach like a loving companion trying to lead somebody to the answer. And now and then I get led, too.

PAST TRUTH VS PRESENT TRUTH

I said all that to say this. There are a lot of Bible teachers who believe that they have "the burden of the Lord" and consequently they feel justified in making themselves the BOSS of each group they are in. I think that they are WRONG. I think they are walking in PAST TRUTH.

The PRESENT TRUTH is for the spiritually insensitive Christian to ask a more mature spiritually sensitive Christian, "What hath the Lord answered? And what hath the Lord spoken?"

A BETTER WAY

But a better way yet is for every Christian to listen to GOD for themselves without going to some leader. That's the way that GOD wanted us to operate in the first place. But we are the ones who wanted to have leaders to tell us what to do. We even told GOD that we did not want to listen to Him. But we said that we would listen to our own appointed representatives who were to listen to GOD for us, and then tell us what GOD said. That was all our own idea - NOT GOD'S.

LISTEN TO GOD

Here's the story: GOD'S original plan was for each and every person in ISRAEL to listen to Him for themselves. God wanted every person to be a PRIEST unto GOD by themselves, without a hierarchy. But ISRAEL said NO, and they appointed their church leaders in opposition to GOD'S command,

"Now therefore, if YE will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then YE shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And YE shall be unto me a KINGDOM of PRIESTS."
(EX-19:5-6)

NO! WE WANT MOSES

Then the people of Israel heard GOD speak and as a result they changed everything upside-down.

"And they said unto Moses, Speak THOU with us, and we will hear: but let NOT GOD speak with us, lest we die." (Ex.20:19)

GOD said that He wanted to talk to every individual person in Israel. But they said, "NO, talk to our boss, Moses, not us."

SPIRITUAL PYRAMID?

Some people have not agreed with me at this point arguing that GOD did appoint the 70 elders to rule over the people. He did not!

The 70 elders were suggested by the Midianite Jethro (not even an Israelite). "Harken now unto my voice... provide out of the people able men... let them judge the people... Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law." (Ex.18:19-24)

The amazing thing is that GOD CONDESCENDED TO WORK WITH US THROUGH THE PYRAMID STRUCTURE OF AUTHORITY THAT WE SET UP. He did not set it up - but He used it. Praise God for that, because we all are products of some structured denomination.

The question is - IS THE PYRAMID STRUCTURE of authority the PRESENT TRUTH?

NO! Not now. The first truth was for God to talk to us individually. We said NO. So the second truth (it was present truth back then, but not now) was for GOD to work through the hierarchy that Israel set up.

THE PRESENT TRUTH

The PRESENT TRUTH (1983) is: "As many as are led by the SPIRIT of GOD, they are the SONS OF GOD." (Rom. 8:14)

Some have asked, "Does this idea do away with the structured church?" No! Not at all. The church provides TEMPORAL NOT SPIRITUAL authority. The church hierarchy tells us if we can eat meat or not, drink wine or not, and even what day to attend church. (Rom. 14). These are TEMPORAL matters, and that authority is well established to rest with the elders. I believe that the INABILITY to see the difference between TEMPORAL and SPIRITUAL authority has resulted in very many WEAK Christians and STRONG denominations.

CHOKING CHRISTIANS

I further believe that the present "XXXXXXXXXXXX MOVEMENT" may meet the needs of some very immature Christians who may need a patriarchal father to tell them what to do: but it also is choking the life out of Christians who should be led by the HOLY SPIRIT. The few people who may need that leadership of men should develop and eventually remove themselves from that influence so that the HOLY SPIRIT can lead them.

WHO IS RIGHT?

Some people have asked, "How can I tell if my own church is teaching me to be led by the HOLY SPIRIT or by men? After all, they ALL say that they are being led by the HOLY SPIRIT!"

If your church denomination places you under stated condemnation (or implied) for reading Christian literature which is NOT THEIR OWN, then

you are probably being led by men, NOT GOD. If you are in such a place, I recommend that you get out.

If your church denominational leaders tell you to NOT read literature written by so and so because he (or she) teaches some unpopular, controversial or divisive doctrine, then you are probably being led by men, NOT GOD. In fact, 2000 years ago the church leaders used the very same reason for telling people to NOT listen to Jesus. I praise God that some people DID listen to Jesus, who did come to divide. "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you Nay: but rather division." (Luke 12:49). The PRESENT TRUTH will always divide Christians from those who want to hold to PAST TRUTH. That's why I think that eventually you will have to get out of that kind of place.

This ministry does not exist apart from your gifts.