

*One Page, One Minute
Inspirational Thoughts*

Snapshots

Living Life to the Max

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I'm known as 'The Gospel Life Coach.'
Thus, many of these one page, one minute
inspirational thoughts
are on the gospel of the New Testament.

But this does not define all of them.
Some are just general inspirations
that don't include reference to the gospel.

And there are a few political thoughts
from a Constitutional perspective.
I was a business and
Constitutional lawyer for 25 years.

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Snapshot 1

Of course Jesus cares how we behave.
Our behavior is an outflow of our
heart, and how we relate to God.
And others know us by our behavior,
the way we act and how we talk.

But Jesus knows what we believe
greatly influences our behavior.
When gospel belief resides in our heart,
it is God's way of relating to us.
Paul says when the love of Christ
saturates us, then it also compels us.
God cares much more about our belief
than he does about our behavior.

Good behavior will never produce correct belief,
but correct belief will at least eventually
produce good or better behavior.

Snapshot 2

Let ask a question:

“How could we have prepared for 2020?”

In the same way, “How can we prepare for 2021?”

The answer to both questions is: “WE CAN’T!”

We can’t prepare for what we can’t possible know will happen.

One thing we know for sure:

We DON’T know what is going to happen in 2021.

The best way to live is to bring God and his promise of eternity into what we don’t know for sure.

We’re told: “Jesus is the same: yesterday, today and forever.”

Nothing else is for sure.

John 6 says Jesus will turn NO one away who is willing to come to him, even if you’re the BIGGEST sinner. In the Bible, The Apostle Paul even jailed and killed Christians before he was stopped by Jesus, and then he wrote over half the New Testament about the gospel.

No one is a bigger sinner than him.

I think that’s why God chose him: to show us that Jesus gives us an open door to God. You don’t even have to knock on the door.

Snapshot 3

Peer pressure doesn't end when the teen years end.

We are all influenced by all types of folks.

We all have peer pressure in our lives.

Life is too short to hang out with the wrong people.

Wrong peers will influence you in the wrong ways.

We need people who are loving,
intuitive, resourceful and inventive
in their words, actions and deeds.

That's why Paul says to only hang out with those
who 'fellowship in the gospel' (Phil 1:5).

God is a great one! He is so creative and inventive,
'beyond all we can ask or think.'

Try hanging out with God, asking him to help you
in what you do, and then take time to listen to him.

You may be amazed what you hear.

He's the best 'peer' you could have.

And the only language he speaks this side of
the cross is his gospel truth and reality.

Snapshot 4

We all make mistakes in life.
And we also sin because we are human.
And we all make bad choices.
This doesn't mean we're bad people.
To make mistakes and to make
bad choices simply means we're human.

God is very accustomed to working with us humans.
He's been doing it for centuries.
And God never says, "Oooops."
He doesn't make mistakes.

And he even takes our mistakes, and our bad choices
and even our sin, and turns them
into something good
— or at least something better —
BUT ONLY IF... we are willing to give them to him.
So don't be afraid to even give him
your sins and your failures.
He's a big, good God. He can take it.
He can do a lot more with us if we do!

Snapshot 5

So many preachers and teachers
teach Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
through the eyes of the law:
they say it's about what we should do.
But Jesus was introducing his gospel,
his good news of good things.

I think Jesus was showing how his gospel,
the power of God, works in us.
It's like the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians.
It's not our fruit, but the Spirit's, and what he works into us
— not what we do in and of ourselves.
That's why Paul says: the gospel
produces good things from us (Col 1:5-6).

This is also true of the 8 blessings
in the Sermon on the Mount.
Learn to see them this way.
If you do, you live in 'the light'
of the wisdom and revelation of Jesus.

Snapshot 6

There is an old expression:

“Don’t try to fix what ain’t broke.”

Well sometimes things get ‘broke’ in life,
and we want to fix them.

We want to change people and things,
to make them line-up with our desires.

This can be like committing
psychological suicide.

Don’t sweat what you can’t do anything about.

You can’t do anything about everything.

There’s a lot you can respond to better.

A better attitude and better actions can do it.

You’ve heard it before:

Change whatever things you can,
accept the things that can’t be changed,
and have wisdom to know the difference.

Snapshot 7

In law practice I've had clients call me late at night
if something troubled them,
but nothing could be done about it then.
Maybe not even the next day or two.

Something can be important without being urgent.

Often, if something impacts us all, we think it is urgent.
We over-react.

We think of all the negatives and worry.
We are far less-capable of solving it in this state of mind.

It's best to take a little 'time out,'
and just take a deep breath.
Let the thing settle, and then respond to it logically.

Don't just react emotionally.
When we respond in our emotions,
this decreases the likelihood of a positive outcome.

Snapshot 8

The more perfectionistic and performance driven we are, the more hurried we are to accomplish endless tasks.

This causes peace and happiness to flee.

The more we want life to conform to our desires, the less we realize personal growth and fulfillment, because our focus is on something other than us.

Instead of striving after a better life, make a better 'US' the top priority. Discontent hinders us and never produces higher thoughts and abilities.

But the better we strive to be personally, the more resolve and empowerment we will realize in what we want to do.

Snapshot 9

**Relate more to what is right with you,
not to what's wrong with you.**

None of us are perfect.

**We all need to change. Some more change than others.
If you doubt you need change, ask someone you live with.**

They'll probably give you a list.

Change is always needed.

**But appreciation and thankfulness for who we are personally
is more important.**

Psychology calls this 'self image and esteem.'

**If our self image is good, what we do,
and what we need to change are more easily seen.**

Then we have increased awareness of how to improve and change.

**The Christian life is not so much about change
as it is about exchange with Jesus (II Cor 5:21).**

When we exchange with Jesus, this is what changes us.

Snapshot 10

My dad always pushed me to become more.
I think it was because he wasn't satisfied with who he was.
He never did well in business and never made much money.
Jesus said he came to give us his peace, his joy, and his rest.

A person's mind focused on striving to attain
can't really enter into rest.

And this even decreases motivation,
creativity, drive and ultimately performance.
It's like life in the Old Testament: all failed
and no one ever succeeded (Acts 15:10).

We lose potential if we constantly
think we must perform better and better.

The more relaxed we are, the more
peace and rest we experience, and often
the better performance we experience.

Then, the more freely we can
give ourselves to others.

Snapshot 11

Forgiveness is a gift we are given.
It works two ways at the same time:
(1) giving and (2) receiving.

We all know it benefits someone else,
but we often forget it benefits us too.

A parable speaks of UN-forgiveness
being like a prison if we don't forgive.

We stay trapped in judgments.

Judgmental thoughts can hinder us,
and even truly harm us — our health
and sense of soundness and well being.

“As we think in our heart,
is the way we are and live.”

Sadly, we are often more controlled by
negative thoughts than positive ones.
Negative ones are like a boomerang
because they fly back and hit us hard.

Snapshot 12

“As we think in our heart is how we are!”
When we become dissatisfied with ourselves
we become insecure and think negatively.
Thoughts are a process, and aren't isolated.

Positive thoughts sadly often stop short
of multiplying in more positive thoughts.
But negative thoughts tend to go on
building from one thing to another.
The key is from the 1980's: **“JUST SAY NO!”**
Changing thoughts can change your life!

Negative thinking is easier: it goes downhill.
It's feeling cursed and so you grumble.
Positive thinking is harder: it goes uphill.
It's feeling blessed and thus living grateful.

Don't get caught up in a downhill slide
of negative, insecure thinking.
Just say 'NO.'
Say NO a few times and it becomes easy.

Snapshot 13

Success and failure are valid,
and it seems the whole world lives by them.

But these are judgments
of what is good and what bad.

The forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
should teach us not to live by assessing everything as good or bad.

Once we assess something or judge it,
it loses momentum in our minds —
success because we've done it,
failure because we failed doing it.

And of course, in failure we say,
“I quit!” — or we ask, “Who pushed me?”
We're better off thinking in terms of
RESULTS!

If we think in terms of results, there is
no judgment, only an assessment
that then allows us to continue trying.

Snapshot 14

We tend to live by rules and standards
it's easy to judge ourselves by them,
and by the opinions of others.

We think thoughts like these:

“I must meet certain standards
in order to feel good about myself.”

“I must have the approval of certain
other people to feel good about myself.”

“Those who fail are unworthy
and unqualified to be trusted.”

These are not healthy thoughts
and you should weed them out of
what we call our ‘truth box.’

We should just be aware:
Everything in our truth box isn't truth!

Snapshot 15

Beliefs are prearranged, organized filters of what we think is reality.

Beliefs are commanders to our brain: direct, unquestioned communications.

Belief is a state of mind: beliefs are internal perceptions of our worldview, and what we think is good and bad, right and wrong in our world.

Beliefs are a matter of decision and choice as to what we think is true and not true about ourselves, others and the world.

Therefore, our beliefs should always be open to challenge and change as we grow, mature and discover more empowering beliefs.

Snapshot 16

Here Are Four Empowering Beliefs

**(1) What happens to you in life,
as important and impacting as it may be,
isn't half as important as how
you respond to what happens to you.**

**(2) Don't think of things in life as being success and failure.
There are only results.
There are only obstacles that can be overcome.**

**(3) Attitude is more important than reality
because attitude can change reality.**

**(4) Life is a series of choices,
but the decision is yours.
Decide to take authority over, and responsibility for,
any choices that come across your path.**

**Most of life is about making good choices,
and sadly, most people don't make good choices.**

Snapshot 17

Psychology says we are largely formed in our thoughts, beliefs and psyche the first 7-8 years of our lives.

It's like we've been poured into cement during this time, and we are very hard to change later. When something becomes part of us on the inside it has a way of dominating and controlling us.

Also the first 7-8 minutes we are awake in the morning is a crucial time to take control of our day, before our day takes control over us.

The exact time isn't what is important as much as what are the first things to enter our minds and hearts. "There's no second chance for a first impression."

Wake up saying, "Good morning, God!"
and not "Good God, morning!"

Good days don't just usually happen. "Have a good day" is a nice statement, but we must work to make good days happen. We must choose to make each and every day a good day.

Snapshot 18

“I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and told me of the truth that is in you, even that you live in that truth.” III John 2-3

Prosperity and health is something we all long for.

Jesus includes this in the ‘abundant life’ he says he came to give us.

In Acts 3 it God sent Jesus to bless us, and the gospel does this.

So many want and need healing today, even at young ages.

But healing is not God’s best. Our health and prosperity is God’s best.

To live in prosperity and health, and other blessings of God,
we must walk and live in his gospel truth.

When we live gospel truth, Paul says this is the power of God in us.

“More than we can ask or think.” But if we don’t live his gospel,
it’s harder for God to transform us by his gospel power.

Not living the gospel, we’re more on our own.

The Parable of the Sower shows only about 25% lived the gospel.

Studies today show it is quite a bit less than this

because of the hundreds of different humanistic denominations
and also theologies we have to choose from.

The choices we have today are totally off the map.

Snapshot 19

**The Gospel is the revelation
God sent Jesus to bring us to live!
(Deut 18:15-19, Mark 1:14-15, Acts 3:22-26)
There is no 'PLAN B'!**

Jesus says to repent of all other beliefs and only believe his gospel. This means live it. Too many folks believe the gospel in print... after all, it's mentioned in the Bible, isn't it?

But they don't embrace it practically and personally. But it is only when we're tuned into the truth of Jesus that we can hear his voice (John 18:37). He doesn't speak other theologies.

Jesus regained all that was lost in the Garden of Eden.

He did so by the finished work of his cross.

He said he must be 'about his Father's business,' — his gospel. Jesus came to give testimony to the God's gospel reality.

Too often, preachers lead us to only repent of sin, but Paul says to repent of not believing and living God's truth (II Tim 2:25).

If we don't do this, he says we're captive to Satan (II Tim 2:26).

If we don't live gospel truth, Satan keeps us blind to it (II Cor 4:3-4).

In short, Jesus says living the gospel is living in the light...

and Paul says that all else is living in darkness.

Snapshot 20

A lot is preached today about revival, and it is a wonderful concept.

The only problem is that it is most often defined as reviving living by the law, putting your nose to the grindstone, and trying to do better than you did before. Paul calls this dead works!

He says law is what strengthens sin in us (I Cor 15:56).

It provides a live of living in the flesh that produces a type of spiritual death (Rom 7:4). Living in the Old Testament produces this.

The Old Testament is meant for us to use to compare how good we have things in the New Testament, after Jesus came.

Revival might best be called a time of reformation (Heb 9:9-10).

The cross reformed everything and made all things new (II Cor 5:17).

It is New Testament gospel life, and we should only live it (II Cor 3:6).

Jesus came to give us 'a new and living way' (Heb 10:20).

Living in gospel truth produces the presence and power of God in us.

It causes us to live better, by accident, than we ever could on purpose in our flesh, which is often what is meant when preachers use the word 'revival.'

They revive us to live the LAW, not GOSPEL truth.

Reformation in us produces transformation in our hearts, which better establishes us and connects us with God.

We then give him freedom to complete the work that **HE** has begun in us (Phil 1:6).

Snapshot 21

The gospel is God's direct word to us, brought to us by Jesus,
about the reality of life he wants us to live in.

It is not a list of commands, or even anything he wants us to do.

It's about something he wants us to believe and receive —
so that it empowers us with blessings and benefits.

God told Moses he'd send his Prophet (Jesus) with his special message
(the gospel) and he'd REQUIRE us to believe it (Deut 18:15-19).

The first words from Jesus were: 'Believe my gospel' (Mk 1:15).

It was the most important thing on his mind and heart.

If we don't know what it says and put it to use,
we'll always be in the dark about things of God.

Mary said to the angel: "Be it done unto me according to your word."

This is meant to be our attitude toward the gospel.

The gospel is about 'good news of good things' for every area of our lives
so we live in more prosperity, health, grace, love, and other good things.

Paul says the GOODNESS of God leads to repentance (Rom 2:4).

We are constantly told about God's love for us.

The gospel is what empowers us in everything we think, do and say.

The gospel produces 'a love for the truth' in us,
and this empowers us to hear God more clearly (John 18:37).

Snapshot 22

Have you ever thought about the main purpose? . . . the main issue? . . .
of the GOSPEL OF JESUS?

We lawyers are all about identifying the real ISSUE of things.

If we miss a main issue, we know we'll lose our case.

The gospel changes our worldview. It changes our perspective of life.

Jesus says, 'Thy Kingdom come' . . . 'heaven is in the midst of us.'

It's not just out in outer space somewhere.

And it is the gospel truth that delivers it to us.

The gospel 'transforms us by the renewing of our minds' (Rom 12:1-2).

It transforms us to thinking God's thoughts and knowing his ways.

I've learned there is no better way to live.

Jesus speaks about abundant life on earth that the gospel gives us.

And if it consumes us Satan can't touch us (I John 5:18).

Being in darkness, and being a liar, he can't stand the light of gospel truth.

Even Satan believes the reality of what God has done for us

— and trembles at the gospel and at gospel believers (Jam 2:19).

Satan's great goal is to blind our minds to the glorious gospel (II Cor 4:3-4).

He can't stand anyone with a gospel WORLDVIEW.

And he is allowed to take anyone captive who does not engage

the glorious truth that Jesus came to bring us (II Tim 2:25-26).

Snapshot 23

An Important Fact of American History

Washington DC did not become the U.S. capital until 1790.
George Washington became president on April 30, 1789, in New York City.
This was at 'GROUND ZERO' of the Twin Tower attack on 9-11-2001.

After his inauguration, he and other leaders walked a short distance
up Broadway to Saint Paul's Chapel.

Here, they prayed and consecrated the United States to God.

He also said if our nation ever turns away from God,
God's blessings will disappear, and would be replaced with judgment.

The 9-11 Attack: World Trade Center Recent History



There was an amazing find
in the debris in NYC.
It was a fully intact CROSS!
It is now displayed at Ground Zero.



The cross has been preserved as a memorial of the buildings
that no longer exist after planes flew into them on September 11, 2001.
For us of a spiritual mind, and me in the gospel, it can only be taken
as God's sign and warning: "Don't exclude me from your nation."

Our founding fathers began our nation founded on God.

God wants us to remember this and return to him.

The cross is a reminder:

"One Nation Under God" — "In God We Trust."

Snapshot 24

If we only lived by three laws, we'd start a spark of fire and revival not seen in a long time!

(1) Keep your word, and do what you say you will do.

Let your word be your bond.

Jesus says, "Let your YES be yes and your NO be no."

Be known for your character, principle and integrity who can be trusted and relied upon.

(The Basis for Contract Law).

(2) Don't infringe on others, demand from them or manipulate them with regard to their person or property.

The 10 commandments tell us not to covet what others have.

We're to be content and at peace in any state we are in.

(The Basis for Tort and Criminal Law).

(3) Accept others, forgive them, bless them, help them, and even love them.

"Prefer others, and look out for their interests, even over your own." —

"Owe no man anything except love." — "Minister grace to the hearers."

(The Basis for God's law).

The first two of these used to be known as 'common law' under our Constitution, but they hardly exist today.

Snapshot 25

Sometimes our prayers are not answered
the way we want or in our time-frame.
Don't get disillusioned if this happens.

Paul says: "Pray without ceasing."
But this doesn't mean literally praying all the time.
This means to keep an open listening heart,
not just an open mouth.
And it doesn't mean to repeat your prayer
over and over and over again.

He also says, "In everything give thanks."
This includes unanswered prayer.
There is power in gratitude, thankfulness
and praise most of us haven't tapped into.

And don't take ownership over a prayer
and try to enforce it with God.
Prayers belong to God, not to us.
We are merely the broadcaster.

Snapshot 26

“Worship God in Spirit and truth” (Jn 4:24).

**This means asking the Holy Spirit
to pray with you as Paul says in Romans.
Then your heart is joined with him in his truth.
He’s called ‘The Spirit of Truth.’**

**We can only truly worship God
in Spirit and truth in the gospel.**

**Any degree of law, religion or precepts
in us puts the focus on US, not on GOD.
We can’t truly worship God if we are
in the spotlight, instead of God.**

**If we are in the spotlight,
our focus is on our needs,
not on God.**

**Paul calls this ‘worshipping the creature
not the Creator’ (Rom 1:25).**

Snapshot 27

Sometimes we are such linear people.

God might call this 'eating from the forbidden tree' — The Tree of Knowledge.

If life goes well, we are happy.

God often seems like more of an obstacle to us.

We think he wants to interrupt our good times.

But if things go bad, we think God

is the culprit, and we are the victim.

We think he's angry at us — judging us.

When we are happy and blessed, our hands are full,
so we can't receive more from God.

In these times we think we only need God
in case of emergency, not day-to day.

But even in bad times, we don't want

to talk to God because we think

he has allowed what is happening to us,

or is angry at us and judging us.

Should we perhaps change our attitude about God?

Snapshot 28

Who is on the throne of your life?
Is it God, or is it you, or someone or something else?

God replaces fear, worry and guilt
with faith, hope and love.
It's really a good transfer of power.

As believers, in God's love there is
no fear and no judgment even (1 John 4:17).
God says he forgets everything bad about us in Jesus.
He just erases the blackboard
and writes one word upon it,
and upon our lives: 'JESUS.'

Paul says we even 'put on Christ.'
It's like we walk around in a costume of Jesus.
At least this is the way both God and Satan see us
if we are living life in his gospel reality.

If we are believers who love
and trust God, life is not promised
to be perfect, but it will be better.

Snapshot 29

A lot of our health and healing
comes by letting go of our worries, cares,
stresses, fears and guilt.

A surgeon's knife can't usually cut through
all of this 'RELIGIOUS FAT' we often have on us.

If we believe and trust God, even if we
need the surgeon's knife, things go better.

We may still have some religious fat,
but if we trust God he can cut through it.

And even if the surgery goes sour,
it goes better than it would go otherwise
if we believe and trust God.

Jesus promises us not only a better life on earth,
but also an eternal life too glorious to even imagine.

We know life is only a temporary assignment.

We just don't always want to admit it.

Snapshot 30

It's very easy to turn a conversation into an argument.

All you have to do is keep your mouth open
more than your ears.

God gave us one mouth and two ears for a reason.

Active listening is better than speaking.

We learn more and show more compassion when we listen.
The problem is we all have opinions and want to share them.
The older we get the more we think we know, when actually
we should see there is a whole lot more we don't know.

“Opinions are a dime a dozen, and most aren't worth that much.”

Paul says, “If anyone thinks he knows anything,
he doesn't yet know as he ought to know.”

We live in the age of knowledge —
the age of information, largely due to the world-wide web.
It is said we have access to more new knowledge in one year
than our granddad did in his whole lifetime.

We really shouldn't try to share all we think we know at one time.
The more I learn, especially of spiritual things,
the more I realize just how dumb I really am.

Snapshot 31

Reputation is precious.
We should strive to have a good one.

But character is priceless. It is more valuable,
and much more visible than reputation is.

Temper gets us into trouble:
opening our mouth when we should keep it closed.

Pride is what keeps us in trouble:
Pride makes everyone else sick except the person who has it.

Pride should be smothered in humility,
which simply means knowing we need many things
that we can only get from God.

Reputation and temper keep us fighting growing old.
Growing older happens to all of us, except for people
who never get the chance to experience it.

Growing older is part of the reputation
that we all share in common.

Snapshot 32

Stay away from people who seem to put you down.

There are small people and big people.

It is said, "Small people talk about the weather and things that don't really matter all that much, but big people talk about ideas that can grow, and help both themselves and other people.

Small folks put you down: drag you down to their level.

Big people build you up: pull you up to their level.

Which do you think is the best peer pressure?

"Don't aim too high, people will say you're crazy.

Don't aim too low, others will say you're lazy.

No matter what you do, you'll always find a few

Who won't approve of anything you do."

From a song I composed

Peer pressure is a powerful thing,
and it's much more vital when we employ the right peers.

Snapshot 33

**Attitudes are contagious.
Are yours worth catching?**

**Attitude is more important than reality, because
attitude can make any reality better, even bad realities.**

**Whatever happens to you, as good or as bad as it may be,
is not half as important as how you respond
to what happens to you.**

**Attitude is a matter of response, not initiation.
There's only a few things in this life we can initiate,
but we respond to everything in this life,
especially things from God and his stated reality.**

**As Mary the mother of Jesus said:
"Be it done unto me according to your word."**

**Attitude is the means by which we do respond,
and when we choose the right attitudes
our lives become so much better —
not to mention the folks around us.**

Snapshot 34

The very first thing God did in Genesis chapter 1 was to BLESS US.

The very last thing Jesus did in Luke 24,
as he was ascending to his Father in heaven was to BLESS US.

Acts 3 says God sent his special Messenger,
Jesus, with his special Message, the Gospel,
and his purpose in doing so was to BLESS US.

Can you see that God's whole purpose
is to BLESS US? (Acts 3:22-26, Eph 1:3).

All we have to do is to respond to him,
say YES to him, and Jesus says he gives us
everything in his entire Kingdom (Luke 12:32).
Talk about being blessed out of your socks.

Jesus says he will not turn anyone away
who comes to him (John 6:37).
If you haven't yet come to him, I pray that you do.

This is where all God's blessings truly begin.

Snapshot 35

God is the 'Alpha and Omega,' the beginning and the end.

This includes everything, including our lives (Rev 1:8).

**He is also the 'Author and Finisher' of our faith
and we are to live by daily (Heb 12:2, Rom 1:17).**

**Living in God, he is in control of our birth and our death,
and if we live in faith as we should, then all things in between too.**

**He causes all things to work out better than they would
under just our own steam and power.**

Jesus says we are like 'rivers of living water.'

We're not reservoirs but flowing rivers.

**Rivers are alive, active,
and of service to others.**



**If we truly live in God,
he influences everything, and gives us his blessings.**

But if we don't live in God we're really just 'on our own.'

Anything in life is just simply left up to us.

That's a dangerous, uncertain place to be.

Snapshot 36

We've talked about God blessing us
and being the beginning and end of our faith.

In the Garden of Eden God made 'all things good.'
Then mankind blew it in 'the fall.'
God then even cursed the world, and our thriving on it,
so now, ALL things are not good.

But Jesus says by our faith we 'overcome the world.'
We're not meant to ADOPT things of earth
but with the help of God, we OVERCOME them.

We sure don't control everything,
but with one eye on heaven we live as VICTORS, not VICTIMS.

We're like David and Goliath:
life doesn't prevail over us;
instead we most often prevail over it.



Snapshot 37

The Old Testament Law
is bad news to anyone who tries to live
it because everyone failed (Acts 15:10).
Thus Paul says we must be 'dead to the law'
if we want to 'live unto God' (Gal 2:19).
Law is called 'the ministry of condemnation' — meaning GUILT.

The New Testament Gospel is 'good news of good things.'
It sings the song of faith, hope and love.
In it there is 'no condemnation in Christ.'
The gospel is the GLORY of God that is given to us.

Jesus says to forsake all other beliefs
and to only believe and live his gospel (Mark 1:15).

This also includes the law.

And we're told the law was not made for us Gentiles at all (Gal 2:14)
(we are all Gentiles unless we were born a Jew).

So if we do live by God's law, we're like religious crooks
who stole it from the Jews.

The infamous Martin Luther said:

"The LAW diagnoses the disease, the GOSPEL prescribes the cure."

Snapshot 38

The Old Testament is beautiful
— filled with interesting things.

Where would we be without Genesis,
the prophets of God, the history of God,
the Psalms and the Proverbs?

But Hebrews says we have a New Testament
that is so much better.

Here is a great illustration:

In the Old, people were saved
by the blood of animals on their doorposts.

In the New, we are saved
by the blood of God on the cross of Jesus.

The problem today is that so many Christians
try to live by both the Old and New Testaments.

I call it a '1 + 1 = 2' theology.

Jesus says the New has replaced the Old (Heb 9:10, 10:9).

If we try to live by both, it's like mixing
the blood of animals with the blood of Jesus.

Snapshot 39

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Our world is run on the basis of cause and effect:
every cause we initiate has an effect— either good or bad.
If we do good, we get praised, get a raise or get promoted. If we do
bad, we get spanked, put on probation or fired.

We have to be cautious how we want life to treat us in that it treats us
the way we treat it. ‘What you sow is what you reap’ — ‘what you
plant is what you harvest’ govern us.

CROSS AND EFFECT

God gives ‘a new and living way to live: cross and effect.
If we are believers, we should live each day aware of the
finished work of the cross of Jesus on our lives.
He came to bring us his GOSPEL: all the blessings, promises,
benefits, health, prosperity — abundant earthly life,
then followed by eternal life we can’t begin to imagine.

The more we live the gospel, the more powerful CAUSE
we have establishing us and motivating us to greater EFFECTS
than we could ever produce by ourselves alone.

Snapshot 40

The Apostle Paul speaks of measuring God's love in four ways:
its (1) breadth, (2) its length,
(3) its depth, and (4) its height (Eph 3:18).

We don't measure things in this way in our earthly,
3-dimension thinking. If we measure, we look at an object's
(1) height, (2) length and (3) width,
but 'depth' isn't often in our calculations or measurements.

The point is: God's love for us is so incomprehensible,
unconditional and vast that we can't truly grasp
it without divine revelation and 4-D thinking —
that includes a depth we can't see, contemplate or imagine.
This is what Ephesians 3 says: it's beyond our understanding.

Pray and ask for God's revelation to help you begin
to grasp the depth of his love for you.

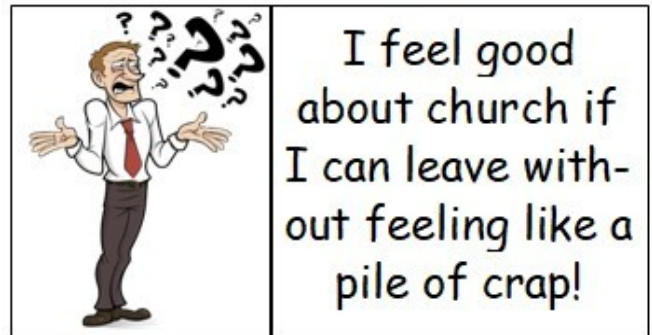
We can't grasp it alone.

It's so far above our thinking we can't
get hold of it on our own.

Snapshot 41

We have a mixture of theologies today:
the Old Testament and the New Testament.
Jesus says not to mix them but people tend to anyway.
They just can't seem to comprehend that God
would abandon his law for the gospel.
But he did because everyone failed living the Old (Acts 15:10).

Many preachers preach the Old
because it is so much easier
to understand and apply to life.
But Paul says they don't understand
what they are saying



even though they sound very confident (1 Tim 1:7).

But it fills our heads full of God's anger, sin,
guilt, condemnation and judgment.

It doesn't come from God, but from man's theology,
wisdom and concoction of the human mind.

The gospel is so harder to understand because
we don't think like God does, as Isaiah 55:8-9 says.
We think in terms of guilt and judgment, and not so much about
God's love, grace, mercy, acceptance and forgiveness,
and peace with him in his gospel (Rom 5:1-2).

Snapshot 42

Elections are mostly about Charisma, not about Character!

“Where do all the PROMISES go once the POLITICIAN gets elected?”

Many political candidates try to capitalize on their charisma: their ability to charm voters, and draw them into who they are as a PERSON.

This is the wrong way for us to view things!

We need to look more at the PRECEPTS behind the person, not at the person.

We know not everyone is trustworthy or dependable.

This is why I keep stressing CONSTITUTION thinkers vs. CHANGE thinkers.

Conservatives most often want to CONSERVE things as they were created by our founding fathers, and keep a godly, moral, ethical perspective.

Liberals instead usually want to CHANGE everything.

They just live by the seat of their pants.

They have nothing to 'conserve' because they have no foundation.

They merely have 'hip pocket beliefs,' and their message is: “Trust ME!”

Our question should be: “Do they have anything guiding them?”

Most of the liberals do not. They simply want us to trust them.

If we buy into them, America will continue on its downhill fall, as it is doing now so rapidly, and many say it cannot be stopped.

Many politicians today are socialists: A socialist is a person who is too stupid to know they have a communist mindset.

Snapshot 43

President Bill Clinton said “We are RE-defining UN-changeable ideals that have guided our nation from the beginning.

How do you redefine what is unchangeable?

But this is a liberal politician’s rhetoric as they rape our Constitution.

I talked about liberals wanting us to trust THEM, not what they stand for, because they don’t stand for anything.

God says we’re CURSED if we trust in man (Jer 17:5).

Paul says we’re deceived by man’s words and wisdom (Col 2:4, I Cor 2:4).

Liberals are not Constitution focused, and want to change everything.

LIBERALS want to ‘LIBERATE’ us to new things, and those new things are usually only things to help them get RE-elected.

They want to change America into something other than what it is.

Conservatives want to ‘CONSERVE’ what our founders gave us, and what God himself has given us in his truth.

They want to see America ‘CONTINUE’ on the same course, And not change things as liberals want to do.

Conservatives want to conserve our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Liberals want to liberate us from our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Our only choice is this: “Which way do we want America to go?”

Snapshot 44

**Our Founders News vs. Writer's Fake News:
modern writers reject our founders' way of thinking and believing.**

We expect writers and journalists to be objective but they are not.

As a lawyer, I know they are like lawyers in a courtroom.

They only know one side of a case and this is what they present.

The question is asked: "Whatever became of truth and justice?"

It went the same way that journalism has gone:

It's all based on human preference, bias and opinion.

**As a nation, 'we the people' have a body of moral truth
in a document called our 'Constitution.'**

It is meant to be our 'truth box,' and we are meant to live by it.

Journalists and writers are meant to live by it too.

But most of them don't, and most publishers won't let them.

Most of them have no foundation, and no 'truth box.'

**They are told what to write by their editors and publishers,
and most of them have no foundation or truth box either.**

This is how 'fake news' is invented.

**Jesus would call it building a house on the sand
rather than on the Rock of truth.**

News just keeps shifting from one pile of sand to another.

Snapshot 45

“History Tends To Repeat Itself”

It has been said: “History has proven that history will continue the same way, unless we take steps to change it.”

Since the 1950s, history has changed at an alarming rate.

Then, the Constitution was ‘in,’ and moral, godly laws kept us safe, secure and at peace.

Today, peace is fleeting. The 1960s and 1970s saw change at a rapid rate: Viet Nam... racial turmoil... drugs... free sex... gender change... homosexuality... abortion... no prayer in schools... no fault divorce... evolution in schools... same sex marriage. We’re like a second ‘Sodom and Gomorrah.’

Then, ‘LIBERAL POLITICS’ began to flourish in the early 1990s with Bill Clinton, and this promoted more non-constitutional, ungodly thinking.

The fact is, history will continue the same way unless we say ‘NO’ to liberal politicians, and say ‘YES’ to more Constitutional thinkers.

But many authors are now claiming it’s too late for America. They say it’s too late to say ‘NO’ to liberal, ungodly politicians. They say their foot is in the doorway and we can’t close the door.

Snapshot 46

Why Can Song Lyrics Touch Us At A Deep Level?

Have you ever wondered why you can be so inspired by song lyrics? I even use some lyrics in these posts and comment on them. And I've composed a lot of songs and have a thought on this.

When most people talk, they seldom think 5 seconds about what they are going to say next. As the saying goes, "They operate mouth before engaging their brain."

But this is not true of many composers of songs. Most of us think long and hard before putting something on paper. We try to word it just right, with inspiring thoughts, and create all the emotional impact that we can.

I've written a couple songs where I just felt like I was an instrument being used to write, as the song came so fast.

But mostly it takes some real work to compose to connect well.

The result is the lyrics touch you, are inspiring and move you to emotion. This is not true of all songs.

Some are no more inspiring than everyday gibberish, and some are just downright bad, off color and even satanic.

But this is true of a lot of songs where the composer has worked hard and long to put their thoughts into your mind and heart.

In just talking we don't usually do this.

Snapshot 47

The truth of the Bible may hurt our souls
if we're too busy, absorbed in other things, or self-involved
to take time to deal with it.

We're consumed with lies today, . . .
in politics, in church, in business, in society, etc.
As a new fledging lawyer I was a great liar.
I could concoct stories that sounded great,
and then sell them to judges and juries.

At least I did this until I met Jesus.

We're told in scripture: 'God cannot lie.'
His character won't let him lie and so we can believe him.
This is why we can trust God and believe his gospel truth:
the Bible never lies to us.

Many groups try to prove the Bible wrong in ways:
In its historical fact,
in its future prophecy,
in its truth for everyday living.

But they always just remain mute and quiet.
The best they can come up with is whether Judas
committed suicide by jumping off a cliff or hanging himself.
Maybe he hung himself over a cliff and the rope broke. Who knows?
But the bottom line is he did commit suicide.

Snapshot 48

Christians are called 'the just who live by faith,'
so everything we do should be by faith in God (Gal 3:11).

But the problem is we often buy into the world's
definitions of faith, which are not God's definitions.

"Self-help, do-it-yourself, positive thinking,
New Age, name it and claim it, and even witchcraft."

Faith is simply us trusting God enough to believe what he says,
and take it into our heart as fact and reality.

So faith is our response to God's stated faithfulness to us.

Trusting God is the easiest thing in the world if you believe him.

But the problem is that most of us hear so many
other theories, opinions, speculations and even fantasies
that we tend to latch on to anything that comes down the Pike.

This is not biblical faith.

This is not 'the just who live by faith.'

Snapshot 49

God gives us two ears and one mouth so we
listen more than we talk.

Everyone has value,
and has a perspective we can glean from,
..... even if we don't agree with them.

James says, "Be quick to hear, slow to speak,
and slow to become angry."

But too often we're slow to hear, quick to speak
and quick to become angry if we're disagreed with.

I've always liked this saying:
"If you agree with
everything I say, one of us isn't necessary."

The law says everyone deserves their day in court.
Well, everyone deserves to be heard by us
if we're living in compassion and love
again, even if we don't agree with them.
That's why we have two ears and one mouth.

Snapshot 50

How does God speak to us?

He seldom speaks brand new things that we've never heard before.

At least with me, what God does is expand on what I've already read, and am already thinking and meditating about.

He doesn't speak about the book of Revelation if I've never read it.

He builds on a foundation I've already established.

And he always does so in a quiet voice in my heart that is tuned into him and ready to listen to him.

I've heard nothing close to an audible voice.

God always speaks by means of his Holy Bible.

He doesn't contradict what he has already said.

He doesn't tell me to believe 'ABC' and then say 'XYZ.'

If God hadn't intended us to be readers, he'd never have given us a book like the Holy Bible.

This is especially true of the New Testament gospel, which is his Messenger Jesus' special Message to us.

I think the only language God speaks this side of the cross is his gospel truth and reality.

Snapshot 51

The gospel is God's expressed reality for our life on earth.

He expects us to live it.

But too many Christians think it's just 'too much good news of too many good things.' Too many say, "It's too good to be true," or, "Even God can't be this good."

Or they say it's just one of many choices we have to choose from.

We live in a 'bad news — fake news world.'

We become so consumed by bad news,
and accustomed to it, we get calloused.

Our souls and emotions become hardened.

We often don't respond in positive ways.

The gospel of Jesus gives us good news
that establishes us and empowers us.

Jesus says it is 'building life on the rock' of his truth.

Due to all the bad news, we can become suspect of it.

We may even choose not to believe it and live it.

Don't do it! Live in its empowering reality.

Your life may not become perfect as we'd like it to be,
but it will be a whole lot better.

Snapshot 52

This is a day God has made.
He wants us to live it to the max,
but don't count on tomorrow.
Yesterday is a cancelled check
and tomorrow is only a promissory note
that we may never be able to collect on.

Today is cash: spend it.
Do all you can do to make today the best ever,
and let God flood your life with all of his
love, grace and blessings.
The gospel is 'good news of good things.'

When we live in the good news of the gospel
it produces good things from us spontaneously (Col 1:5-6).

This is what the Parable of the Sower
and the Parable of Automatic Growth, the Parable of the Leaven
and the Parable of the Mustard Seed are all about.

The Parable of the Sower says we get a 100, 60 or 30 times ROI
if we live in what God plants into us.
That's a better rate of return than you can get anywhere else.

Snapshot 53

Church can create a comfort zone that can cause us to fall into a routine that is just status quo, and not spiritually transforming.

If we just think of church as a place to meet,
it can be stale — non-meaningful.

The gospel shows us church isn't just a place, but a union with God.

Jesus is God's light, but he also calls us 'the light of the world.'

He also calls us 'rivers of living water.'

Church is meant to be a place to impact other people with God.

When a church ministers the gospel we come to know God deeper.

We become his love, grace and power flowing through us to others.

This is what church is truly meant to be.

It's not just meant to be a place to go, sit down, shut up and listen.

The Corona virus thing was a way to cause us to be more inventive in how we do connect with people more meaningfully.

There are many things that teach us this
if we are listening and open to them.

Snapshot 54

Jesus says his Kingdom is in the midst of us.
He also says to seek the Kingdom of God first,
and good things will follow.

The gospel is called 'good news of good things.'

The prayer of Jesus has been answered:

"Father, your Kingdom come, your will be done."

Yes God's Kingdom is future — it's about eternal life in heaven.

Sometimes we forget this in our day-to-day
strivings and workings here on planet earth.

But it's also about life in God's Kingdom now,
at least a preview of eternal things.

It is the gospel that gives us this revelation.

We get 'good things of God's Kingdom' when we seek them now,
and are open and receptive to receiving them.

God reveals things about our lives on earth with him
as we seek him and ask him to reveal them.

Paul says there is 'so much more' that we need to experience.

And remember: Paul had a conference with God
in heaven where he saw and heard such wonderful things
he was told couldn't repeat them to us (II Cor 12:1-4).

Everything is better than we even think it is.

Snapshot 55

Are We Sinners or Are We Righteous?

When we think of ourselves as sinners,
our thoughts gravitate downward.

We tend to think and say negative things about ourselves.

The gospel presents us with our identity
as God sees us, and it is totally positive.

II Corinthians 5:21 says that Jesus was made sin so that we could
be made his righteousness. This is a tremendously powerful
truth to believe. Yet, so many refuse to believe this
and in essence tell God that he is wrong (sic).

All God wants is for us to believe this,
and everything else he says in his gospel, and then say,
“Thank you! I love you! Be it done unto me according to your word!”

It is hard to believe we are righteous,
without doing everything right.

Sin thoughts will pull us down every time.

We must first realize the truth that Jesus was made sin,
without doing anything wrong.

God’s ways are not our ways.

Snapshot 56

How often have you heard it preached that God has made you absolutely and totally righteous if your trust is in Jesus?

How often have you heard it preached that you are a sinner and must clean up your act or God will judge you?

Many churches know that preaching sin grows attendance and keeps their pews filled. People keep coming back to try to get help and relief from their negative sin conditions.

Jesus says in John 16:8, 10: the Holy Spirit convicts sinners of their sin because they don't believe in him,
— while he convicts us believers of our righteousness.

But most churches say the Holy Spirit convicts us all of sin (sic). Paul says the gospel sets us free. Sin preaching buries us under piles of what I call 'religious do-do.'

Romans 6 and 7 and Galatians 2 say if we receive Jesus, God has made us dead to sin, and free from sin, even though we continue to have sin struggles.

Sin struggles are just part of the human condition, although in Jesus God sees us totally apart from the sin condition.

Snapshot 57

We hear about all the fake news presented to us.

But still we listen to it and consider it,
because it's in our face daily.

The press, T.V., lecturers, even religious podiums
all have educated, creative people
who say they deserve us listening to them.

Too often, they have a lot more charisma
and charm than character and truth,
but still we listen to them and believe them.

Like a fish that is offered bait, we're often too quick
to bite at the bait we're offered.

It gets inside of us and hooks us, even if it is nonsense.

It sadly remains in our consciousness for us
to chew on and live in its influence.

That's why Jesus says to only believe and live his gospel.
It was the very first words out of his mouth (Mark 1:14-15).

It was the most important thing on his mind and heart
and it should be most important to us too.

Snapshot 58

Why is it that human, earthly thoughts often sound better to us than God's heavenly thoughts do?

It's because we think in the same patterns that we listen to.

We speak the same language. We live in the same world.

We think of God as just being 'up there somewhere,' instead of with us constantly as he says he is.

Too often, God's thoughts are too far above us for us to grasp as readily as human, worldly thoughts that click with our thoughts and reasoning.

Too often, God's thoughts require too much of a stretch, and too much effort to reach them and grasp them.

Thus Paul says our minds need to be renewed and transformed.

To many folks the gospel remains a mystery to them — this is the truth of Jesus he was born to reveal to us.

With all the other stuff we hear on the news, and hear preached, we sometimes think Jesus is just 'OTL' with reality.

Gospel truth draws us to Jesus, and he says, "I will not turn away anyone who comes to me . . . and if you're of my truth you will hear my voice."

Snapshot 59

The theology of man changes regularly.
Because we like variety and new things,
we open our minds to it all too often:
to anything that sounds good to us
that comes down the Pike.

The truth of God is unchangeable and eternal.
God spoke about his New Testament gospel
to Moses, 2,000 years before the cross of Jesus
(Deuteronomy 18:15-19).

King David had an absolute revelation of it,
even under the law, 1,000 years before Jesus (Rom 4:6-8).

Jesus says to only believe his gospel truth.
But if we seek new things that sound good,
we will miss the truth of Jesus.

He says we must be 'of the truth'
to connect with him and hear him (John 18:37).
This occurs by having 'a love of the truth' (II Thes 2:10).

Snapshot 60

This saying is really true:
“Don’t sweat the small stuff,
and it’s all small stuff.”

This is a saying I’m told was coined
by psychologist-author-speaker Wayne Dyer.

This is how we should view this world.
We’re told we shouldn’t fall in love with it,
if we do, we miss the love of God in us (I John 2:15).

We’re here on ‘temporary assignment.’
It’s OK to grasp things of the world, but only with an open hand.

And we shouldn't fret over everything that happens to us.

There is another saying I like: “This too will pass.”
No matter what — good or bad things — they will pass.
Everything in this life is temporary, even you and me.
So take ownership over things that happen in this world,
and don’t let them take ownership over you.

Snapshot 61

Law is accusative and demanding, including
the Old Testament law of God

It can be demeaning and even deflating.

It says, "You are not doing what you should be doing. Here is what you must do, and if you don't do it, these will be the consequences."

As a lawyer, I grew up with this type thinking for 15 years
of my business life. Thus it's called 'THE LAW.'

I'm still a lawyer, but I am now also
'The Gospel Life Coach,' and I think a lot differently.

The gospel is attractive and engaging.

I refer to it as 'the religion of done.'

Jesus finished things for us and he just tells us
to enter into his gospel and claim it as our own.

Paul calls it 'good news of good things.'

It is the power of God within us, and it establishes us in all of life.

I know I made a good choice and a good switch.

Which system do you think is the best to live under and experience?

Snapshot 62

A song by Alan Jackson says:
“Know the value of a moment
before it becomes a memory.”

Moments are fleeting and if we're not looking, they tend to vanish.
The Apostle James says, “Life is only a vapor.”

So many of us are seeking truth.
It's like they are consulting the guru on a mountain.
They feel if they can get his counsel they will know truth,
but a joke says he just tells them to consult Google.

It shouldn't be, but it is often true: seeking truth
can tend to be more important than living truth.

The Apostle Paul talks about people
“Always learning, but never able
to come into a knowledge of the truth.”

As Zig Ziglar used to say: “Don't get caught in the squat.”
If we don't live in God's truth, we often do ‘get caught in the squat.’

Snapshot 63

They are old sayings that we've all heard before:

“What you sow is what you reap.”

“What you plant is what you harvest.”

“What you send out is what you get back.”

Life is often like a boomerang.

It's also the oldest truth in Genesis:

“Things grow after their own kind.”

Sowing and planting smiles
is perhaps the easiest thing to envision.
But love begins just by giving grace to people.
We all need grace, and we all should give grace.

We should always minister grace,
mercy, kindness, goodness, peace,
gentleness, patience, joy . . . LOVE.
The more blessings in any form that
we give away, the more blessings
that tend to come back on us.

Snapshot 64

Why is the gospel on the TOP of God's list for us to live and experience?

- * The dearest thing on the heart of Jesus, and the first thing he spoke, was for us to believe his gospel (Mk 1:14-15). This means it topped his list.
- * God told Moses centuries before that he'd send his special Prophet (Jesus) with his special Message (the gospel), and he would REQUIRE us to believe it (Deut 18:15-19).
- * Jesus said the words he spoke would judge us in eternity (John 12:48). If the gospel was the only thing he said we should believe, what do you think he spoke?
- * Our secret heart beliefs will be judged according to the gospel truth (Rom 2:16).
 - * Our lives are harmed (and we're told even destroyed?) if we don't live in the blessings, promises and power of God that the gospel preaching of Jesus freely gives us (Acts 3:22-26).
- * It must be preached in all the world before the end times will come (Matt 24:14).
 - * Jesus will return from heaven with his angels to judge those of us who do not obey (which means live) the glorious gospel of the power of God (II Thes 1:7-8).
 - * It's so important that even the angels of God preach it from heaven to folks on earth (Rev 14:6).

Snapshot 65

Progression vs. Perfection vs. Process

I don't think God cares if we're on the road to the mountain, or if we're reaching the mountain top. He just cares which way we're headed.

I talk some about 'The Gospel Road' vs. 'The Garbled Road,'
so I know he cares what road we're on.

The mountain top is perfection, which we never reach this side of heaven.

But especially The Gospel Road can be considered progression.

It's the process of God. Jesus talks about 'the narrow road.'

Some say our lives here aren't either progression or perfection,
but 'preparation for the promised land' (heaven).

We're to learn to know God and connect with him.

Paul says his goal is, "To know him, the power of his resurrection,
the fellowship of his sufferings (for us),
and being made conformable unto his death" (Phil 3:10).

The gospel is the PROCESS of God in us.

Jesus says, "Without me you can do nothing, (John 15:5),
and we know his process is his gospel (Mark 1:15).

Paul says it is by fellowship in the gospel that God is able to perform his
good work in us that he has begun (Phil 1:5-6).

And he says the gospel is what produces good things from us (Col 1:5-6).

Being 'of the truth' is what allows us to hear his voice (John 18:37).

The gospel empowers us live life better by accident
than we ever could on purpose!

Snapshot 66

The Cross of Jesus:

has spoken and it says we are forgiven, accepted, loved and embraced by Abba Father God. In Ephesians, Paul says we are part of God's family consisting of people both in heaven and us on earth. The ascension of Jesus is his representation of us in heaven, securing our place in this divine unity of people that we can't even begin to imagine.

The Resurrection of Jesus:

seals all of the promises of God, and gives us his blessing and his favor and his grace and his love in everything we do in life. The same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us to help us in all the ways of God. Part of his work is even to show us any of God's free gifts we may miss, so that we can lie in them.

The Gospel Truth of Jesus:

is the transportation system God uses to reveal his thoughts to us and to transform our minds so we have the mind of Christ—he becomes our wisdom. As I like to say, it is God's way of empowering us to live life better by accident than we ever could on purpose.

When we inhale God's gospel truth,
we then exhale worship, praise and love for God.
Thus Jesus says to worship God 'in spirit and in truth.'

Snapshot 67

Living life in love and compassion is helping others see the fullness of their identity and purpose in Jesus, thereby helping establish them in his abundant life, which is the declared REALITY of God.

And then, the Holy Spirit helps them and us live in the power of God's gospel to reach their highest POTENTIAL in life.



Paul says this:

“That I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended by Christ Jesus. . .

This one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14).

Snapshot 68

Scripture says to worship, and to be grateful and thankful.
But too often we equate this with the type of life CIRCUMSTANCES
we are experiencing. Do we have a great life? A good life? An average life?
A poor life? A crummy life? Does the change occur from being grateful,
thankful, and worshipping God, to not being grateful,
thankful and worshipping God somewhere in the middle?

Paul says, 'IN everything give thanks' (1 Thes 5:18).
He doesn't say to give thanks FOR everything. Should we give thanks FOR cancer?
Of course not. But can we give thanks IN the midst of cancer
for all God's done for us here, and will do in eternity?
YES, even despite not being thankful FOR the cancer.
"Bad things happen to good people." We live in a fallen, demon-infested world,
and all things don't happen to our liking, or even the way we pray.

Gratefulness, thankfulness and worship should be in a continuous flow
in our relationship with God — NOT for what is going on in life at the moment.
It shouldn't depend on having a great life, or a crummy life.
The problem is when we view it like this, we often blame God
for what he's doing to us. The truth is he's NOT 'doing it to us,'
even if it's 'being done to us.' Read Philipians 4:4-9.

When we live in thanksgiving, gratitude, worship and rejoicing,
even if we have a poor or crummy life, it lifts our minds and hearts
to a level of PEACE we can not fully understand.
Life gets better because we're living in GOD, and not just
in our SELF, or in our CIRCUMSTANCES.

Snapshot 69

On Living a Thankful Life

Being thankful is actually the gospel lifestyle. It includes both gratitude and worship to God, even if life is NOT to our liking. Gratitude, worship and being thankful should be for life itself, and God's promise of eternal life, not that we just get what we want to make us more happy.

The 10 lepers were healed by Jesus, but only one stopped to say thanks (Luke 17:12). The truth is if life were perfect here, we'd never have any desire for heaven.

In a very general sense, life has 4 aspects to it: (1) birth, (2) times of happiness and joy, (3) times of sorrow and sadness, and (4) death. Many are only thankful, grateful and worship God in #2: times of happiness and joy. That's shallow living.

Paul talks of the gospel showing us Jesus has (1) abolished death, (2) given us abundant life on earth (even if it's not all we want it to be), and (3) eternal life in heaven (II Tim 1:10).

There is really a lot to be thankful for, in our heart and spirit, even if our minds don't always see it this way.

This is why we're meant to live from our hearts filled with God's gospel truth and grace, not from our minds that are too often distracted by more things than we can even manage.

Snapshot 70

More on Living a Thankful Life

THE GOSPEL BLESSINGS... for which we should be thankful are at least these:

- (1)** God's absolute, total salvation for his eternal heaven,
- (2)** God's UN-conditional love for us the Holy Spirit puts into our hearts,
- (3)** God's freedom from law and religion,
- (4)** knowing God's thoughts and having the mind of Jesus,
- (5)** God's empowering grace and favor,
- (6)** having Christ's abundant life of blessings, benefits and promises,
- (7)** God's Inheritance to us, that is equal and joint with that of Jesus,
- (8)** God's diplomatic immunity from sin if we're in Christ,
- (9)** God's authority over Satan and all demonic power, and
- (10)** God's equality that makes us equal with everyone else, and empowers us to love and forgive others more readily.

The problem is we live in a **PHYSICAL** world, and we want to see physical things dealt with, not **SPIRITUAL** things. Thus Paul says don't compare natural things with spiritual things.

We figure the spiritual things can wait until we're old and grey, so we're not as **THANKFUL** for spiritual things as we should be.

But if we live our lives immune to spiritual things, studies show that most folks never get to them later.

Snapshot 71

We choose to read good books or bad ones.
We choose to watch good movies or T.V. shows, or bad ones.
We choose to get drunk or stay sober.
We choose to be educated or remain ignorant.
In the same way, we choose to live in God's truth or not to.

The gospel of God does not obliterate our human life,
or to cause us to live spiritually. There is still a choice we make.
We're so indulged by the thinking of the world around us
we must either choose to live God's gospel truth
that is his gift of blessing to us,
or we'll be over-run with all types of other ways of thinking —
false beliefs, wrong assumptions, and incorrect perceptions.

The gospel is the Message that Jesus came to bring us.
It is the way God gave us to know him, embrace his Kingdom reality,
and to connect with him and relate to him.
It is his gift to us to cause us to live on higher ground
spiritually, as well as also having it translate
into a better life emotionally and physically.
And then he even throws in eternal life in heaven.

Snapshot 72

I have met Christians who believe in Jesus as Savior. They are born again.

But Paul says, “God wants all men (1) to be saved,
and (2) to come into a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4).

So many tune the truth out after receiving Jesus.

They have little knowledge of the gospel message of Jesus.

They live by rote in ritual and tradition, and Christianity is mostly social.

Many Bible studies are comprised of people who Paul says are,
“Ever learning, but never able to come into a knowledge of gospel truth.”

We can learn lots of true things that are not God’s truth.

Often, religious minded folks do this, satisfied with activity:
what they think is paying their dues to God.

They read the Bible some, pray a little for needs,
attend church if nothing else gets in the way,
and bucket-plunk a little money.

God desires a heart that connects with him in his gospel truth,
and if we’re not doing this, do we really connect with God at all?

If we don’t connect with God, we compromise who we are
by living in a religious culture that really is not the New Testament gospel.
The gospel doesn’t exclude most of our activities, but the gospel
is more about the heart. God looks at our hearts (1 Sam 16:7).

Snapshot 73

Think about the 10 lepers Jesus healed, but only one of them returned to say 'Thank you,' and he wasn't even a Jew. He was rather a foreigner, a Samaritan. This is in Luke 17.

Jesus hasn't healed us of leprosy, or cancer, or paralysis, or of anything else major (at least not most of us). But he's healed us of sin, and an eternity we would live in absence of God in a place called hell. All he really expects from us is for us to come to him, be grateful, and say, 'Thank you.'

He wants us to acknowledge what he's done for us in letting us live with God forever in his vast universe called heaven.

When we do, he does try to draw us in closer, wanting us to listen to him and live life experiencing the blessings and power of God in his gospel.

But all he expects from us is to acknowledge him, thanking him for removing all our sin in his crucifixion, and giving us salvation, so we could be reconciled with God and experience life in eternity.

He doesn't want us to be like the other 9 who weren't even grateful enough to him to take the time to say thank you.

Snapshot 74

The atmosphere of heaven is love, peace and joy.

God is not consumed with sin, like we are.

Jesus was sacrificed for our sins, and was made to be sin for us.

God is consumed with life — eternally, and abundantly on earth.

The Holy Spirit tries to keep us in God's blessings, goodness and grace, showing us all God's free gifts that are ours. This way we experience all the fullness of God on earth that we can handle.

God wants us to know. . . “the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, so we will be filled with the fullness of God” (Eph 3:19).

And we're told God's love is so vast — so high and deep and wide and long that we can't even comprehend it.

Our role, if we choose to accept it,
is to simply believe God and receive from him.

He made us to be inside-out creations. What is in us flows out of us.

Thus he knows if we RECEIVE gospel blessings,
we will RELEASE these blessings to others.

Snapshot 75

When Truth Sounds Like Error

Most folks don't have gospel ears but religious, non-gospel ears. When non-gospel ears hear God's gospel truth, it can sound like error.

They come from a foundation of religion and theology (which is man's thinking, or what Paul calls 'the wisdom of man').

Man's wisdom is far, far different from the wisdom of God.

"God's thoughts and ways are far above ours" (Isa 55:8-9).

Thus God gave us the gospel: to straighten out our thinking (Rom 12:2).

If we don't know the gospel, our thinking must resort to the thinking of man, because it's the way we think, and what we hear the most.

"Children live what they learn."

We too often sadly become addicted to the thinking of man because it's the way we think too. After all, we are all human.

We're all raised in the same societies, with the same input, which often is not very good input — but it's the only input we have if we're not tuned into God's thoughts and ways.

The gospel is God's way of thinking.

He wants us to trust him and live it.

It's to our benefit if we DO. If we DON'T, we're stuck with man's thinking.

If we're tuned into the thinking of man,
God's gospel truth can sound like doctrinal error!

Snapshot 76

The gospel gives us health, wealth, opportunity and even prosperity.

Part of this is all true, but it is too often preached as an absolute, which it is not. See it like this: if you play basketball with a fully inflated ball, you play well, but if it's a half deflated ball, you can't play well.

The gospel gives us a fully inflated ball.

Paul calls it 'all the fullness of God' (Eph 3:19). But this doesn't guarantee we are going to win the game, just because we have a good ball.

The game depends on other factors, and so does 'the game of life.'

In many ways, I see American preachers as deflating the gospel of Jesus. They preach things that just aren't true, and build people's hopes.

The gospel draws us into desiring more of God. That's what it's meant to do.

'The American Gospel,' a false gospel, tries to use God as a means to an end.

'The Gospel' speaks of God as being the end: 'The way, the truth and the life.'

The American gospel tends to make us worship things of the world, so we can't know God's UN-conditional love, and his grace for us.

God's gospel gives us a full inflated ball to play with, but it doesn't guarantee we will win in all aspects of our lives on earth.

This is why God invented heaven.

Snapshot 77

King David: A Man After God's Heart (Acts 13:22).

Any of us would like God to say this about us.

But the question is WHY God says this about David.

**I've heard preachers say it's because David was such a good man
(I guess meaning sinless?) and God just liked him.**

I've heard some say it's because he won many battles for Israel.

Here's the reason I think God calls him that 'A Man After His Own Heart.'

Living in the OLD Testament under the law,

**David had a better revelation of the gospel of the NEW Testament
— 1,000 years before the cross, than most Christians do today, —
2,000 years after the cross.**

**Paul says David described our "Blessedness (in the gospel as being)
that God imputes righteousness to us without works,"**

**"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." (Romans 4:6-8).**

**This is the way it is in the gospel: we are forgiven totally and completely,
and in fact God doesn't even remember our sins at all (Heb 8:12, 10:17).**

If we know this about the gospel, it can produce untold peace and rest.

When we live in his gospel truth, God can also say to us:

"They are a person after my own heart."

Snapshot 78

I love the story of Apollos (Acts 18:24-28).

It says he was a great man of God, a great preacher, 'mighty in scripture,' and 'instructed in the way of God.' He sounds a lot like most preachers we respect today.

But then it says he only knew 'the Baptism of John the Baptist.' All he knew was about salvation from sin, which is very important, but it's not what we lawyers would say is 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' of the gospel.

Two converts of Paul, Priscilla and Aquila, took him aside and had a little 'heart to heart talk with him.' It says they expounded the way of God to him more perfectly — they explained it more accurately.

They showed him there were many things that accompanied salvation he was MISSING (Heb 6:9).

He got it! This mighty man of God became even more mighty when he began preaching the gospel in its fullness. He went on to 'greatly help those who had believed through grace.' When we truly see the truth of the gospel, it becomes the power of God in us and through us to others (Rom 1:16-17).

Snapshot 79

A passage in Luke 11:17-28 talks about a divided house not being able to stand, and also about an empty house having demons in it. If we don't have God's truth inside of us he sees us as being empty.

This implies the gospel TRUTH is not resident in the house, because 7 more demons returned to occupy it.

Satan cannot stand in the presence of TRUTH!

This is why the gospel is the power of God in us (Rom 1:16).

Remember, we believers are called 'God's house.'

Verse 22 talks of someone being 'stronger than Satan.'

Not all Christians are included in this. If we're not living in truth,

Jesus says we build on the SAND, not on him as the ROCK.

Jesus gives us believers 'all authority over Satan' (Luke 10:19).

But it's only in the gospel that we have revelation of this.

In the truth of God, 'Satan cannot touch us' (1 John 5:18).

Jesus destroyed his works (1 John 3:8).

Many Christians don't know this and they're always 'battling with Satan.'

Jesus himself concludes all this in verse 28. He says we are blessed if we hear the word of God and keep it.

This is a direct reference to the GOSPEL of God's Kingdom.

This is why I preach the gospel so hard. 500 years ago Martin Luther said, "The gospel prescribes the cure for most of our ailments!"

Snapshot 80

Paul says: “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim 2:1). Paul considered Timothy to be like a son to him. He appointed him to be the pastor of the church in Ephesus. The Apostle John was a member there, and also Mary, the mother of Jesus. Ephesus was a huge church, and some didn’t like Timothy because he was so young and said he shouldn’t be pastor. So the church had lots of problems, and Timothy was in the dumps.

Paul told Timothy to be strong in the grace of Jesus. He was saying to be empowered by God’s gospel of grace and to let it establish him. He was saying that God’s grace is sufficient for him. You see, grace is a POWER-term. It doesn’t just mean to cope. It means to overcome things and be a VICTOR, not a VICTIM.

Paul says to always preach God’s grace (Eph 4:29). He says the gospel of God’s grace is the only thing he preached (Acts 20:24). Grace, like all of God’s gifts, is nothing we have to deserve, or earn. All we have to do is RECEIVE it. It’s one of God’s many free gifts.

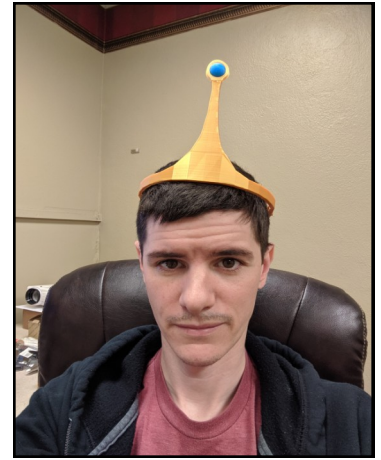
Whatever you face in life, or struggling with, if you just RECEIVE the grace of God, things will at least go better. The gospel of grace is the power of God and God is a good God who loves us. Get alone with him, rest in him, and ask him to empower you and establish you in his grace. It will happen.

Snapshot 81

Liberal politicians think it is their duty to take away our freedom and liberty, which is their regular goal.

They want to see us a socialistic nation, maybe even communistic.

They say: “Do what we say and as you are told!
We are your rulers! The Constitution is out-dated.”



In 1987, President Bill Clinton said:

“We are redefining unchangeable ideals that have guided us from the beginning.”

He was referring to our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

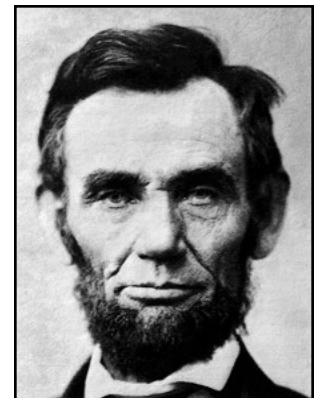
I like to ask: “How do you RE-DEFINE UN-CHANGEABLE ideals?” The truth is you can’t. But you want to if you are a liberal politician.

Abraham Lincoln said:

“We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts — not to overthrow the Constitution, but instead people who pervert the Constitution.”

“God is the almighty ruler of nations.”

God uses our Constitution to empower us. Liberal politicians want to eliminate our Constitution so they can control us.



Snapshot 82

When our founding fathers were inspired by God to invent and form our nation, they started out by solving, in advance, many of the problems we would later be facing.



**It was Albert Einstein who said,
“We cannot solve our problems
with the same kind of thinking we used
when we came up with our problems.”**

**Most of our problems have been
invented by modern politicians
the past 75 years or so.
This is largely due to liberal politicians
opposing everything
our founding fathers stood for.**

Snapshot 83



This is a case in point
to the message I just posted:
“Liberal politicians tend to oppose
everything that our
founding fathers stood for.”
Thanks Magatoon.com for this revelation.

Snapshot 84

We are at war!
The Bible, and our founding fathers
speak about freedom and liberty.

Yet, many writers and commentators
today say we are becoming
more and more enslaved by
liberal-thinking politicians.

Our freedoms are being eroded.
Our liberty is being erased.

Thomas Jefferson said,
“I prefer dangerous freedom
over peaceful slavery.”

What will be ‘The Rest of the Story’
as Paul Harvey used to say?

Most authorities agree it doesn’t look promising.
I tend to agree.

Snapshot 85

I've started defining success as:
"Doing as few dumb things as possible."

We all do dumb things in life.
But hopefully, fewer and fewer.

It is said, "Success is not final,
and failure is not fatal."

I discovered this in law practice.
I won cases I thought I'd lost,
and lost cases I thought I'd won.

But it is true: the more you look
for success, the more you
tend to find it.
Or it finds you.

Snapshot 86

It was Dale Carnegie who said,
“Discouragement and failure are two of
the surest stepping stones to success.”

This makes sense because the
road to success, and the road to
failure often look exactly the same
to us when we are walking them.

But in a spiritual life, I call them
The Gospel Road
and The Garbled Road.

Here we know if we walk the good, right road consistently,
it most often leads to success.

And on The Gospel Road, we know it's the good, right road.
So we know that, at least most of the time,
we are on a journey toward success.

Snapshot 87

There are so many man-made opinions, theologies, suppositions, and assumptions, that they often can lead or contribute to confusion.

Wikipedia lists hundreds of theories, philosophies and ways of thinking, and even more hundreds of Christian denominations.

This makes TRUTH and REALITY really hard to come by.

Truth hardly sees the light of day, and if it does, it's often mixed with so many other things that we get not only confused but lost.

Jesus says, "I am the truth."

But to so many unaware folks today, he's only one more philosopher or theologian.

Snapshot 88

If we understand how and why something works, we adapt to it and adopt it and apply it much easier and more readily.

We can never really understand God's law so we can't know how to make it work. Millions tried to work it. It didn't work. Everyone failed who tried (Acts 15:10).

But God's gospel is totally different. It's really easy to understand as Jesus says. Then we just let it work in us. It produces good things from us (Col 1:5-6). God has his way in us (Phil 1:6).

Living in the law, and many other theories of man, we are destined to failure.

But in the gospel we are destined to success, often even totally in this life, but always at least in the next. The gospel is a win-win game in life we can't lose.

Snapshot 89

Many folks agree the gospel is soooo good.
But they say it's not meant for them.
They say they don't qualify — they
haven't been good enough or done enough
to please God and deserve his favor and blessings.

So they live in apathy. They says:
“I don't know and I don't care.”

Sometimes we just get shorted out.
These people don't face obstacles in life.
They are the obstacle in their life.

The gospel has no qualifications to meet, and
no theology exam to pass to get into heaven.
Jesus simply says, “I accept anyone who comes to me.”

This is a pretty easy entrance requirement:
“Hi Jesus! Please help me!”
God is so gracious, loving and forgiving,
but if we live in law, and in self, we never see it.

Snapshot 90

We don't like to face reality:

But it is the hurts, pain, hardship, failure, sickness and even tragedy that makes us connect more with God.

In times on the mountain top, with life going along with our design and plan, we don't need God very much.

It's time in the valleys, where things are not going 'according to Hoyle,' that we seek, search, and pray

- (1) for deeper meaning in life, and**
- (2) for deeper relationship with God.**

But I don't think this will ever make us pray for more bad times. Do you?

We just need to use the bad times for a greater good: God can even use bad times to work life out for our good, but we have to be willing to let him do it, and not just ask him to correct, change and right something we don't like that has already happened.

Snapshot 91

You've heard about the Gospel Road and the Garbled Road before.

The Garbled Road

We all walk this road in life.

We usually see it as our only road:
from our birth to our grave.

The Gospel Road

If you recall, Johnny Cash sang about this road.

It's a road that God calls us to walk with him
that leads from birth to eternity, not just to the grave.

When we live life on this level,
it can seem a lot different than it
does on 'The Garbled Road.'

Here, we gain perspective that life is
'**so much more,**' as Paul often says.

Then we truly see that earth life is really
nly 'a temporary assignment.'

We enter into the bigger picture of God's eternal story,
and aren't just limited to our earthly story.

Snapshot 92

Why is it that human, earthly thoughts often sound better to us than God's heavenly thoughts do?

It's because we think in the same patterns that we listen to. We speak the same language. We live in the same world. The world is all we know so it's all we usually think about.

Too often, God's thoughts are too far above us for us to grasp as readily as human, worldly thoughts that click with our thoughts and reasoning. Too often, God's thoughts require too much of a stretch, and too much effort to reach them and grasp them.

The gospel is not too good to be true. If we think it is, it remains a mystery to us — this is the truth of Jesus he was born to reveal to us.

The truth I've discovered is the gospel is so good it can only be true. The mind of man could never invent the gospel. The mind of man can hardly believe the gospel. The truth is only a God of love and grace could invent the gospel.

Snapshot 93

The theology of man changes regularly.
Because we like variety and new things,
we open our minds to it all too often:
to anything that sounds good to us
that comes down the Pike.

The truth of God is unchangeable and eternal.
God spoke about his New Testament gospel
to Moses, 2,000 years before the cross of Jesus
(Deuteronomy 18:15-19).

Jesus says to only believe his gospel truth.
But if we seek new things that sound good,
we will miss the truth of Jesus.
He says we must be 'of the truth'
to connect with him and hear him (John 18:37).

If we are not 'of the gospel truth,'
things of God evaporate before we have a chance to reach them.
And if we can't reach them
they sure can't become part of us.

Snapshot 94

I like comparing “The Gospel Road” vs. “The Garbled Road”

A life of words exists both inside
and outside of God’s Kingdom.

God looks at our hearts. He knows if our hearts and minds
are drawn to him, or drawn to something else.

Only Jesus is the Author of Truth, and he walks “The Gospel Road.”

“The Garbled Road” can be compared to what I call
“Burger King Churchianity.”

Their slogan is ‘Have it your way.’ Too often this is the way we think:
“Anything I believe is good enough for me.”

All worldly things compete with God’s gospel truth.
This includes our own human thoughts, and we often believe
our own thoughts the most because they are our thoughts.

Thus Jesus says to strive to enter
by the narrow road: The Gospel Road.

Don’t be tempted by The Garbled Road.

It is so diverse it would take a theology degree
from Harvard to begin to understand what is said.

Jesus says, “Become as a little dependent child.”

“My way is easy, my burden is light.”

Snapshot 95

Take 3 Short Early Steps Into Gospel Truth

(1) We must first of all know what the gospel says.
So many people “Are ever learning, but never able
to come into the knowledge of the truth” (II Tim 3:7).

(2) We must understand what the gospel says
to us personally and practically.

Jesus says we must “Understand the word of the Kingdom.”
If we don’t then its truth is snatched away from us (Matt 13:19).

(3) We must submit ourselves to God’s gospel truth,
which is spoken of as ‘the righteousness of God.’

This means we must believe it and live it.

If we don’t, we remain ‘ignorant’ (Rom 10:3).

Paul calls us ‘fools’ (Gal 3:1).

Too often we are content with our human reasoning.

Jesus asks, “Why do you reason in your heart?”

Gospel belief must exist outside of human reason.

Say, “Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.”

Our only response to the Author of Truth
is to accept or reject what he says.

Snapshot 95

Proverbs 25:2 says:

**“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
to search out a matter is the glory of kings.”**

Note: the gospel refers to all believers as ‘kings.’

When you conceal a matter it is a mystery.

Several times, the gospel is referred to as ‘A MYSTERY.’

But it is not a mystery that is hard to discover.

In fact, God wants us all to discover it and helps us do so.

**But we must seek it to discover it: “Seek first the Kingdom of God,”
“Understand the word of the Kingdom” (Matt 13:19),
which is the same as “the gospel of the Kingdom” (Matt 24:14).**

**God reveals the mystery he has concealed to anyone
with an open, searching, receptive heart for his gospel truth.**

**God’s purpose in dealing with us is revelation,
not hiding and concealing things.**

**The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to help us
tune into God’s truth and reality and to seek it out.**

Snapshot 97

The gospel does surgery on our minds, cutting out all the false beliefs, wrong assumptions, half truths, incorrect perceptions, and concocted opinions.

This is what Jesus means when he says to repent of all other beliefs.

He said to only believe his gospel. He didn't give us a choice.

Neither did God when he spoke to Moses many centuries ago and said he'd send his special Prophet-Messenger, with his special Message of the gospel and would REQUIRE us to believe it (Deut 18:15-19).

The gospel transforms our minds and renews them to gospel truth from God: 'good news of good things.'

We think God's thoughts that are higher than ours, as Isaiah says.

We're given 'the mind of Christ (I Cor 2:16).

This creates a shift in our purposes, priorities, and practices, and it helps us keep one eye on heaven, even here on earth.

We become receptive to 'the whole counsel of God.'

We are then moveable by God, listening to him because we are 'of his truth.' Jesus is the light: 'the way, the truth and the life.'

We can now connect with him in this new dispensation of the gospel that Paul talks about in the first few verses of Ephesians 3.

Snapshot 98

**When Do We Stop Being Children,
and Become God's Sons and Daughters?**

**We must learn to see ourselves as both children,
and as sons and daughters of God. The gospel is all about
a God who loves us more than we can ever possibly begin to imagine.
As his kids, we come to know him as 'Abba Father,'
and fall in love with him more than we ever thought possible.**

**The longing of our Father's heart is for us to know him just like a
loving, dependent child relates to his Daddy, — but also as mature
sons and daughters know and respect their Father.**

**Both Jesus and Paul used the term 'Abba Father.' This denotes
agape love and intimacy, but also awesome respect and reverence.**

**The word 'Abba' denotes an UN-reasoned expression of trust,
love, dependency, and confidence from a child.**

**The word 'Father' denotes a reasoned appreciation, honor
and esteem from a son or daughter.**

We will always be children, but also sons and daughters.

Snapshot 99

Beware of Non-Gospel Preachers

**In I Corinthians 2, Paul says not to fall under the power of
‘enticing words of man’s wisdom.’**

**In Colossians 2 he says not to let a preacher ‘beguile us,
or deceive us with enticing words.’**

**Most preachers, if they are good, have the ability to almost
mesmerize us with their ability to say things —
even if those things aren’t God’s truth.**

**In I Timothy 1:7, Paul says they can sound really good and confident,
but don’t know what they’re even saying when it comes to the gospel.**

**They try to plant things that aren’t true into our ‘truth box,’
so our truth box may not always be filled with truth.**

**Paul says some preachers zealously attract us to them,
but it’s not for our good.**

**What they do is try to make us feel excluded (from God and others)
so we need them to help us with the problems
that they have created in us (my paraphrase: Gal 4:17).**

**Thus Jesus says, “Take heed what you listen to.”
Thus he says to only listen to his gospel truth.**

Snapshot 100

We Are Joint, Equal Heirs With Jesus Christ himself (Rom 8:17).

**The gospel gives us legal access to things of God,
even including signs, wonders, healings, etc.**

**But God is still sovereign,
and we can't initiate anything he's not doing.**

**But it was also this way with Jesus
so it must be with us too (Acts 2:22).**

Our job is one of 'OVERFLOW.'

**The gospel is the power of God in us,
and he overflows out of us as he desires.**

**I Thessalonians 3:12 says that we are to INCREASE
In things of God until we so full we're ready to explode.**

Then we are to ABOUND over onto other people.

**Our calling is live in the gospel, the power of God,
and then pray to experience more of his power.**

Anything more on our part is presumption.

Snapshot 101

A song I sing at Christmas asks:
What can you give to the King?
What can you give to the one who has everything?

The answer is: YOU!
God wants us to be his home!
When we become his home, we are built on the Rock of Jesus,
not just the sand of earth.
We rise above the earth and see things from God's perspective.
This gives God joy. It also gives us joy.

Christmas is about Jesus
coming to earth to connect with us.
It's about the birth of God's Son.

We don't give God presents on Christmas.
He gives us everything in his Kingdom,
beginning with his Son Jesus.
All we do is respond to God and say YES!
Like Mary, we say: "Be it done unto me according to your word."

The more of God's grace and blessings
we experience, the tighter we hold on to him.
He knows this. This is why he gives us so much.

Snapshot 102

Psychology says a lot of folks have anxiety,
fear, doubt and worry at Christmas time.
It's also true at other times of the year too.

Jesus was born on Christmas to help us through some of this.

He says, "My peace I give to you...
not as the world gives."

The world doesn't give us much peace, does it?

When it comes to worry, I think God
would like us to become like the
"What, me worry?" kid.



Jesus says to have no anxiety about tomorrow.
But this is something we all struggle with.

We can only do this if we walk with Jesus!

Snapshot 103

Searching For A New Church

Looking for a new church is hard, if you've been at the same one a long time. I'm looking and observe two types of churches.

(1) Some churches are leader focused.

They have attention getting worship and noteworthy preaching. They perform real hard to get God's attention: to deserve his favor and presence. But they seem to be more about the folks on stage than about God. Paul might call them 'Instructors in Christ' (I Cor 4:15).

(2) There are churches that seem to know God: his presence, favor and grace in their services.

They respond to him in love, gratitude, and belief in who he is and in what he is doing. They worship him in Spirit and in truth. It might be said that they seem to have more FAITH and a lot less FLESH. Paul might call them 'Fathers of the Gospel' (I Cor 4:15).

This is the reason we're looking for a new church.

Our church was like the second of these.

But there was a change in leadership, and new agendas and priorities. They seem dissatisfied, and desperately want more from God. And they do work hard to get it, but it's a lot more flesh. To many of us, they seem to want more personal attention than they focus on God and want his attention..

Snapshot 104

As a P.S. to what I just said about church searching,
because I'm learning from all this: it's NEW to me! :-)

If I leave a church service thinking about the draw of the service,
or the preaching of the pastor, or the spirit of the worship team,
I think I've been robbed and duped.

This is especially true if I think I'd like to meet one or more
of the leaders and talk with them, or just shake their hand.
I know my focus is wrong. I've been drawn into FLESH, not FAITH.
Satan succeeded hiding his gospel truth from me (II Cor 4:3-4).

But if my focus and thinking is about GOD,
and how much he loves me, and I love him,
and all he has done for me in the cross of Jesus,
I know I have not been duped and robbed.

Do I leave with a GRATEFULNESS in my heart,
or a GRIND in my mind and body as to what I lack,
and what I want that I feel I need?

It's a hard question. In our flesh it can feel much and the same,
but in the Spirit, it's far different.

It's like Jesus says: do we worship in Spirit and in truth?

Snapshot 105

Know what your audience expects!

I did a motivational, inspirational, humorous, music talk
For a lot of years for breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings:

'Prime the Pump.'

I got standing ovations at breakfasts and dinners.

But at luncheons, they expected more academia,
and I had people walk out on me.

I could almost hear people asking: "Who is this clown?"

Expectancy is perhaps the greatest quencher
of human initiative that we have.

If I expect you to respond in a certain way and you don't,
I'm crushed. If you expect me to be what you want me to be,
and I'm not what you expect, you are crushed.

Expectancy is a NO-win proposition. So Paul tells us not
to expect people to respond to us as we think they should.

It will only bury us.

Jesus called it judgment, and said, "Don't judge."

But sadly it's something we all tend to do all too often.

Snapshot 106

What Is Your Bias?

We all have a bias. None of us are truly objective, and 'open minded' about what we think. I'm a lawyer, and in a courtroom, prosecutors presume a person is guilty until proven not-guilty. Defense attorneys presume their client is not-guilty unless proven guilty.

We all have subjective opinions,
not objective, proven, absolute foundations.
We like to say we're objective, but we really aren't.
We all have a bias we work from, no matter what the issue is.
We all manufacture our thinking from what we assume are facts,
but often times are not facts. Thus, there's a lot of
reported 'FAKE NEWS' today. Some say 'stinking thinking.'

Spiritually, my bias is the gospel:
the good news of the favor, blessing, and goodness of God.
As a lawyer, I call this, 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
of gospel truth in the New Testament.'
So am I totally objective? NO! I'm very biased toward the gospel.

But at least I don't live by the maxim so many wrongly do:
'Whatever I believe is good enough for me.'
We are all individual thinkers, editing our own opinions.
And the opinions of many of us folks change with each passing year.

Snapshot 107

Do You Live by ‘Hip Pocket Beliefs’?

As I’ve admitted, I have a bias toward the gospel of the New Testament.

I live by it and I’d die by it if had to.

Our U.S. Supreme Court has declared many things to be a sound source of belief, including the Bible. Many folks live by it, and their beliefs are protected by our Constitution.

But the Court has also said that many Christians don’t have a well documented, sound source of Bible belief.

They just articulate a line of thinking that may have some ties to the Bible, but not as a foundation.

For instance, they may be able to quote a scripture out of context, and say they rely on it, but it’s really not a Bible-generated belief.

The Court has referred to these as **‘Hip Pocket Beliefs.’**

They’re not founded Bible TRUTH.

It’s more of what the Court has called ‘a preference.’

It’s not a true well-founded belief.

To be protected by our Constitution, like an attorney in court, we must be able to support and defend what we believe, or it is just viewed by our highest Court as a “Hip Pocket Belief.”

Apostle Paul says he was ‘set for the defense of the gospel.’

If we can’t defend our position of belief by the gospel the Supreme Court just may reject it as only being a preference.

Snapshot 108

Living in Gospel Peace

Paul speaks of us having our feet fitted with the gospel of God's peace (Eph 6:14).

And Jesus says, "My peace I give to you, not just as the world gives."

Peace is a very hard thing to come by in our world today. In the world, peace is taken away and replaced with stress.

But the gospel is meant to be on our feet, letting us stand ready for anything the world or other people can throw at us because of the foundation we have in Jesus.

The gospel is the thinking and worldview of God, and it protects us from being totally consumed with bad things of this world that we don't want to be consumed with.

The gospel gives us a different worldview and perspective.

It doesn't take those bad things away all the time, but it does protect us.

It's the presence of Jesus in us that allows us to respond to things of the world in a different way.

This gives us the edge to play catch with whatever life throws at us in the best possible way.

Then we simply ask God, "Now what do I do with this?"

Snapshot 109

How To Die A Good Death

Paul was ready to die and said:

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course,
I have kept the faith” (II Tim 4:7).

He fought ‘the world, the flesh and the devil’ as we all do.

He allowed Jesus to live through him (Gal 2:20).

He controlled the devil, and his desire for things of this world.

Then he says “I have finished the course.”

In Philippians 3:13-14, he says this means he didn’t let his past control him, and he kept reaching toward the things of God, allowing God to ‘apprehend him’ in things he experienced.

In other words, he let God complete the good work he had begun in him by the gospel (Phil 1:5-6, Col 1:5-6).

Then last he says, “I have kept the faith.”

He held onto gospel faith (I Tim 1:19, Col 1:23-25).

He kept a good conscience, knowing gospel belief gives us a good conscience and confidence (I John 3:21-23).

Faith keeps our identity in Christ (II Cor 5:21, I John 4:17).

Thus we are called ‘the just who live by faith.’

Keeping the faith in all life’s circumstances can take some effort.

Snapshot 110

We all send each other
mixed-messages at times
if we're not careful and thoughtful.



A pet expression of mine is:

“What you do speaks so loud,
I can’t hear what you say.”

Christians are sometimes called hypocrites
because they say one thing and do another.

Life would be so much better
if we would just all agree to:

- (1) Not harm or use or abuse others,
- (2) Do what we say we will do,
- (3) Factor God into any equation.

Snapshot 111

The Meaning and Purpose of Life

Reports and studies show that many people are in search of the meaning of life.

Some get all stressed-out about finding it.

But some say life has no meaning or purpose.

Evolutionists say we just all evolve from animals, and we can't expect to have any purpose or meaning.

Others say if life does have a meaning, and if we discovered it, we might discover we don't fit into it. So they get on the track of discouraging others from looking for meaning and purpose.



The truth is this: God has a purpose and meaning for all of us, and when we live his gospel, we discover it.

It is one of the gifts of God that he reveals to us.

God says, "For I know the plans I think toward you, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer 29:11).

Snapshot 112

James says: “You don’t have what you want, because you don’t ask the right way. You ask but don’t receive from God because you ask wrongly.”

We all pray and don’t get the results we want at times.

FIRST, ask according to God’s word — which has really been re-defined for us in the gospel that Jesus says we must believe and live.

In Colossians 1, Paul says it ‘fulfills the word of God in us.’

The gospel is a summary of God’s truth in the form of present reality.

SECOND, we ask in faith. Romans 1:16-17 says the gospel gives us Christ’s righteousness, and thus makes us justified in Jesus. When we live in this reality, we tend to live a lot more in truth and in faith.

To pray right we must pray gospel truth, and live in gospel faith.

This gives us confidence and assurance before God to believe and trust him when we ask (I John 3:20-23, 5:14).

We agree with God’s truth, and speak it in gospel faith (II Cor 4:13).

THIRD, when we are built up and established in gospel faith that Paul proclaims, we respond in thanksgiving, gratefulness, and with vision (Col 2:7).

Paul says the gospel establishes us like this (Rom 16:25).

It’s all about three real easy realities:

- (1) being founded in gospel truth,
- (2) having gospel faith deep in our hearts, and
- (3) having hearts of gratefulness and thankfulness to God.

Snapshot 113

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not comprehend it (John 1:5).

Both Jesus and Paul say if we live gospel truth, we are in the light.

If we don't, we live more in darkness.

In Acts, Paul says his ministry is to turn us from darkness to light, and the only message he preached was the gospel (Acts 20:24).

Jesus says we must understand 'the word of his Kingdom,' which is 'the gospel of his Kingdom' (Matt 13:19).

Satan does everything he can to blind us to the gospel
It is his ultimate goal, purpose and strategy (II Cor 4:3-4).

Paul says it is the gospel that 'begets' us
or births us into God and his reality (I Cor 4:15).

The gospel gives us a superior life that no darkness
or worldly influences can knock us down from.

It we're separated to gospel truth it saturates us (Rom 1:1).

If we choose not to live in the light of gospel truth,
then something else will take its place and saturate us.

Our minds are not designed to be void.

They require something to fill a void.

Gospel truth trumps all darkness by turning on the light!

Snapshot 114

The lifestyle we should live:

“Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:7)

To Paul, we are established by the gospel (Rom 16:25), and gospel faith is what we are meant to live in (Rom 1:16-17). This is the roots we're to build in Jesus. The gospel is the only thing Paul teaches us to live, so it is 'as we have been taught.' Another picture of this is building on the ROCK of Jesus (Matt 7:24-27).

The gospel is the way we're nurtured and nourished.

It's like the fertilizer surrounding our faith.

What we allow into us is so all-important, because

'as we think in our heart so we are' (Pro 23:7).

God's gospel truth is meant to go deep in our hearts and take root.

Then this becomes who we are.

If we allow anything coming down the Pike to come into us, there is no telling who we are. We are just part of the world.

We should use our time wisely by renewing our minds to the truth of God (Eph 4:23). This transforms who we are (Rom 12:1).

Our affections should be on things above (Col 3:2).

God can direct us more easily if we live his ways, in his declared reality, and are thankful.

Snapshot 115

*Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together,
as the manner of some is, but exhorting each other.
Hebrews 10:25*

Some pastors preach that all this means is for us
to attend their church, make their numbers increase,
and then bucket-plunk our money to benefit their ministry.
This is NOT what this means. You can't 'encourage others' warming a pew,
listening to someone else at the pulpit preaching!

This is talking about fellowship in the GOSPEL (Phil 1:5).
It's interaction: folks who know, live and minister God's good news.
It's like having a close friend beside you.
It's a hug, a kind word, a loving touch, being a listener.
It is prophecy, meaning 'edification, exhortation and comfort' (I Cor 14:3).
It declares the reality of God: 'reading, exhortation and doctrine' (I Tim 4:13).
The GOSPEL is to be our only doctrine (I Tim 1:3).
Paul says anyone who preaches anything else should be cursed (Gal 1:8-9).

The gospel is the greatest encourager. God invented it in heaven.
It's the life of Jesus himself in us.
Paul says it is 'good news of good things,' and it's 'the power of God' in us.
It contains all the BLESSINGS of God.

Snapshot 116

The gospel gives us 10 blessings and benefits that I have discovered so far in the New Testament:

The parables of Jesus and the writings of Paul.

There may be more I haven't discovered.

Here they are very briefly stated.

They apply to everyone who lives their lives in Jesus.

1. We are given God's unconditional, eternal love.
2. We are given absolute total assurance of our salvation.
3. Condemnation and guilt is abolished by the finished work of Jesus.
4. God's truth transforms us, renews us, establishes us and blesses us.
5. We live life in God's grace and mercy and favor.
6. We have Christ's abundant life: prosperity and most often in health.
7. We have diplomatic immunity from sin while on earth.
8. Knowing our identity as God's kids, and equal inheritance in Jesus.
9. Having total authority over Satan and all demons.
10. Living as equals in God's family with every person on earth.

Snapshot 117

“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven experiences violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matthew 11:12).

How can the Kingdom of God be taken by force and by violence?

This doesn't make a lot of sense the way we think of it.

This is not talking about any enemies or hostile persons entering by force. Instead it speaks of you and me, and about our attitude toward God.

There is a companion passage that says, “The law and prophets were until John. Since then the Kingdom of God is preached and every man presses into it” (Luke 16:16). Jesus also says that no one who was ever born was greater than John — BUT now he who is least in God's Kingdom is greater than John (Matt 11:11).

No one tried to press into the law. The Jews did all they could to avoid it.

But now the law and prophets have passed.

There is ‘a new and living way’ (Heb 10:20).

All people want into this new way because it is the blessings of God.

So our attitude is meant to be one like ‘violence,’

and using all ‘personal force’ we can muster, to gain it.

Jesus speaks to this in the parable of the hidden treasure,
and the pearl of great price.

These aren't physical words of aggression. They represent our desire, attitude, purpose and focus in gaining all that God's gospel has for us.

Snapshot 118

“After you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13).

The nature of this verse is so dynamic and uplifting.

To be sealed means to be totally encompassed so nothing else affects us.

We are encased in an irresistible force that nothing can penetrate.

The seal is God’s guarantee to us that we are full and fulfilled by him.

This is how God views us: as very special to him in his family.

The seal doesn’t protect us from everything evil on this earth, but from anything interfering with our eternal salvation.

When God puts his seal on us, he affirms that he has begun his good work in us, and he will continue to work in us and perform it until we go to heaven (Phil 1:6).

It is the gospel, and our fellowship and belief in it, that gives us the guarantee of this (Phil 1:5).

The seal is God ‘marking us on our foreheads’ because we are his property (Rev 7:3).

All we must do is believe in God’s Messenger Jesus, and believe his Gospel Message as he says to (Mark 1:14-15).

Then we can be sure that we are SEALED by God, and in his eyes we are unblamable, perfect, impeccable and righteous due to Jesus (II Cor 5:21).

Snapshot 119

God's Employment Application:

“Not many wise men after the flesh are called, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish of the world, and those who are weak, and base things of the world, and those who are despised, and those who consider themselves nothings” (1 Cor 1:26-28 paraphrased).

As you examine the Bible, you see that God most often does NOT call people who are high ranking politicians and rulers, scientists, philosophers, psychologists, celebrities, medical doctors, lawyers (like me), and other professional types.

God looks for ordinary people, not super stars who accomplish great things. He looks for folks who have a heart for him, willing to trust what he says. He doesn't want polished folks but UN-polished folks.

He looks for people who believe and speak what he says (II Cor 4:13) — not a gifted orator he can put behind a pulpit.

He doesn't look for the GENIUS, but the person willing to live life by his GUT, and who looks up and says, “God, what do you want next?”

He looks for those who are willing to “set their affections on things above, not just on things on the earth” (Col 1:2).

He looks for those who aren't in love with this world, but who fall in love with his love (I John 2:15).

Snapshot 120

We hear so many different things preached!

What can we really and truly believe?

God doesn't 'CALL' all church pastors and preachers.

Some just decide to choose this as a vocation, and go to a religious college.

Paul says it's 'the wisdom of man.'

There are so many choices, I call this 'The Second Tower of Babel.'

Romans 10:15 speaks about church leaders and he says,

"How shall they preach unless they be SENT?" This means sent by God, not by some seminary. Then Paul continues: "How beautiful are the feet of them who preach the **gospel of peace: good news of good things.**"

The only way they can do this is if they know God's gospel truth.

Religious education does not teach the gospel,

except for salvation, and then only if they are evangelical.

So most pastors and preachers don't know the gospel, so they can't teach it.

Paul calls them 'instructors in the law who don't even understand what they are saying although they sound confident (I Tim 1:7).

They are "children who teach what they have learned."

Paul compared gospel fathers to religious preachers as being like 10,000 to ONE (I Cor 4:15).

Lack of fellowship in the gospel produces only human intellect.

Jesus says, "You will know them by their fruit" (Matt 7:15-20).

We can only know this if we ourselves live the gospel of Jesus!

Snapshot 121

Jesus says, “Take heed what you listen to.”

We are called to know God’s revelation of his gospel truth and worldview, and have personal discernment so we know if something we hear is **FACT** or if it is only religious **FICTION** from God’s perspective.

Without revelation of gospel truth, discernment is not possible.

Modern inventions are good, nice and helpful: things like the internet, social media and cell phones. But they often intrude and distract from what must be more important things in life. Modern things can **CAUSE** good things in our lives, but they can also be a **CURSE**.

It takes time to hear from God and to have revelation of his worldview.

It doesn’t come in one big dose all at one time.

God is not a fan of our ‘fast food’ and ‘instant agendas.’

Three times Hebrews says, “Today, if you **WILL** hear his voice . . .”

It takes time to hear from God, and receive his revelation that gives us discernment so we know if things are gospel fact and not fiction.

God is probably saying to us, “Take time to sit down and listen to me.”

Psalms 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.”

It’s hard to hear God if we’re constantly tuned in to other things.

God says to only be tuned into what he says,

and Jesus says this means only believing his gospel.

We’re not meant to consider anything that comes down the Pike.

Jesus says, “Take heed what you listen to.”

Snapshot 122

Many folks say they ‘believe.’ But what is true belief?

So many words get watered-down in time. They even change their meanings from century to century, even generation to generation. There’s many folks today who will say they ‘believe’ in what their denomination or church teaches, but is this what belief really is?

Bible belief begins in Abba Father God and his Son Jesus. The disciples believed and trusted in Jesus as a person long before they had a clue who he was, or what his message truly was.

He said, “Follow me,” and they did.

He dominated their lives and thoughts and hearts. They knew very little ABOUT Jesus, but they were mesmerized by HIM.

The Messenger transformed their hearts before his Message renewed their minds to God’s reality and his worldview.

They just knew him continuously and trusted what he said. All their defenses collapsed in his truth, but only after they knew him.

Jesus says we are his disciples indeed if we ‘continue in his word.’

Paul says the same thing, but says it’s continuing in gospel truth. If we live in daily communion with Jesus, he reveals his gospel truth to us.

If we don’t continue in daily fellowship with Jesus, we must be content to believe what church preachers tell us, and hope and pray they are right.

Snapshot 123

I mentioned this earlier but it deserves repeating.

Paul says we're benefited and 'safe' if we hear things repeated (Phil 3:1).

If we only lived by three laws,
we'd start a spark of fire and revival not seen in a long time.

(1) Keep your word, and do what you say you will do. Let your word be your bond. Jesus says, "Let your YES be yes and your NO be no."

Be known for your character, principle and integrity
so you can be trusted and relied upon.

(The Basis for Contract Law).

(2) Don't infringe on others, demand from them or manipulate them with regard to their person or property. The 10 commandments tell us not to covet what others have, and to be content and at peace in any state we are in.

(The Basis for Tort and Criminal Law).

(3) Accept others, forgive them, bless them, help them, and love them.

"Prefer others, and look out for their interests, even over your own."

"Owe no man anything except love." — "Minister grace to the hearers."

(The Basis for God's law).

Snapshot 124

The CoronaVirus and other alerts are nothing to disregard.
Anything that impacts us is emotionally influences us.
So people are now rushing out to buy all the toilet paper they can.

But Jesus says so many times: “Don’t live in fear!”

The KJV says, “Fear not!”

This is because we are ‘MARKED’ and ‘SEALED’ by God if our belief is
in Jesus, as the book of Revelation says several times.

Everyone fears ‘the mark of the beast: 666.’ But that is only
mentioned once, compared to several mentions of God knowing us.

In Job 3:25, Job says, “For the thing which I greatly feared has come
upon me, and that which I was afraid of has come unto me.”

Fear attracts things we DON’T want. Faith attracts things we DO want.

Faith doesn’t mean we always get our way,
and God doesn’t always do what we ask him to.

But it does mean if we live a life of being trusting in God, things will
go a whole LOT better than they would otherwise.

It is much better to live in faith, not in fear.

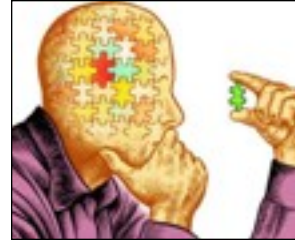
We’re told that God knows ‘the number of our days.’

He knows what is going to get us and when.

Snapshot 125

Jesus asks us:

“Why do you reason in your hearts?”



If we are followers of Christ, and committed to God.
Jesus says our ‘work’ or ‘job’ is to BELIEVE (John 6:29).
This means to believe his gospel he came to give us (Mark 1:15).
This doesn’t mean to ‘reason’ everything out in our minds.
This doesn’t mean we must ‘understand’ everything.
We are called ‘believers,’ not ‘understanders.’

Human reason produces so many denominations. Wikipedia even has a disclaimer: ‘We know we’ve missed a lot of them on our list.’

This is why I refer to all of this as ‘The Second Tower of Babel.’
Human reason is what most of our politicians live by.
It’s why we have so many screwed-up laws.

But we are meant to live on a higher level.
When we are believers, we become ONE with God
and what we believe is what we speak (II Cor 4:13).

Mary, the mother of Jesus, told the angel:
“Be it done unto me according to your word.”
She didn’t reason. She just believed, like we are meant to do.
This is where true faith and belief and trust in God really begins.

Snapshot 126

“Is Corona Virus God’s Judgment?”

My answer is NO. If it were God’s judgment, we’d know it. If you read Revelation, all types of bad things happen — water is polluted so you can’t drink it — there’s no food — sores break out on most people — it’s a literal ‘HELL on earth’ and people even say they want to die.

We have so many theories, and so much preaching on END TIMES, that we tend to relate to everything that happens as END TIMES. People have done this all through history, beginning with Rome’s attack on Israel after Christ, and millions were slaughtered.

Then the Dark Ages, Hitler, recent genocide, etc.

We usually try to link NATURAL things with SPIRITUAL things, and Paul says DON’T do this.

He says everything on earth is a ‘temporary light affliction,’ in light of heaven’s rewards.

This Corona Virus is just one more of God’s WARNINGS for people to turn to him and say, “Lord, I’ll embrace you and live in you.” It’s not JUDGMENT to condemn us, it is instead God DRAWING people.

Ask God for his presence in your life.

Jesus says he will turn away **NO** who comes to him. Go to him now. He’s waiting for you with wide open arms.

Snapshot 127

CoronaVirus Thinking

Jesus would of course tell us not to live in fear of it. He also says to keep ourselves in the love of God, and live in faith and a sound mind.

Even medical doctors say this is one way to beat, or at least diminish the effect of unwanted, negative things attaching to us. Fear attracts BAD STUFF and faith attracts GOOD STUFF.

Nothing is an absolute in this life, but this is the best way to beat the bad. Paul says even if we die (and we all do), Jesus has abolished death for the believer, he gives us more abundant life here, and eternal life with him, as the gospel says (II Tim 1:10).

This is depending on God's faithfulness to us if we trust him. This is all the way through Scripture. We do this by living in REST. Jesus says, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." When we keep our focus on Jesus, not on the virus, this is taking advantage of faith, and minimizing fear.

Too often the message is presented that it's our faithfulness to God that attracts his goodness to us. This is preached from a legalistic, performance type of thinking.

All God requires of us is our faith, belief and trust in him. It's about his faithfulness to us, not our faithfulness to him. Don't forget he is divine. We are only human.

Snapshot 128

Believers are ‘a new species.’

Do you ever wonder why Paul calls us ‘a new creation’? (II Cor 5:17).

We are all born human.

Nothing we do takes the ‘human’ out of us.

Human is who and what we are.

But God sees us as ‘so much more,’
as he keeps telling us if we have
ears to hear and eyes to see.

He sees us as who he has created us to be in eternity,
not just who we are in flesh on this earth.

“As Jesus is, so are we in this world” (I John 4:17).
This is because God sees us as being a ‘GodMan’
(nothing sexual is meant).

Being a new creation is like being ‘a new species.’

We are still human, but we are no longer only human.

In Jesus, we are ‘in God’ and we are a mixture of God and man.

To read a short booklet on this see:

‘ALL THE LIGHT WE DO NOT SEE’ at

Rogers-Inspiration-Books.com

Snapshot 129

We live life in what I think of as
a swimming pool or hot tub.
It's nice, but we know there is more.
Living in God, is like him saying,
'Come out of the tiny pool into the vastness of my ocean.'

The grace and love of God that we experience in the pool
is nothing compared what exists in his ocean.
The pool is so limited and limiting.
The ocean is never-ending.

Sadly, most of us only experience life on earth in the pool.
We don't get out of the pool into the unfathomable
depths of God's vast, eternal ocean
of love, peace, joy, grace and contentment.
God calls us to 'so much more' in his gospel.
Paul often says this.
Our job is just to listen to him,
believe him and trust him.

Snapshot 130

In various ways we all know the basic, fundamental things in life like having purpose, setting goals, taking risks, eliminating fear, having an open mind, a balanced heart, and a life of faith. I've spoken about many of these.

Now, what are the general things to keep things going on track:

There are 3 general steps to being successful in our attitude as to how we do things:

- (1) practice,
- (2) persistence,
- (3) patience.

But then we should add in 3 things that describe our demeanor in how we do what we do:

- (1) kindness,
- (2) humility
- (3) gratefulness.

Snapshot 131

“Children live what they hear.”

I saw 2 articles the past week that troubled me.

(1) It was documented how our news reporters publish ‘FAKE NEWS.’ 10 different reports about Israel and Gaza stated that Israel was totally at fault, and anyone else involved was innocent.

I’ll be blunt: This reporting is total crap!

As a lawyer, I’ve never seen one case yet where one side was totally right, and the other side was totally wrong.

(2) Another article said young people in the U.S. were against the Jews, and were ‘anti-Semitic.’

Why? It’s because they believe all the fake news they read.

It also said many older people have learned not to believe all the fake news they hear. Young people haven’t learned this yet, so media sources know they can lie and brainwash them.

There are books and articles that talk about ‘the RE-educating of our youth’ — in all the wrong ways. Plus they know our youth will be tomorrow’s leaders.

“Children live what they hear.”

Snapshot 132

Sometimes you see a cartoon that makes you think.

I saw a cartoon that said:

“Time is a storm in which we are all lost.”

It gave credit to William Carlos Williams saying it.

Life is a type of storm I guess. If not a storm,
at least a type of fog the gospel calls a ‘vapor.’

And we are all lost in it in some ways.

We see life as the time of our birth to the grave.

But the gospel tries to give us a broader
perspective of life . . . so we are not lost!

We are all chosen by God, but sadly, not many people
respond to him as he wishes they did.

God wants no one left out of his offer of eternal heaven.

God expects and demands so little from any of us.

Our only responsibility is to include God in our life:

to let him be a part of us and us a part of him.

Jesus says his way is easy and his burden is light.

Snapshot 133

If we are tuned into God
and to his truth and reality,
we don't look for meaning in this life.

Instead, we bring meaning to this life!

Jesus said, "I am the way."
He shows the way life works best,
in more prosperity and health.

Jesus said, "I am the truth."
Truth is God's reality: the way he sees things:
how things are understood from his perspective.

Jesus said, "I am the life."
Yes God gives us life: a beating heart and lungs sucking air.
But it's not just bios, physical life.
It's Zoe, eternal life because
we know him (John 17:3).

The way, the truth and the life are meant to change
our worldview from 3-D to a 4-D vision of existence.

Snapshot 134

So many special interest groups
want to change everything about
the U.S.A., and recreate it into
something different of their own design.

They all have their own opinions and agendas
and they all disagree with each other.

They all want special rights and privileges
and they have a sense of 'entitlement' —
they think they are entitled to more than they have.

I saw a statement I tend to agree with:

“There are 193 countries on earth.

If you do not like this country,
or if you just want to change it,
please move to one of the others!

But stop showing disrespect
to our national flag and our
national anthem and the reasons
for which the U.S.A. was created!”

Snapshot 135

America has always had prominent people,
since the beginning of our country just like every other nation.
Think of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson,
Abraham Lincoln, and others.

People rise to powerful positions
due to wealth, whom they know,
and even maybe whose kids they are.
All nations have prominent people
and all nations always will have.

But in America, formerly we had what has been called
‘an educated electorate.’

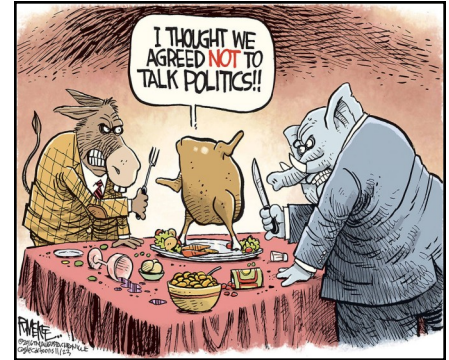
People knew the politicians they elected,
and they also knew their demeanor and character and beliefs.

Sadly, this has declined so much
in recent years that many of us don't even know
the names of the people we elect,
and we know almost nothing of their character or beliefs.

Snapshot 136

Politics Is the Best Business!

Politics is a strange business, but it's also the best business to get into. Don't you find it strange that many of us are hurting. My family owns a wedding business, and during the virus, every wedding in 2020 we cancelled or rescheduled. This even impacts our 2021 business.



You hear about all types of businesses being negatively affected, and even going out of business because of the laws our politicians make. And then the other side of the coin are the employees of the businesses that are also hurt by no income in all these laws, or else they just put people on welfare and pay it by printing new money, and creating more debt to the tune of trillions of dollars.

Yet all the political “businesses” are still open.

No city, county, state or national leaders are hurt.

None of Congress, Legislators, Governors or Mayors, nor any of our countless government agency employees.

In fact, some of them probably get raises.

I find this political system a little strange, don't you?

Is this what our founding fathers created?

Is this a system 'of the people, by the people, for the people?'

Snapshot 137

God's Greatest Gift To Us Is Himself

First, we hear lots of philosophy spoken today, often just in the form of personal opinion that isn't worth much. But if philosophy is sound, it will always merge with Bible truth.

This is because there is really only one reality in the world. There are not multiple realities. And only God knows total reality.

Second, God freely gives us his reality: his gospel truth.

He freely gives revelation of his wisdom.

It is always found in his gospel grace (Acts 20:24)

that gives us absolute peace with him (Rom 5:1-2, 10:15).

God cannot give us anything apart from him, because when he gives us himself, Jesus says he gives us everything (Luke 12:32).

We don't think about it this way too much,

but God also gave us himself on the cross.

Yes, I know, it was the man Jesus in our perspective.

But in God's perspective, he himself died for us.

He and Jesus are one. They cannot be separated. They are the same.

Jesus endured crucifixion physically, taking on the sins of man, but God the Father ordained it and was part of it all spiritually.

Snapshot 138

We most often think that God is most concerned with our actions, and that he is sin-focused. But this is not true. He is most concerned with our connection to him than with our actions.

If we were alone on an island, how much would God be concerned with our actions?

God wants our PERSONAL connection with him more than he cares about our PERFORMANCE.

Believers are new creations in Christ (II Cor 5:17).

This means we are a new species — a ‘GodMan,’ as I’ve said before.

We are no longer simply human, but we are a combination of both God and man.

If we are connected to him personally, God knows our actions will change for the better.

God knows a truth most of us haven’t learned yet:

“Good behavior will never produce correct belief, but correct belief most often produces good behavior.

Thus God’s focus is on his gospel:

Paul says it produces good things from us (Col 1:5-6).

Snapshot 139

The Difference Between Government and Every Other Type Organization

The difference between government and every other type organization is that government has the power to force us to do what it says.

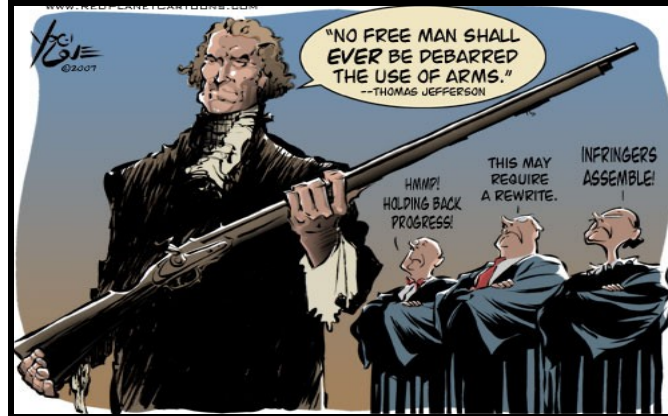
They say, “Obey us, or pay a fine, or go to prison, or even be executed.”

And it doesn't matter how nonsensical, unbiblical, unfair or lacking in justice anything they say is.

When our founders drafted our Constitution it was, ‘of the people, by the people and for the people.’ the states and it's people were in control except for delegated powers they gave to the federal government. Today, everything has been changed and is lopsided: The federal government has total control except what they choose to delegate to the states and their people.

Snapshot 140

Why does it seem like liberal politicians
tend to oppose everything our founding fathers stood for?



It's worth repeating here:

Conservatives want to conserve our Constitution,
and God's moral laws

This is what they protected in the beginning.

Liberals want to liberate us from our Constitution,
and God's moral laws.

President Bill Clinton said in 1987:

"We are RE-defining UN-changeable ideals
That have guided us from the beginning."

How do you redefine and change what is unchangeable?

It can only happen in the mind of a liberal politician.

Snapshot 141

“Without a Vision, People Perish”

Proverbs 29:18

God gave us the gospel to give us vision.

It is a vision of Jesus abolishing death.

It is a vision of abundant life on earth.

It is a vision of eternal life in heaven.

II Timothy 1:10



If you think about it, how much more
vision do we really need?

Jesus prayed to his Father:

“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.”

The gospel is a vision of how God’s Kingdom
should work in us and for us on earth.

Snapshot 142

**God Doesn't Think the Way We Do
God's thoughts are higher than ours (Isa 55:8-9)**

The Old Testament talks about 'righteousness and justice.'

**To us 'righteousness' is a verb. We think of doing good things: living right.
"DO attend church, read the Bible, pray often, have quiet time, serve somehow,
attend small group, and give lots of money."**

**"DON'T lie, cuss, cheat, steal, commit adultery, yell at your spouse, kick the cat,
or be a brat." If we don't live right we think we are UN-righteous!**

**Righteousness is really a noun: describing a state of being
as God sees and perceives his reality.**

**Thinking of 'justice,' we think of imposing justice on others if they're wrong.
We want to get retribution, even revenge.**

We want to be justified and righteous in what we think, do and say.

**God thinks of righteousness and justice in terms of equity, and all of us
being equal at the foot of the cross of Jesus. He sees us as being righteous if
we are in Christ. Justice to him is correcting things that are not just and right,
and so they are not a form of injustice to others.**

**We will never see ourselves as being righteous,
without doing everything right,
until we first see that God the Father made Jesus
to be sin, without him doing anything wrong!**

Snapshot 143

I've been to Carlsbad Caverns. In the deep darkness, you can't see anyone else, or even your hand in front of your face!

Also I live in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado USA.

I've seen some of the most brilliant sunrises imaginable, and the sun shines over 300 days per year.



This is how the gospel describes light and darkness. Until we know Jesus, who is the light, it says we are in darkness: it's so black, we can't see anything that is true spiritually.

But when we come to know Jesus, it's like a sunrise on our lives that floods us with the truth and reality of God.

And Jesus even describes us as being like the light of the world when we know and believe and live his gospel.

Snapshot 144

Much of Christianity is just like Buddhism
(at least in the way it's often presented)

Paul speaks of
(1) instructors in Christ, vs.
(2) Fathers of the gospel (I Cor 4:15).

Instructors usually present Christianity just like Buddhism is presented:

It depends on us doing what we're told to do,
and I'll use one of my favorite quotes again:

*“DO attend church, read your Bible, pray, have quiet time, serve,
attend small group, and give lots of money.” —*
*“DON'T lie, cuss, cheat, steal, commit adultery, yell at your spouse,
kick the cat, or be a brat.”*

It's about our performance, and how well we comply.
It is really just like Buddhism. Buddha tells people how to live,
and they are meant to obey. Paul calls it a 'form of godliness'
but it denies any power of God (II Tim 3:5).

CHRISTIANITY is about a Person, not our performance.

It's about the person of God. Jesus says, “Come unto ME.”
It's all about what God has done, is doing, and has planned for the future.

It's not a FORM of godliness, but having FOUNDATION in God.
Buddha did not die for anyone. Jesus died for all of us who choose to accept
him and trust in him. Christianity is about us being ONE with a Person: God.

Snapshot 145

Failure vs. Success

The younger we are the more mistakes we make. These usually decrease as we grow older and as our knowledge and wisdom and experience grows. There is actually a reward for making mistakes because we learn and develop more from them than we do from success, at least much of the time.

Jesus says we'll have problems in life
(many are failures),
and we'll also have problem people in our lives.
This is a promise from heaven! -- even if we don't like it.

This evolves into a realization:
we all make mistakes, but as we mature and grow,
our ATTITUDE should become:
**“Success is making as few
mistakes as possible!”**

Snapshot 146

God does not want us relating to him
on the basis of good vs. evil: sin vs. good

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

This is where everything bad started in the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve walked and related to God daily.

But then Eve got it in her mind: "I can be more than I am.
I can be like God" (Gen 3:5).

This began what is called 'THE FALL OF MAN,' 6,000 years ago.

The Tree of Life

This was changed at the cross of Jesus, 2,000 years ago.

The Tree of Knowledge was forbidden then. It is still forbidden today.
God does not want us living by any measurement or standard of good
v. bad. This is us trying to relate to God in what is called our FLESH.

'Good' replaces 'God' in our lives when we relate this way.

God only relates to us in Spirit, not in our flesh. We shouldn't know
anyone 'after the flesh,' and neither does God (II Cor 5:16).

Don't let GOOD replace GOD in your life. You get a lot more out of life
living in God than you can living in your flesh, even if it's good.
When we live in God, not our flesh, we eat from The Tree of Life.

Snapshot 147

Why Are We In This World?

I read an article saying that students in Psychology 101 in college want to know why they are in this world: their earthly purpose. The only problem is: Psychology 101 doesn't teach this.

My sister-in-law Judy died recently.
She had a poem in her home that always haunted me:
*You do what you can to get by,
and you do what you can to stay high,
but as life moves along to the strum of a song
you can't help but ask of it 'Why?'*

John Denver asked much the same question late in life:
*"I have all this stuff inside of me to come out
but nobody wants to listen anymore.
I thought a song could change the world.
I guess that is pretty naive."*

What I've discovered is that only God, and his gospel — his words about the reality and purpose of life make any difference at all. It's his 'Gospel Road' to abundant life of prosperity, health, success, and then also on into eternity.

Many other things in this life only pose questions.

Snapshot 148

The best thing about the future
is it doesn't hit you all at once.
It comes by bits and pieces.

Thus it gives you a little time to regroup
and rethink your strategies and purposes.

Most of us have lost someone we wish we'd
related more too or better with.

You can't pick up the pieces after someone is gone.

We should live each minute like it was the last minute.

“This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it.”

Tomorrow is like a promissory note we may never collect on.

We need to try to treat every event
like it was the last one.

Too often we place too much
expectation on the future.



Life is a daily journey, not a destination,
and we're all meant to take God's Gospel Road.

Snapshot 149

Have you ever seen kids ‘just hanging out together’?



**God will meet us anywhere we are,
anytime of the day or the night.**

**He just wants to hang out
with us some if we will let him.**

Why not let him?

**He'd like it to be about having
'fellowship in his gospel' with us.
But he's willing to take what he can get on any terms.
God is a very gracious, good God.**

Snapshot 150

Eternity is a long time
to think about.

We should think more about it
during our temporary assignment
and journey on earth.

I've heard that eternity is like a circle
that has no beginning and no end.

Too many people just have 'a hope of eternal life.'
But it's not founded on anything.

As I keep saying, this is why God gave us his gospel.
Eternity is something that must be settled between God and us.
Hope in the earthly definition is a fleeting thing
that has no substance.

But hope in God's gospel is an absolute thing
and one of his gospel blessings is that he gives us
total, absolute assurance of our salvation.
This means our place in heaven's eternity
if we willingly give him a place in our lives.

Snapshot 151

**I'm sure you've heard about the concept
of building bridges rather than fences.**

**Bridges connect people,
including us with God,
while fences merely keep
people apart.**



**If we built more bridges than fences
this short life would be a whole lot different.**

**The gospel talks a whole lot about love,
and us loving each other,
or at least showing compassion to each other
by means of acceptance and forgiveness.
Building bridges is a more casual way to say this.**

**And I have a question that is totally unrelated to this:
Do you think there will be any fences in heaven?
How about 'no trespassing' signs?**

Snapshot 152

Too often when we get down and discouraged about life,
we tend to say something like:

“I hear God is good, but sometimes
I wonder what he is good for.”

It's not a very spiritual, faith-filled way of thinking
but it is something that goes on in a lot of peoples' minds.

As a lawyer, and as a Christian counselor
with National Christian Counselors Association,
I've heard something like this frequently.

God is good.

Even in the worst of times

God is still good.

Even in the worst of life,
he still makes life better
than it would have been otherwise.

If you haven't tried this thinking
it's a good way to think and believe.

Snapshot 153

It following is said,
and I've even seen it on some bumper stickers:

*“Jesus is coming back again,
and boy is he pissed!”*

But don't believe it.

The gospel has something very different to say.

There are what are called

‘5 judgment parables in the New Testament.’

But do you realize that only one of them is true judgment:

‘The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.’

The other four are just warnings God makes, not judgment.

God is filled with mercy and grace and he is
overly fair and overly abundant in grace and mercy.

All he wants is for us to take him up on his offer.

This is from one of the many articles I've written:
<https://medium.com/@RogerHimesEsq/5460b01848e0>

Snapshot 154

Here is a truism we've all heard before:

*Whatever happens to you,
as important and as impactful as it may be,
... is not half as important
as how you respond to what happens to you.*

And the logic in it really doesn't even need to be stated,
but I'll state it anyway.

A book titles reads:

“Bad things happen to good people.”

Especially in our relationships with God in this life,
we don't initiate very much. God is the initiator of things.
And if he doesn't initiate them (like bad things that happen to us)
he does allow them and doesn't always stop them as we'd like.

We can't always stop bad things from happening to us.
So our job is to respond to whatever is thrown at us in life.

Our job is to respond the best we can.

And the better we respond, the better things will turn out,
at least in the long-run.

Snapshot 155

Three things can be central to us:

- (1) God, (2) Ourselves,
- (3) Someone or Something else.

To the busy businessman, it's often something else: his career.

To others, it's often self:

“I want what I want when I want it.”

“Whatever I believe is good enough for me.”

Don't keep the door closed so tight
you smash God's foot.

“I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice

and opens the door

I will come into him.”

Jesus even goes so far as to say, “I am the door.”

He's the door to everything good he wants to give us,
but so many clueless folks try to keep his door closed.

Open doors are most often better than closed doors.

Snapshot 156

Living in God's love, grace and peace gives us confidence.

If we have God's presence
and his Spirit inside of us,
and his gospel at our fingertips,
we know we are united to him.

The gospel says:

'We are more than conquerors.'

'We are overcomers.'

In today's lingo it might say we are victors, not victims.

This empowers us to handle any obstacle or challenge
that comes our way,
at least in a lot better way than we'd handle it on our own.

Jesus says, "Take MY yoke upon you . . .
for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Notice he says it is his yoke, not our yoke.

This means he carries the biggest part of the burden.

Snapshot 157

So often we think we are in
THE WILDERNESS.

But if God is with us, it is more than just a wilderness.

It is a training and proving ground
for God's purposes and blessings.

If we acknowledge this
we will walk in them better and
better as we mature more.

The wilderness is often a mirage.
Jesus says his Kingdom is in the midst of us.

His Kingdom is
THE PROMISED LAND
that the Old Testament talks so much about.

Of course we believers live in 'the promised land of heaven'
when we graduate from this earth,
but we can also eat of a lot of its fruit here and now.

Snapshot 158

Jesus says,
“The Kingdom of God is WITHIN YOU.”
It’s all a matter of perspective:
Our perspective or his.

Is life only what we see, or is it
really and truly God working in us and through us?

Paul tells us that God is always fulfilling the good things
he is producing in us: his good gospel seed he plants in us.
And he says God has begun a good work in us believers
and he is always working to perform it and fulfill it.

The wilderness is the beginning of the promised land
that I just recently commented on.
This then extends into eternity.
If we see life only as a wilderness
we can get lost on our journey.
If we see it as God’s Kingdom,
he is our guide and counsel,
and Jesus is ‘the way, the truth and the life.’

Snapshot 159

The Gospel Road works in business
as well as it does in private life.

Too many choose to walk what I call The Garbled Road —
full of detours, pot-holes, delays and even dead-ends.

The Gospel Road is paved with
grace, and it leads to a destination
we all desire, if we are not too busy
on The Garbled Road,
which is a harder road and not too easy.

The guard-rails of The Gospel Road
are there providing a track to run on
so we can't get lost on our way.
All we have to do is to see them in faith
and know they are there to both protect us and benefit us.

According to Christian polls and studies,
only a hand-full walk The Gospel Road.
They're too busy trying to figure life out on The Garbled Road.
The Gospel Road is very restful, peaceful and joyful.
The Garbled Road is very busy, noisy and stressful.

Snapshot 160

Old Testament Doing vs. New Testament Gospel Believing

The Old Testament was a system of people doing what they were told in every degree of life.

They had so many things to do and keep track of, and it was mind-boggling. But God had to allow people to see they couldn't live right in themselves.

After all, Adam and Eve only had one thing to live by and they couldn't, or wouldn't do it.

Then when everyone failed, which Acts 15:10 says they all did, they then had a new set of things to live by: confession, repentance, sacrifice and offerings.

The New Testament gospel shows us God's goodness, blessings and benefits are what draw us to live better lives, not rules (Rom 2:4). Rules only make us VICTIMS because we can't live by them like God wants. Blessings make us VICTORS and we all succeed in God's gospel.

Now God says, "I'm going to bless them in spite of themselves." God knows what we believe is what we speak — and how we live. "As a man thinks (which means believes) in his heart, so is he."

If we believe right, we live better by accident than we can on purpose.

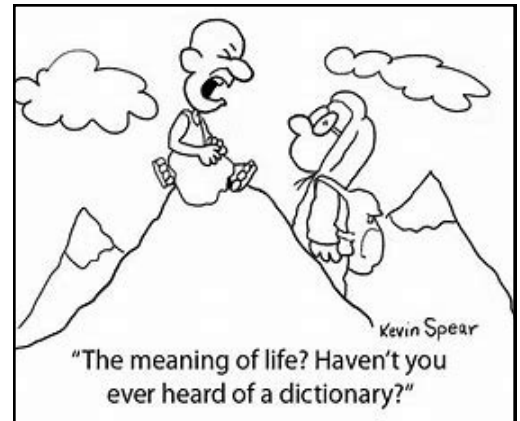
I quote this maxim I wrote a lot, and I did a few pages back:

"Good behavior will never produce correct belief, but correct belief most often produces better behavior."

Snapshot 161

**Lots of People Are 'In Search of the Truth'
While Jesus declares, 'I AM the truth.'**

**This is an old cartoon about the
guru on a mountain top.
In the gospel I've seen this:
the means of finding truth often
becomes the end.**



**To many folks, searching for truth becomes more important
than actually finding the truth.
They must think they are striving harder and producing more.**

**The Apostle Paul says too many people are too absorbed with
'ever learning but never able to come into a knowledge of the truth'
This says what they think is their 'Truth Box' isn't filled with truth,
but too often they think it is.**

**The Bible is very clear: the gospel of Jesus is the only truth of God.
He says believe it and live it, or be judged for not doing so.
He didn't give us a choice! He didn't intend to!**

Snapshot 162

A line from a song says:
*“Know the value of a moment
before it becomes a memory.”*

Time is actually quite fleeting,
and we if we don't take note or stock of things at the time,
they tend to disappear all to rapidly.
The Bible says, “Life is but a vapor.”
This kind of conveys much the same thing.

It says a whole lot about how short and brief
our lives are, even if at times they can seem much longer,
especially in hard times.

Take time to ‘stop and smell the roses’
on your journey through life.
My wife Leenie and I just spent a day in Vail, Colorado USA.
I don't recall seeing so many different types of flowers,
and so many different colors.
I stopped and took time to look at all of them.

Snapshot 163

We are all wronged and imposed upon in this life.

To be wronged is nothing unless you tend to remember it, and dwell on it, and then it drives you crazy. This is where the harm comes.

We have great memories for negative things.

(Psychology says we have memories like elephants for both bad things done to us, and bad things we do).

But we often forget the positives too quickly.

An old song my dad Tom used to sing was:

*“Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative,
Latch on to the affirmative, don’t mess with ‘Mr. In between’.
Spread joy up to the maximum, bring gloom down to the minimum,
and have faith or pandemonium will come upon the scene.”*

That’s really good thinking, even if it’s from decades ago.

Snapshot 164

**Does it ever concern you to think how much influence
and control the internet has over us?**

Have you ever searched for something (like a TV or an IPAD)
and then found your private space is flooded
with ads about TVs and IPADs?

Of course you have. We all have.

The internet is running ramped in the way it tracks us
and it has gotten out of control.

The government is not even controlling it.

The internet influences every area of our lives
— how we think, what we buy, and even who we vote for,
as was just shown in the last election.

It's like we are their puppets on a string.

And it's only run by a few high-profile corporations and people who have
joined together and agreed how to control public minds and thinking:
Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Amazon, to name a few.

We must raise our guard and try to oppose this the best we can.
We are even now not a FREE people but a CONTROLLED people.

Snapshot 165

Is Your 'Truth Box' Filled With Truth?

We all have what we call 'a truth box'
but it isn't always filled with truth.

Jesus says if it's not filled with his gospel truth,
and if we don't live in its light, all we have
are wrong beliefs, false assumptions,
incorrect conclusions and concocted opinions.

And we all have theories we believe,
but we don't know where we picked them up,
and we don't have any foundation to them.

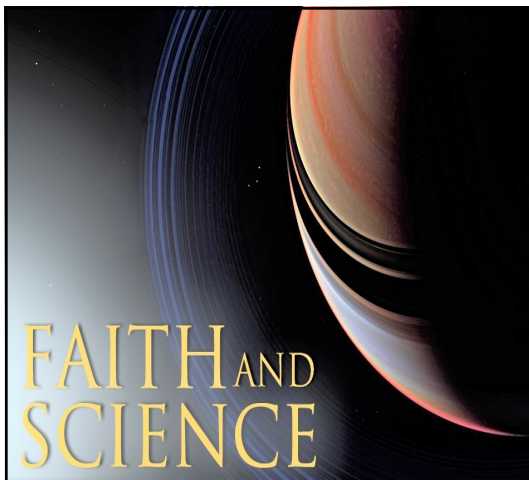
Then there is science.

Science has it's own way of thinking.

It tries to discover and prove
what faith has always known.

It tries to prove how this world and
universe ever came into being.

If you have any type of a heart for God,
or 'a truth box,' it's really pretty obvious.



Snapshot 166

We Live in the Age of Information

Our times today are called ‘The Information Age.’

This is especially true because of THE INTERNET we just talked about. If we combine this with all THE FAKE NEWS we’re getting today from biased and prejudiced reporters, this can create total confusion and havoc.

Thus the gospel is so important today.

In it, we only get God’s consistent thought pattern, if we are willing to listen to it, understand it, and live by it!

Jesus says, “Take heed what you listen to.”

What this does to us personally is it shows us all the things that we really know nothing about. We have so much thrown at us from every direction that we must decide what is good or bad, right or wrong. We are so deluged — with just spiritual things — that we can easily become confused by so many denominations — that all claim to be right, and all say something a little different. The Apostle Paul calls this listening to ‘10,000 instructors in Christ.’

Combine this with education, politicians, government, entertainment, social media, celebrity comments, and then also science and medicine that change regularly, and this ‘INFORMATION AGE’ can be overwhelming.

Here was a recent thought-provoking newspaper cartoon:

A reporter says, *“According to all the latest reports, there was no truth in any of the earlier reports.”*

Snapshot 167

From a practical perspective, we Americans are controlled by small groups of politicians, and most of us have no influence over what they think or do.

These politicians think their job is to decide how the rest of us should live.

This is the group of people our founders warned us about, and said to beware of them. But they've become a cult, and we're hard-pressed how to get rid of them.

Whether a politician is conservative or liberal, they all want control over 'we the people.'

As I've already said, the difference is conservatives at least have

(1) a Constitution foundation, and
(2) a common law, godly law, or moral foundation that they allow to at least influence them.

Although we're even losing ground with some of them.

But liberals want to rule by their own hip-pocket, seat-of-their pants ideas of what they want.

They don't want laws or morals restricting them, or even our American Constitution usually.

They just do 'whatever is necessary' to insure our compliance with their dictates.

Snapshot 168

Reasonings vs. Assumptions and Opinions

Most of us don't have bad reasoning, if we could just rely on,
and apply the right assumptions and beliefs.

This is why God focuses on our beliefs.

Eternal truth is something that can be relied upon.

God never changes, and his word endures forever.

But..... when we start out with less than God's gospel truth,
then we are dependent on what Paul calls 'the wisdom of man.'

I call it theology. Theology can change like the weather,
especially if you live in Colorado, USA, where I do.

We say, "If you don't like the weather, just wait and it will change."

If we listen to it and rely on it, then our reasoning
follows right after it.

Thus Jesus says, "Believe my gospel."

He asks, "Why do you reason?"

I've said it before: "We are called believers,
not understanders or reasoners."

Snapshot 169

In the Biggest Picture of all, Life on Earth Has 4 Parts:

- (1) There is birth, when we come into the world.
- (2) There are good times of happiness and pleasure.
- (3) There are bad times of sickness, sorrow and grief.
- (4) There is death, when we leave this world.

I have a great book about the positive aspects of death on my book page:

Rogers-Inspiration-Books.com

We are all going to be evicted from earth anyway, so why not go out in style?

The Old Testament of the Bible often says something like this:

*“So-and-so was born, lived so many years,
had sons and daughters, and then died.”*

It is true: the only real control we have in life is our attitude and response to the hand life deals us, and how we choose to live in the circumstances we face. I've had a couple of these messages about this.

The way I've come to respond to life, both the positive and the negative, is by saying: “OK, Lord, now what do you want me to do with this?” Jesus says we can't do anything meaningful without him. So why not just start including him in everything. Whether it is something good or something bad: “Lord, what do you want me to do with this?”

Snapshot 170

Some Church Leaders Make it Hard to Trust Church Leaders

We hear many reports of wrongdoing and sin found in churches. Whether it's financial, or sexual — either heterosexual or homosexual — we know pastors struggle with sin as much as any of us do. It's almost an epidemic when it comes to Catholic Priests.

What we need to realize that God doesn't 'call' all church leaders. Some are just 'self-appointed.' They see it as a good job to do so they go to school and train for it, like you'd train for anything else.

In Romans 10:15, speaking of church leaders Paul asks,
“How shall they preach except they be sent?”
This means called and sent by GOD, not MAN. Then this verse says:
“How beautiful are those who preach THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, and bring good news of good things. But they have not all obeyed the gospel.”

Paul says the gospel is to be a leader's only message. If anything else is preached, it should be cursed (Gal 1:8-9).

The gospel doesn't automatically keep preachers from sin. We're all sinners. But it does cause a closer, more personal walk with God where sin isn't as great a temptation as when a leader just happens to choose preaching and being a pastor as his career choice.

Snapshot 171

The Art of Loving Others

Jesus is quoted in the gospels as saying it's our job to love God with all our heart, and love others as ourselves. But he was answering a trick question from a lawyer about the law.

In John, Jesus shows how love really works:

“Love others AS I have loved you.”

Paul says to first INCREASE and fill up on God's love until we are overflowing — like a balloon ready to burst, and then ABOUND over or spill over onto others (I Thes 3:12).

I've said it before: God initiates and we just respond.

In the gospel of Christ, we don't INITIATE anything. God does all the initiating, and our job is just to RESPOND to him.

Jesus says if we do things his way, they become easy.

John says his commands are not burdensome.

Instead, they are empowering: they establish us in life.

It's why the gospel is called 'the power of God.'

The more of God's love we know personally and relationally, the more we know how important we are to him, and how important others are to him. This starts a chain-reaction of love: us to others.

Snapshot 172

Getting Saved and Born Again

Some preachers turn everything into ‘do-do preaching’ — something we must do so God will accept us.

It’s ‘performance religion’ —being buried under ‘religious do-do.’ What they forget is that God initiates everything. We just respond.

Jesus came to bring us knowledge of salvation that can be ours if we just ask (Luke 1:76-77). Salvation is a gift from God coming to us by his grace if we embrace it in faith (Eph 2:8).

This means trust God enough to believe in what Jesus did on the cross for all of us. He said, “It is finished.”

Jesus says he will turn no one away who comes to him (John 6:37).

So, go to him and ask to be saved.

The gospel gives us ‘good news of good things’ God has done for us. Our job is to simply say YES to him, and give him permission to lead us in life. We then enter into both Christ’s abundant life on earth, and eternal life in heaven at that very moment.

If we say YES to him today, we enter into a life lived at a different level: in a whole different new dimension, or what Paul often calls ‘a new dispensation.’

Snapshot 173

Don't Miss the Mark! Hit the Mark in Life!

When most PREACHERS talk about 'missing the mark,' they are talking about SIN: "Don't sin and miss the mark." If our focus is SIN, we'll often miss the mark. We are sinners, and we'll all die with sin in us. That's why we need Jesus!

He did away with sin by sacrificing himself (Heb 9:26).
He became sin for us (II Cor 5:21).

When FATHERS OF THE GOSPEL speak of missing the mark they mean Paul's words in Philippians 3:14, where he says to miss the mark is to miss 'the high calling of God.'

God's call on us is, 'COME TO ME!' Jesus reveals God to us.
So if we love God's Messenger Jesus,
and love his Message of the gospel,
we don't miss God's high calling.

In Revelation, it says God's mark on us is on our foreheads (where we think), and that he seals us with the Holy Spirit.

To love Jesus and love his gospel truth
is how we HIT THE MARK during all of life!

God can now better direct us anyway he wants us to go.

Snapshot 174

I've played guitar and sang for years.
Music has a way of changing moods, lightening loads,
and making you more receptive to folks and things around you.
Music conforms us into being more like we want to be.
It has ways of smoothing out rough edges

A song says:
“Music speaks louder than words.
It's the only thing the whole world listens to.
When you sing, people understand.”



Here's a humorous song I wrote and sing.
Really it's a 'talking blues,' which was
a style of music before rap and hip hop.
See if it doesn't put a smile on your face if you listen to it

Churchianity Talkin' Blues

It's about a Christian who is a little narcissistic.
He likes to 'talk the talk' but not 'walk the walk.'

<http://www.gospelpowerofgod.com/e-books/churchianity/>

Snapshot 175

Unbelieving Believers?

Studies show Christianity has lots of people in it who say they are 'believers,' but they really don't believe the Bible much. We must (1) believe in Jesus, and we must (2) believe the words of Jesus. This doesn't mean we just say, "Yea, I believe Jesus spoke truth." Instead, it means that we put our full weight down on what he says. Jesus asks, "Why do you call me Lord and not do what I say?"

Studies show too many folks only give what is called 'intellectual assent' to what Jesus says as being true.

They are passive in saying they believe the Bible
But the words of Jesus are not what they base their life on.
They often base their life on 'the late night news' more than Jesus.

The words of Jesus will judge us in eternity by them (John 12:48).
This means the secret beliefs in our hearts by Christ's gospel' (Rom 2:16).
Jesus will return to judge gospel believers (II Thes 1:7-9).

The Messenger and his Message are one, and cannot be separated.
If we don't accept the message, we don't accept the Messenger.
Jesus is the Messenger and his gospel is his message.

It was so important to him that the gospel was
the first thing he spoke about in his earthly life (Mark 1:14-15).
If we don't believe and live the Message of God's Messenger,
we might be called 'unbelieving believers.'

Snapshot 176

Blessings In Hard Times: (1 of 3)

Some times in our lives seem like a time of burden.

They are times that create anxiety, stress, worry,
and focus us away from positive things.

Jesus told Mary and Martha only one thing was needed,
and we must not fall back from including this good thing in our hearts.

Thus, as I do occasionally, I'll share these blessings that Abba Father God
gives us in gospel that he sent his Son Jesus to give us as a gift.

These let us live at a higher level, even in problem-times.

These blessings we have were written in the halls of heaven.

God's Love. His love is UN-conditional if we're one with Jesus. Nothing can
separate us from it. The Holy Spirit reveals his love to us every day.

Jesus says God loves us as much as he does him (John 17:23).

God's Salvation. If you've said yes to Jesus, you are saved by his grace,
as you keep your faith focused on him. No matter what happens here, you go
to be with God when this life is over. Salvation is God's work, not our work.

God's Law. The gospel tells us a lot: God did away with his law.
It was 'against us, contrary to us, and made us failures. We can't live
good enough under any law to deserve God's salvation or his love.

God's Gospel. God's gospel allows us to think God's thoughts, embrace his
ways, know his heart. Paul calls it 'transformation.'

The gospel gives us the mind of Christ himself (1 Cor 2:16).

Snapshot 177

Blessings In Hard Times: (2 of 3)

God's Blessings. God gives us ALL his gospel blessings: 'good news of good things.' Paul says if God didn't withhold his own Son from us, he surely gives us all good things. Jesus says we have God's whole Kingdom.

God's Grace and Peace. The gospel is defined as 'grace and peace.' When we live gospel realities we get grace and peace... assurance of our salvation...and God's unconditional love.

God's Forgiveness. We are assured of God's forgiveness if we're in Jesus. God's not angry at us for things we do bad. Hebrews says God even chooses not to remember our sin if we're in Jesus (Heb 8:12, 10:17).
God can't judge what chooses not to remember.

God's Righteousness. This is a buzz-word meaning our identity in Jesus. He gives it to us when he takes away all our sin, so he can see us the same way he sees Jesus: as righteous and without blame.
John 4:17 says, "As Jesus is, so are we in this world."

God's Inheritance. It's really hard for us to believe that we are joint, equal heirs with Jesus, but we are. Everything Jesus is given by his Father is also given to us as his adopted kids.
We're all part of the same family: both in heaven and on earth.

Snapshot 178

Blessings In Hard Times: (3 of 3)

God's Authority. So many people claim the devil's after them and they're in a constant wrestling match.

But Jesus destroyed Satan's works, triumphed over him, and gave US total authority over him.

John says if we live in (gospel) truth, Satan cannot touch us. We must exercise our authority, and not let negative things confound us.

God's Equality. We are all equal at the cross of Jesus.

Paul says not to compare ourselves with others...not when it comes to sex, age, race, color, title, education, social position, or anything else.

Being equal is a totally freeing reality. All of the political stuff we face here has no bearing at all on God's reality and his economy.

There is an old saying: "This too will pass."

Even with these troubling times, "This too will pass."

Paul says keep one eye looking above, not just on the earth (Col 3:2).

That is what these BLESSINGS in times of burden tend to do.

If we live them, our lives are enhanced many times over.

We live more in FAITH, and FEAR is much less a problem.

And bad times seem to pass a lot easier and faster than they might seem to pass otherwise.

Snapshot 179

Jesus says: “I will give to everyone according to what he has done” (Rev 22:12).

Many folks think this verse pertains to us being judged by our works.

This is not what the whole basics of the New Testament says.

Our salvation is based on faith and belief, not on our works.

Our work is based on our belief in Christ’s gospel (Mark 1:15).

Our ‘JOB’ is to believe (John 6:29).

Then Paul says the gospel produces good fruit or good works in us (Col 1:5-6).

These are the good works Jesus says he looks for—

but the issue is HOW they are produced.

Is it by our flesh, that Paul calls ‘dead works,’ or by our spirit?

God looks for true gospel belief in our hearts,

knowing that the gospel is what produces good things in what we do and say.

It’s not a work of the flesh but the work of our belief and faith.

Even a lot of non-Christians do better works than many Christians.

The issue is not the works themselves,

but whether we trust God and allow his gospel process

to work in us and through us.

Snapshot 180

Don't Tune Into Radio Station WIIFM: 'What's In It For Me?'

Many claim they don't hear anything from God or his Holy Spirit. They're not tuned into the correct 'Gospel Truth Spiritual Station.' Jesus says they're instead tuned into the world's worries, desires for other things, getting rich, and having the world's pleasures.

Jesus says if we're 'of his truth,' we do hear his voice (John 18:37). Jesus only speaks his truth. If we're not tuned into it, we don't hear him.

We must RECEIVE 'a love of the truth' (II Thes 2:10).

God gives us this if we choose to only tune into his gospel. Thus Jesus says to repent of all other beliefs and only live his gospel. His gospel describes the reality of his Father's Kingdom on earth, and gives us all God's blessings and gifts, as I recently said.

If we don't do this we have all types of thoughts, theologies and opinions.

We get things so mixed-up we can't receive gospel truth.

If this is true in us then we are not 'of the truth.'

We are 'always learning, but never come into knowing the truth.'

We can even be SAVED, and not be living in God's truth (I Tim 2:4).

Jesus is 'the way, the truth and the life.'

The way to live in his ways, his truth and his life is to separate ourselves only to his gospel and to live in its power and process in us.

Snapshot 181

“I’ll Take Time For That Spiritual Stuff Later In Life”

Psychology tells us that, for most people, this never becomes reality. It’s a lie of the devil.

The older we get, the more ‘RUTS’ we get into. They’re also called ‘HABITS.’



This is why Jesus says to ‘continue’ in his gospel, his word of truth. He knows if we don’t, we will probably never get back to it later. 1,000 other things will take root in us and become ruts.

A verse says, “Choose this day whom you will serve.”

The truth is we all serve something or someone.

But we are given the free will to choose TODAY what is important.

We either trust God, or trust something or someone else we consider to be more important than God.

Walk what I call ‘The Gospel Road.’

If you do, it’s paved with God’s love, grace and power.

And it doesn’t have any ruts in it.

If we don’t choose to walk it, we will find ourselves on one of the many ‘Garbled Roads’ that all have a lot of muddy ruts, pot holes, delays, detours and even dead ends.

Snapshot 182

We saw this earlier, but let's look at it again in a different way:

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now. . .
the violent take the Kingdom by force" (Matt 11:12).*

This is the attitude Jesus says we should have about being a part of God's family. In parables, he likens it to being like a valuable buried treasure, or a pearl we'd pay anything to get.

We used to have a dog named John Henry. He taught me so much about what a pursuit of God should look like.

He must have thought I was a god. . . he was always by at side.

He'd lay so close to my computer chair that I'd hit him if I moved.

He'd lay beside my bed and I had to avoid stepping on him when I got up.

For some reason he was just totally focused on me.

My family called him 'Old Faithful' when it came to pursuing me.

In so many ways, John Henry literally tried to take me by force.

He showed me so much of how we should feel about Abba Father God.

I know that I don't give God attention and worship like this everyday,

but John Henry showed me what pursuing God should be like.

No, God doesn't ask for our constant attention. He knows we're busy.

But he would like us to consider him more, and perhaps just at times say,

"Hey God, I know you're here and I love you.

I'm so grateful for everything you are and everything you do, Lord."

Snapshot 183

What Does Good Friday Really Mean?

Good Friday is the day of remembrance for the crucifixion of Jesus.

**Some say it wasn't really Friday, but the day doesn't really matter.
What is important is to remember, 'Christ and him crucified' (1 Cor 2:2).
It was the EVENT that is important, not the date or day.**

It could be today!

**Jesus celebrated COMMUNION with his disciples before he was crucified.
He said, "Do this — as often as you do it — in remembrance of me."**

**So to me, celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus
isn't just a once a year thing, but a frequent thing.**

Most churches offer communion once a month.

I choose to take it more often than this.

It's a way I connect with God a little bit deeper.

**Paul says, "As often as you... eat this bread, and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor 11:26).**

**I celebrate both the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus in communion.
It's a great way to better experience God's presence and power and love.**

It's a great way to remember Jesus and to be grateful to him.

You don't need a pastor. It doesn't matter what elements you use.

One day I didn't have anything except Coke and French fries.

The remembrance is what is important.

Snapshot 184

Jesus Predicted His Own Crucifixion and Resurrection.

These predictions occur often in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But then when the women who went to the tomb and told his disciples of his resurrection, the disciples thought it was nonsense, and didn't believe it. This was stunning: his disciples were in such lack of faith they wouldn't even believe Jesus.

But then this also made me think of how many people I share the power of the GOSPEL with, and they won't believe it.

God told Moses he'd require us to believe the special message of his Messenger, Jesus, and people don't believe this message either. Paul says when Jesus returns in the heavens with his angels, he'll judge us who don't believe and live his gospel.

So many of us are like Jesus' unbelieving disciples.

I found myself saying: "Lord Jesus, in how many ways am I guilty of not believing and trusting what you say too? Please help me be more receptive and believing." The resurrection was 'too good to be true,' and so is gospel today to many people. It's not 'too good to be true' if God is the Author of it.

Snapshot 185

Jesus Came To Bring Us Salvation (Lk 1:77).

Jesus came to bring us God's gospel, which includes salvation, Although Hebrews 6 talks about 'things that accompany salvation.' Old Testament salvation was different: focused on keeping a grueling law, and then repenting and sacrificing animals when you failed.

Jesus said NO one is excluded from salvation if they ask for it. As we lawyers say, 'There is no condition-precedent.' Just come and ask. God's love is so vast. He gave himself for us, represented by the cross. He put himself in our place, as our 'substitute.' Coming to Jesus and asking makes us right with God, and makes us his kids forever.

Salvation is one of God's many FREE gifts to us, as I've shown. When we receive it, the Holy Spirit helps us discover all of God's other gifts that are ours (1 Cor 2:12). All we have to do is to say 'YES' to God! He then takes anything bad about us, and replaces it with his goodness and blessings. It's a pretty one-sided deal, and it's all to our benefit.

The problem with many people is their PRIDE won't let them trust God. So they do not experience the peace, joy and grace God offers. They think God expects more of them, but God doesn't demand more. Once we say YES to him, he then starts raising us as his kids, and helps us and enables us to live more abundant, fruitful lives. But none of it is about us doing more to please God. Salvation is just one of God's many free gifts if we're humble enough to ask for it.

Snapshot 186

As A Lawyer, I See Salvation Like A Contract With God: but It's a Unilateral Contract, Not a Bilateral Contract.

We all know what a contract is: I promise to do something and you promise to do something. Our contracts are 'bilateral.'

A contract is a two-way agreement between me and you.

But this is not the way God does things with us.

He deals with us by means of what the law calls a UNILATERAL contract.

In bilateral contracts we must both DO something to fulfill the contract.

I have responsibility and you have a responsibility to fulfill the contract.

But in a unilateral contract this is not the case. It's a one-side offer.

If you make me a unilateral offer, I do not have to promise to DO anything.

All I have to do is just accept your offer.

We're all seen an item (like say a chair) put at the side of the road,

and a sign on it that says, "Take this! It's free!"

This is a unilateral offer: I don't have to DO anything but take the chair.

I have no responsibility to give you anything in exchange for it.

This is the way God treats us.

He gives us the gift of salvation and just says to us:

"Please... take it from me. I'm giving it to you free."

We just decide if we want the chair, — or if we want God's salvation or not.

Snapshot 187

What Is True Gospel Belief?

We think of belief as only being what we believe in our HEADS:

“I believe the moon is made out of green cheese.”

But Bible belief goes a lot deeper than this.

It involves trust, commitment, and even obedience to what you believe:

“Why do you call me ‘Lord,’ and not do what I say?”

Looking at Christ’s disciples, you see that they trusted him and followed him, even before they understood everything.

In other words they believed God’s Messenger, and his gospel Message.

And they showed their belief by following him.

James says, “Faith without works is dead.”

James also says, “Satan believes and trembles.”

Satan knows what Jesus says is absolute truth and total reality. But he doesn’t believe to the extent of trusting and following Jesus.

Many so-called ‘believers’ say they believe Jesus’ words are true, but they don’t act on them — they don’t live in them.

It’s a ‘head’ thing to them, not a ‘heart’ thing.

Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

If we love him, we keep (live) his words (John 14:23).

If we continue in his word we are his disciples (John 8:31).

Snapshot 188

Is the Gospel Really God's Truth?

Paul refers to 'the truth of the gospel.' Let's look at this.

What happened 6,000 years ago with Adam and Eve?

They were tempted with the forbidden tree: The Tree of Knowledge.

They were only given one demand and they wouldn't even do it.

They could eat from many different trees, but just not this one.

Was God just pulling rank to make them obey? NO!

Why? It was because this tree tempted them with being independent of God: thinking 'outside the box' of God's word to them. In short, not trusting him.

We do the same thing today if we don't live the gospel.

Jesus says he is the TRUTH. But we're like Adam and Eve if we don't live his truth: we don't believe him and trust him.

We may intellectually believe in him as a person in our head, but we don't believe him and trust him in our heart.

If we listen to other voices, even pastors and preachers, and don't believe his gospel word, we too live independent of God. We think 'OUTSIDE THE BOX' of gospel truth. We perpetuate original sin by not trusting God's word to us. We want something 'more' to throw into the mix. We want more than God's truth.

Snapshot 189

“You shall FEAR the Lord your God and serve him” (Deut 6:13)

It is interesting that Jesus quoted this passage early in his earthly life.

But he changed it ever so slightly:

**“You shall WORSHIP the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve” (Matt 4:10).**

**Too often, the word ‘FEAR’ creates an impression in our minds
that the Bible really doesn’t intend to create.**

It we think of fear, we think of doing wrong and being punished for it.

**Our response to God should be one of love, trust and dependence
because God loves us so unconditionally if we trust in Jesus.**

**Fear can be appropriate, but it really means
‘a reverent trust’ or ‘a humble dependence.’**

And to ‘SERVE’ God means to believe what he says and live it.

Jesus says our ‘work’ is to believe (John 6:29).

The words of Mary, the mother of Jesus come to mind again.

She spoke this upon being told by the angel that she’d be a mother:

“Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.”

Mary didn’t understand, but trusted what she had been told by the angel.

Also, we don’t always understand all things, do we?

We worship God by believing and trusting him in everything he says.

**This is our ‘reasonable service’ to God that allows him to
transform and renew our minds (Rom 12:1-2).**

As true believers, we must believe (Mark 1:14-15).

Snapshot 190

Is End Time Preaching Reality or Fantasy?

The reason we have so many different theories about end times and the return of Jesus is nobody knows for sure. We're told in the first chapter of Revelation it is symbolic, not literal. Yet preachers interpret it literally and preach it literally.

“Jesus will kill folks on his return with ‘the sword of his mouth’” (Rev 19:21). I heard a preacher say: “This sword is deadly, and there will be more bloodshed than any other time — perhaps billions will be killed by Jesus.” They say this to cause fear in us so we'll buy their books.

Revelation 1 and 2 speak of the sword coming out of Jesus' mouth. This is not a literal sword, but simply the TRUTH or word of God. All Jesus will do when he returns is speak the truth. It's also called ‘the sword of the Spirit’ (Eph 6:17).

I don't think there will not be a literal battle and war, as preachers say. This battle already occurred at the time of his crucifixion. Satan was defeated by Jesus then. ‘He destroyed his works’ (I John 3:8). This was the time of judgment on Satan (John 12:31, 16:11). Jesus doesn't have to fight Satan again.

The cross of Jesus was such a triumph over Satan that Jesus made a public show of it, proclaiming his defeat (Col 2:14-15). Jesus even gave us believers all authority over Satan (Luke 10:19). He can't touch us if we are ‘begotten’ (I John 5:18). And Paul says we are ‘begotten’ by gospel truth (I Cor 4:15).

Snapshot 191

It may not be Christmas when you read this, but the message is good.

Let Christmas become greater in your heart,
and bless you out of your socks.

It can take us back in time and bring
back memories and forgotten dreams.

It is a time that can bring our helter-skelter days
into one moment of reflection to contemplate Jesus.

It is a time that should clear our minds of turmoil
and replace it with thoughts of love, peace and joy.
Of course, if we keep the turmoil, we lose the love, peace and joy.
These two things are mutually exclusive.

It is a time of refreshing, remembering family,
thinking new thoughts, and creating new ideas.

Christmas just doesn't make itself. We make Christmas
what it is by our thoughts, affections and desires.

And it should be a time of thanking Jesus for giving us this day.
He is the reason for the season.

The song asks, "Why can't we have Christmas the whole year around?"
I'm not sure I'd want the day of Christmas everyday,
but the spirit of Christmas would be just fine.

Snapshot 192

I received a question I think is noteworthy:

“Do you have to believe and live the gospel to be saved?”

Unbelievers don't see the light of truth because they don't see the light of God in the person of Jesus, who is the truth.

Their destination is not eternal life in heaven.

But some BELIEVERS don't embrace the gospel because their so called 'truth box' is filled with other things they've filled it with (I call it 'Burger King Churchianity.' Their motto is: “Have things your way”).

These folks are “Ever learning but never able to come into the knowledge of the truth” (II Tim 3:7). Their dedication may even be noble, but they lack revelation of the published reality and truth of God in his gospel.

If they don't live in gospel truth, they won't experience the abundant life of Jesus on earth (John 10:10).

Jesus came to (1) abolish death, (2) give us abundant life on earth, and (3) to give us eternal life in heaven.

I guess you don't have to accept the full gift from Jesus, but why would you not want to?

Snapshot 193

Striving to Attain vs. Receiving To Give

The Bible talks about the difference between 'the world' and its take on life, vs. what God's word says.

The world tells us: 'Strive to attain.'

Jesus calls it 'building bigger barns.'

Jesus also says, "Freely you have received, so freely give."

The gospel reveals all the free gifts and blessings God gives us, if we just believe him and receive them.

Part of the Holy Spirit's work is to show us any of God's free gifts that we may miss (I Cor 2:12).

This is the way God's Kingdom process works best:

Increase in his free blessings until you're so full you're ready to pop, and then just freely spill over (release it) onto others (I Thes 3:12).

Jesus says we're more blessed when we give than when we receive.

But we must receive in order to give God's way.

Paul asks, "What do you have that you have not received?"

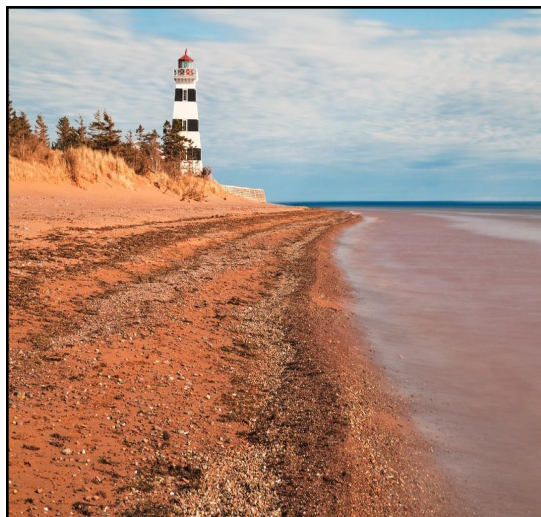
Snapshot 194

**Water is life to a fish. Air is life to a bird.
And polluted air and water are detrimental, even fatal to both.**

So it is with us.

**Love, grace, peace and joy give us life.
But anger, regret, guilt, fear, resentment
and unforgiveness are detrimental to us.**

**Some medical people say
they can even be fatal to us.**



**A surgeon once said his scalpel wasn't long or sharp enough
to cut the negative thoughts and feelings out of some people.
Living in unhealthy ways, can definitely bury us. . . literally.
Especially over time.**

**The gospel gives us a transfusion of life:
abundant life on earth, and eternal life in heaven.
It is God's means of getting us through this 'MAZE' we live in,
and in the best possible way.
It's best for us eternally, but even here on earth too.**

Snapshot 195

Encourage Each Other

**We get enough discouragement today, don't we?
The Gospel says encourage each other daily
(Heb 3:13).**



**It doesn't take a lot of work to encourage others.
Sometimes just a smile or a pat on the back can do a lot.
But especially in these shut-in times we have time
to invent ways to encourage others.**

**Even a phone call, a text, an email, whatever.
All of us get down in the dumps some. We need a hand to feel better.**

Encouragement is one of the best remedies!

**Paul talks a lot about teaching, exhorting and encouraging
each other, especially in God's gospel truth and doctrine.**

This is what I try to do as 'The Gospel Life Coach.'

Snapshot 196

Who We Were vs. Who We Are In Jesus

It seems like most of us spend our lives trying to repair what the Gospel calls 'THE OLD MAN,' which is left-over from the Old Testament law.

Instead of simply live in the reality of what is called 'THE NEW MAN' — a new creation of the New Testament gospel.

The new man is the result of our relationship with Jesus. Old things are made new, and we are now the work of God.

This is what the Gospel of Christ repeatedly tells us. We are like 'a new species' in Jesus. We're no longer only human.

In the Old Testament people had what was called a VISITATION from God.

But in the New Testament we have a HABITATION with God. We are called the 'house' or the 'temple of God.'

Yet most times we're just trying to get God to visit us, and answer our prayers, and give us what we want or need.

In too many ways, we live in AD,
but with a BC mentality!

Snapshot 197

God Gives Us As Much As We Want

This may seem like a startling statement, but if you're really into the gospel Jesus brought us, it's true. Jesus says God gives us his entire Kingdom (Luke 12:32). Twice in I Corinthians 3 Paul says "All things are yours." If we believe him we look for other gospel statements (we lawyers call this 'corroboration').

"To him who has will more be given" is one. God does require us to seek him, and the more we seek him the more he responds, and the more we receive from him.

Many believers worry about SIN keeping us from receiving from God.

But Jesus became sin for us (II Cor 5:21).

He did away with sin by his sacrifice (Heb 9:26).

So focus on more SPIRITUAL things, and receive all God wants you to. God wants to bless us (Eph 1:3) with Christ's abundant life (John 10:10).

Increase your desire for God's spiritual gifts and seek him for more (I Cor 14:1).

The Holy Spirit wants you to receive all of God's free gifts (I Cor 2:12).

If you listen to him, Satan will always tell you that you are not WORTHY, and you are not ENTITLED to them.

It's a lie straight out of the pits of hell.

Snapshot 198

**“One Nation Under God”
“In God We Trust”
Part 1 of 3**



**We know America was founded by godly men: ‘our founding fathers.’
They coined the above expressions.**

**Did you know our founders even compared us to ancient Israel?
Both nations they thought were ‘called by God,’
us to lead the world ‘with all nations on our shores,’
and in love, peace and brotherhood.**

**But the fact is this: ancient Israel failed.
They turned away from God, even crucifying Jesus.
Their nation was destroyed 2,000 years ago
by the Romans, and didn’t exist again until 1948
when they were declared once again to be a nation.
Think about this: They didn’t exist for 20 centuries.**

**Does this have any meaning for America?
Let’s talk about this next time in ‘Part 2.’**

Snapshot 199

2 of 3

“In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean Blue...”

**When I was in high school I had a history book with
Christopher Columbus on the front cover — holding
THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST!**

(His name means ‘bearer of Christ’).

**This cover was quickly abolished by America’s political leaders
as they strived to liberate us from any thoughts of God.**

Today they’ve almost erased God from history.

**The 10 Commandments in public... prayer in school...
student Bible studies... Jesus mentioned in class...**

**‘One nation under God’ removed from pledge of allegiance
...the killing of babies... the list is UN-ending.**

We are following the ways of ancient Israel.

**I think if God doesn’t judge America he’d have ‘unfinished business.’
There is a lot of prophecy about this, but prophets can’t correct things.**

They can only censure and counsel.

**Like ancient Israel was, are we living on borrowed time
avoiding God’s further judgment?**

Snapshot 200

3 of 3

God Gives Warnings Before Judgments

Some people even try to say this Corona Virus is a judgment of God. I truly doubt that. God gave ancient Israel countless WARNINGS before he imposed JUDGMENT on them — having their nation destroyed for 2,000 years — for 20 centuries.

How many human lifetimes is that?

Israel got into idol worship. Americans are much too modern to do this today — but we have forced God out of everything in public life. So he does WARN us.

Like he did with ancient Israel,

I think he did so in New York City on 9/11.

We were totally protected and isolated with the Atlantic on one side, and the Pacific on the other. But on 9/11/2001, we were invaded the first time ever.

Will it be the last time? Many do not think so.

And many say any other times will probably be a lot worse.

Like ancient Israel, America became more defiant of God as a nation. Weren't we too 'called by God' ???
'ONE NATION UNDER GOD' — 'IN GOD WE TRUST.'

These slogans have little or no relevance today.

Like ancient Israel, how many more warnings will God give us . . .
before he also judges us?

Snapshot 201

God is Far More Forgiving than Judging!

Jesus says, "If you've seen me, you have seen the Father."

All he did was in love and grace and in helping people.

This is the New Covenant gospel we are under.

God is GOOD. He loves us and is very patient with us.

If we respond to him at all, then he takes 5 giant steps toward us (as the Parable of the Prodigal Son shows).

Jesus says he came to seek and save the lost.

This of course means UN-believers, but to me at least this is also BELIEVERS who don't respond to his gospel he says we must believe and live it.

Thus, Paul says God wants us all (1) to be saved, but (2) to come into his knowledge of truth (1 Tim 2:4).

Do you remember the 10 plagues of Egypt?

But note the first 9 were only warnings. Only the last was true judgment.

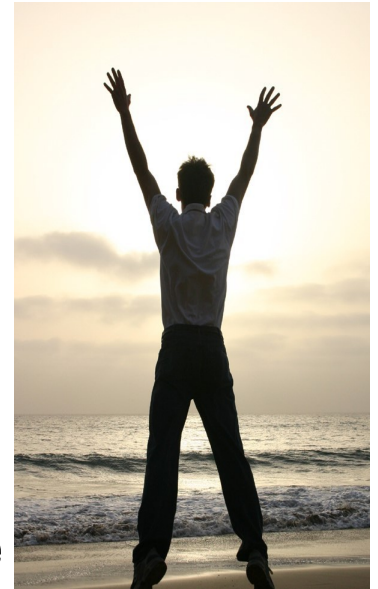
God is always looking for his REMNANT, no matter how many turn away from him (even America as a nation).

Revelation says his REMNANT is all 'marked.'

God looks at us believers and marks us.

Be glad he does because when he does judge there won't be any doubt.

It will be like darkness vs. the light.



Snapshot 202

What Has Happened to Justice?

The longer I practiced law, the more I asked this question:

“What has happened to justice?”

And the longer I practiced law, the more I found

myself asking clients this question:

“Do you want my professional advice or my personal opinion?”

The two are not often the same.

I was in court one day when the judge made his ruling finding against my client. My client, in anger, said it wasn't fair and he complained, stating his reasons.

The judge first said he couldn't disagree with my client, but then said:

“Sir, the law is not necessarily fair! The law is simply the law!”

I asked the judge if I could quote him but he said

he'd hold me in contempt of court if I did.

No wonder an age-old statement says:

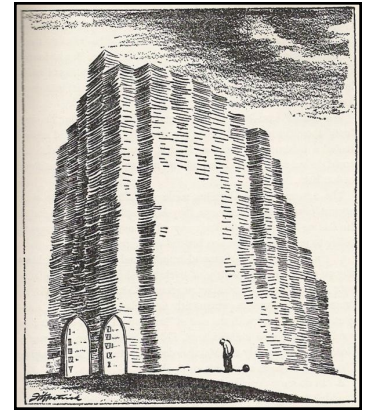
“The law and justice make strange bedfellows.”

Snapshot 203

A U. S. Supreme Court Justice recently said,
“We now have 10,000,000 laws in America
to enforce The Ten Commandments.”

This speaks to federal, states, counties and cities.

O God, help us! As a lawyer,
I know we are a nation of far too many laws.



Piles of Laws

We can handle the law-BREAKERS!
But who will save us from the law-MAKERS?
Are we doomed?

We're on the verge of overdosing on lethal amounts of
legislation,
regulation
Litigation
arbitration.

Not to mention increasing taxation
to enforce all these damn laws.
And all these laws keep our politicians rich.

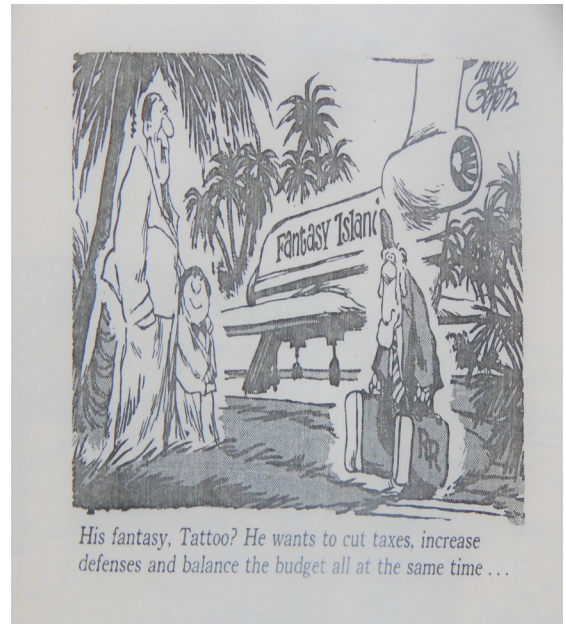
Snapshot 204

President Ronald Reagan
1981 - 1989

Here is a political cartoon I found of
Ronald Reagan.

He was a good President, but didn't do all
the good he wanted to do.

He planned to clean our nation's
capital up. But I'm afraid that would take
a miracle of God to do.



An old cartoon about President Ronald Reagan
and the T.V. program 'Fantasy Island'

He found out it was too big of a job for one man
in such a short period of time: 8 years.

Thus this 'FANTASY ISLAND' cartoon makes fun of the fact
that he couldn't do all he planned to do.

We're facing the same seemingly insurmountable
situations today that Reagan faced 30 years ago.

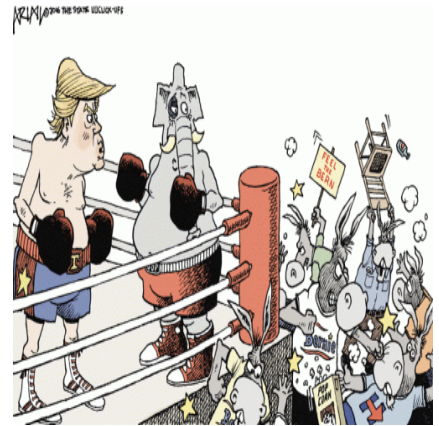
History does have a way of repeating itself.

This is part ONE of TWO. Two will follow next.

Snapshot 205

Our Present-Day Times 2017 -

‘We the people’ can’t do much about the road our national leaders lead us down. Leaders lead, we just follow. All we can do is to elect more conservative, God-fearing, moral, Constitutional-minded folks to office: accountable to more than just themselves and ‘the seat of their pants.’



A cartoon of President Donald Trump

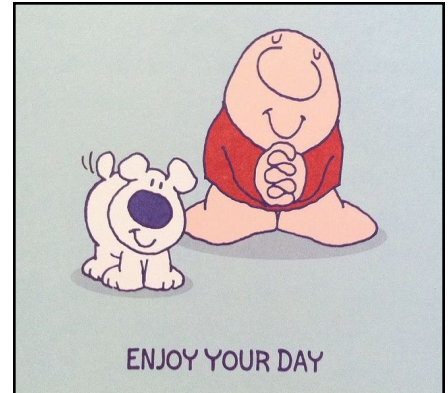
President Trump knew he had a boxing match on his hands, against all the changes liberal politicians have made for 30 years. One article said he’s trying to bring FRESH water into POLLUTED water. He said his big job is to ‘drain the swamp’ of harmful politics.

We may not all agree with all he did. I don’t. But he did drain the swamp of ungodly, UN-constitutional pollution, and bringing fresh water into it—the water our founders used to nourish us, and make us ‘One Nation Under God’ / ‘In God We Trust.’

This is being accountable to more than ‘the seat of our pants.’

Snapshot 206

ZIGGY is often pegged as our 'cartoon philosopher.' One day Ziggy was heard to say: "Last night I counted my blessings and I found at least half of them were missing."



I think sometimes we all feel this way!

The fact is God gives us all his blessings (Eph 1:3).

Jesus says his Father gives us his entire Kingdom (Luke 12:32). Paul says we are equal, joint heirs with Jesus himself (Rom 8:17).

Spiritually speaking: "As Jesus is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17).

**If your day is bad,
it will be better in God!
If your day is good
it will be even better in God!
Either way it is
a win-win situation!
God helps make every
day a better day!**

Snapshot 207

I've heard people ask the following:

“Is there any real reason for today?”



**... Other than a way of
separating yesterday
from tomorrow?**



**Yesterday is like a cancelled check,
and tomorrow is like a promissory note you may never collect on.
Today is cash, so spend it.**

**We are told in the gospel
not to fret over yesterday.**

**Of course, correct what we can when we can,
but other than this,**

We can't go into 'rewind' and redo anything.

And Jesus says, “Take no thought for tomorrow.

Today has enough evil to contend with.”

**Too many of us major in the past and the future
without giving today its proper, rightful place.**

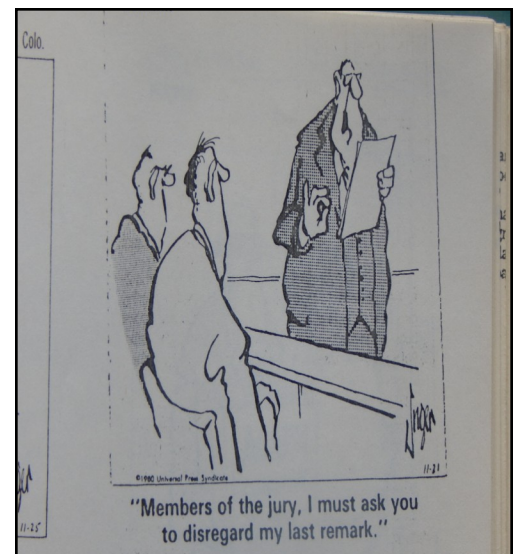
Snapshot 208

Yes, I'm a Lawyer! But Please Don't Hold This Against Me!



Clients expect lawyers to be a miracle workers.
I'd joke and say,
"Hey, if you get drunk, steal a car,
and run someone down, don't expect to get off
with an overtime parking fine."

In the courtroom, I often did a good job.
I won lots more than I lost.
But I'd get very perplexed
when something didn't come out right.
I'd look like the lawyer in this cartoon.



Hey, we all make mistakes.

We just need to learn from them and don't let them bury us.

For lots of lawyer humor and stories:

gospelpowerofgod.com/e-books/lawyers-laws-justice-and-judges/

Snapshot 209

#1 of 2. Let's Put God Back In the Mix!

As a lawyer, and as 'The Gospel Life Coach,'
I've written about how the USA was founded on:
'In God We Trust,' - 'One Nation Under God.'

This was the bedrock of our foundation
established by our Founding Fathers.
Since Clinton's presidency (1993-2001),
and to a lesser degree before, there has been a push to remove
any thought of God from the American mind.

Since then America has been on a downhill slide!

There's a difference between liberal thinkers and conservative,
Constitutional thinkers. Liberals try to DEIFY God:
evict him from American life.

Constitutional thinkers DEIFY God's involvement with us.

They want to get us back to the roots
on which we were created and founded:
'In God We Trust,' - 'One Nation Under God.'

They don't fool God. He knows what is going on.

Snapshot 210

#2 of 2. Let's Put God Back In the Mix!

If a company is created to manufacture AUTOMOBILES,
but then later changes to produce AIRPLANES,
there will probably be problems.

A change from the purpose for which the company was created
to something else is hard to overcome. It creates hardships.
This has happened to us in the U.S.

We were created a Godly nation by Constitutional people
— but now, more liberal-minded people want to change
the purpose for which we were created. . . from
'In God We Trust,' - 'One Nation Under God.'

Many people think the attack on the Twin Towers in NYC on 9-11
to be a warning from God — a call from him for us
to return to him and include him back in the mix.

If we don't, I think there will be even worse warnings
(some say 'judgments') we don't want to see.
We must return to our Godly, Constitutional, moral roots,
and listen to God's voice speaking quietly in our ears:

"I want my nation back!"

Snapshot 211

It has been said that life may have no meaning.
Or on the other hand, it may have meaning
that I will never discover in this life.
Either theory isn't a good one.

Many young people take Psychology 101 in
college to determine the meaning of life
and why they are here.
But, Psychology 101 doesn't teach this.

Jesus says he is the way, the truth and the life.
But few folks listen to his words.
I wonder if Jesus would be willing
to teach a psychology course.
You know he'd be a great professor.



Snapshot 212

I saw an interesting statement
that really resonated with me:

“Ronald Reagan, had a famous saying:
The nine most terrifying words
in the English language are:
(1) I'm from the Government, and
(2) I'm here to help'.”

It seems Reagan had a knowledge of politics
that so many of us lack today.
He knew the government was to be
FEARED, not REVERED.

Our founding fathers had the same opinion.
We should have the same opinion and say,
“Stop! That's enough!”

To not follow our Constitution, should mean
we kick them out of office.
And reports say the vast majority of our elected
officials are not following it one bit.

Snapshot 213

Here are some lines to a meaningful song I wrote about how a relationship should end if it must end.

I wish you well, more than I can tell
More than you'll ever know. I wish you well.
I hope you find love, love like we used to know
Love that grows and grows. I wish you well.

We had so much, but gave it up.

It seemed like we had nothing to gain.

We loved so much, the two of us

But the love we had was not all in vain.

Thank you so much, for your gentle touch upon my life
For the feel of you so near. I wish you well.

I wish you well, more than I can tell
More than you'll ever know. I loved you so
And I wish you well.

If you want to hear me sing it:

<https://www.gospelpowerofgod.com/i-wish-you-well/>

Snapshot 214

I'm sure you're heard the same rumblings I have:
the government may enforce mask requirements,
and other demands again shortly.

President Ronald Reagan alluded to us having
FEAR of our government, not FAITH in our government!

Maybe I'm just skeptical but
I see these new rumblings by the
liberals in office to produce
FEAR in us, and make folks feel more
dependent on them — to give them
more support in the next election
due to their ratings dropping lower.

And of course this is why they want to give away more money,
to keep people at home and make them more dependent on them.

Some call it, 'The Re-educating of America.'

Tune me out if I just GRUMBLE and am not GRATEFUL enough to our
'leaders' who act like dictators.

The Constitution gives power in these matters to the STATES,
not the FEDERAL government.

But few politicians consult the Constitution anymore.

Snapshot 215

We believe that the sun comes up.

Why? Because we see it
with one of our 5 senses: our eyes.

But the fact is that we also see
everything else the sun shines on.

John Denver sings, “Sunshine on
my shoulders makes me happy.”

The same thing occurs in God’s truth.

The light of the gospel
is a light in itself.

It gives us the light of God on all his truth and reality:
we see it in faith when we trust God.

But it also shines on all around us
so that we live life better,
in God, in self, and for others,
if we are only willing to see God’s light.

Snapshot 216

We are all born into relationships
by means of family.

They must be important to us.

These are God-ordained.

We share the same DNA.

But there is another family we have.

Jesus had his mother and brothers come to see him
and he said to those around him:

“Who is my mother and my brothers?

It is those who live the word of God as I do!”

Flesh must run deep if we're rational.

But there is another level

of those who live life on the same

foundation and level that we live it.

Sometimes they are more moms and dad,
brothers and sisters, than our biological kin.

Snapshot 217

We largely live in a world that might be called 'UN-peace,' and 'UN-grace.'
We have so much conflict, competition, comparisons, disagreements and varying opinions it can be overwhelming.

But Jesus came to give us his special peace, and he related to others in total grace. He tells his followers to be 'Peacemakers.'

Apostle Paul says the gospel is: *The Gospel of Peace,* and *The Gospel of God's Grace.*
I even wrote a book about 1990 that is now out of print: 'Experiencing the Gospel of Peace.'

And Paul begins most of his letters saying:
"Grace and peace to you."

Do you think we might be missing something living life in the state that we most often do?
Might life be a little better living in more peace and grace, thus producing more love?

Snapshot 218

We are being brainwashed with
a new round of virus this summer
when virus is not even a summer disease.

Of course, 'fake news' must report
anything government says to report.
News must bow to government like we all must bow to it.

Government wants to rule and force us
to obey them and take the vaccine,
saying it will be a new savior of the world.
But many reports say it is as harmful as the virus.
We must make up our own minds on this.

Government can legislate anything
it wants to, and we must abide by it
— or face fine, prison — possibly death.

We are being brainwashed!
Soon we won't be able to do anything
unless we bow to them, and are vaccinated with
whatever they want to put into our bodies.
No, I don't believe it's the '666' like some religious thinkers do.
But it has been proven it is not all it's cranked up to be,
and in some cases causes more problems than it cures.

It is robbing us of Constitutional rights,
but politicians make money selling us on it.

Snapshot 219

**Did you read that Joe Biden is quoted saying,
“We are radically remaking America today”?**

**Is he really the U.S. President founded
in the U.S. Constitution?**

**This is what President Bill Clinton
said in 1987, that I shared in an earlier message:**

**Biden is copying Clinton who said:
‘We are redefining unchangeable ideals
that have guided us from the beginning.’**

**Anything is left-wing and liberal
that intentionally strays away from our Constitution.
Conservatives lean into our Constitution,
while liberals lean away from it as far as they can get.**

**But to slap America in the face
when you are the incumbent U.S. President?**

**Most liberals would do anything to throw
our Constitution in the trash.**

**Liberals want to liberate us from anything
that might constrict their need for personal power.**

Snapshot 220

I don't know who said it, but it
is cleverly and accurately stated:

*“The Road to Success
and The Road to Failure*

look almost exactly the same to us.”

It is also said:

“Faith, at the upstart of a doubtful
undertaking, is the best thing
to insure its success.”

When we live life in faith,
even if we are hit with failure,
we pick ourselves up and start over.

But if we live without faith,
if failure hits us between the eyes,
we often walk with a loser's limp.

Snapshot 221

Psychology tells us:

**“If you want to be loved
you must be loveable.”**

**“If you want to attract people to you,
or to what you are doing,
you must be attractive.”**

Jesus says,

“Give and it will be given unto you.”

We think of love as an emotion,
and there is emotion involved.

Our culture and movies tend to
make us think this way.

But love is a condition of the will.

Emotions change and die rapidly.

The will is more stable and enduring

Snapshot 222

I coined a maxim years ago:
“Attitude is more important than reality
because attitude can change reality.”

I quoted this earlier.

I admit, this is not always true
with physical things in our world,
and with things happening to us,
especially things we don't want to happen.

The 'reality of life' still exists.

But attitude is an amazing thing
because it changes US and how
WE relate to things that happen.

Attitude doesn't make evil good,
but it does make evil better
because of the way we think about it,
perceive it, and respond to it.

Snapshot 223

A study shows 6 major reasons why folks don't want to become Christian.

- (1)** There is sexual molestation and abuse by church leaders, even involving children.
- (2)** There is hypocrisy and judgment: people saying one thing and doing another, and also judging other folks and each other.
- (3)** Money talk is used as manipulation for people to give more, and to make them think money is a means to gain God's favor.
- (4)** The church's attitude toward non-conventional man-woman sex (LGBTIQ) is out of line with social mores today.
- (5)** The church uses guilt and fear of hell as a ploy to get people to convert to it.
- (6)** The Bible is not dependable, is outdated, and lacks historical accuracy.

Five of these are accurate, because it's a matter of human doing, thinking and perception.

But none of the five are a matter of Jesus and his truth.

They are just a matter of the sin of man.

Snapshot 224

“He ain’t heavy! He’s my brother!”

The Bible has two differing thoughts:

“Bear your own burdens,” and

“Bear the burdens of others.”

These can sound conflicting, but
if you think GOSPEL, it’s not conflicting.

Jesus helps us with all our burdens:

“I will give you rest.”

“Take my yoke upon you because it’s easy.”

His yoke is like our burden, except that
he carries 90% of the weight, not us
because it is his yoke and not ours.

His yoke is really his power.

With his yoke he helps us help others with their burdens.

“Without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

And in the family of God we’re all ‘brothers’ and ‘sisters.’

So we just do what family members do.

Snapshot 225

We're reservoirs of 'the fruit of the Spirit.'
It's not our fruit, but the fruit of the Holy Spirit of God
that is put into us on a daily basis as we need it (Gal 5:22-23).

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Gentleness

Goodness

Faith

Humility

Moderation

But Jesus also says: "Be rivers of living water.'

All we do is allow the Spirit's fruits in us
to flow into the lives of other people.

We just give away what we receive.

This is why Jesus says his way is easy.
As I've said, God initiates everything, not us.
All we do is receive and respond.

Snapshot 226

In the histories of Jesus called 'the gospels,'
you see a lot of the ministry of Jesus to the needy,
and to the humble, and those who are 'poor in spirit.'

He was always willing to help and
to ask, "What can I do for you?"

But in other places, with the proud, religious leaders
who were closed and not responsive, he said other things.

He called them hypocrites, blind guides,
whitewashed tombs, fools, serpents,
and a bunch of vipers.

Jesus wasn't even kind in his reaction to them.

The moral is be humble, responsive and grateful,
and not prideful, closed minded and arrogant.

We usually behave much the same way.

We easily approach and respond to people
who have a smile, shining eyes, open hearts, and who seem receptive.
But if someone doesn't seem to want anything to do with us
we most often don't force ourselves upon them.

Snapshot 227

Genesis 1 says things grow after their own kind.
Jesus' parable in Mark 4:26-29 shows it's all growth
is automatic and spontaneous. God is smart!
He knows if he plants apples seeds he won't raise pumpkins.

So he says to only believe and live his gospel.
His gospel is the seed 'The Parable of the Sower' speaks of.
When it is planted in us, it grows in us and reproduces itself.

We hear a lot of bad news and fake news now.
So that's what we think about and what comes out of our mouths.
Don't listen to it so much. Your life will be better.
I wonder how much is intentional brainwashing that we are getting.

Let God plant his gospel truth into you.
It's God's power and it establishes us (Rom 1:16, 16:25).
Jesus says, "No good root produces bad fruit" (Mat 7:17-18).
God's gospel grows good things from us (Col 1:5-6).
And God continues to nurture it for us (Phil 1:6).

The Sower Parable speaks of 30, 60, or 100-fold growth.
That's a great ROI (rate of return) in anybody's book.

Snapshot 228

Gandhi said, “Learn as if you will live forever,
but live as though you will die tomorrow.”

We can't solve our problems today with learning.
Things change so fast. We can't keep up with them all.
It is said we have more changes today, in one year,
than our grandfather did in his whole life.

This means we have a lot to learn.

Paul said many centuries ago: “If anyone thinks
he knows anything, he doesn't yet know as he should.”

Our thoughts and beliefs should change our world.
But instead we often let our world
change our thoughts and beliefs.

We often live what might be called ‘basackwards lives.’

It takes courage to live as we think.
Often, the most difficult risk we take
is to be honest with ourselves.

We hear so much contradiction to what we think.
We need to learn to trust ourselves especially if we are
obedient to Jesus and are filled with his gospel truth.

Snapshot 229

God gives us all of the pieces of the puzzle
that we need to experience
for spirit and soul and body wellness.

The gospel calls this living 'the abundant life of Christ.'
This includes the prosperity and better health (3 John 2).

But God has left it to us to figure it all out
by means of his truth.

Paul calls it 'a mystery,' but it's not a mystery
that can't be discovered. It's one that
God wants us all to discover.

Proverbs says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

In the gospel we are all called 'kings.'

And the way God says we discover it
is to live in his truth (3 John 3).

Jesus says his ways are easy.

But if we choose to live in other ways than
the ways of Jesus, then life becomes
a lot more burdensome, hard, uncertain and stressful.

Living in truth brings us joy (3 John 4).

Snapshot 230

Part 1 of 2.

Jesus says,
“Blessed is he whoever shall
not be offended at me.”

God doesn't answer all our prayers as we would like.

In human logic and reasoning
there is always some latitude to be offended
by God because we often feel he could do more.

As someone has said,
“I hear that God is good, but sometimes
I wonder what he is good for.”

That is part of being offended by Jesus or his Father.

Perhaps some of us need to join
“God Judgers' Anonymous.”

According to our human perspective and attitudes,
God fails all of us to some degree.

To be truly blessed, don't be offended at him.
God is sovereign, and we won't understand everything
. . . until heaven.

Snapshot 231

Part 2 of 2.

**We will all go to our graves not understanding
the ways and means of God.**

**And he doesn't explain them all to us
this side of the grave.**

**The country song says, "Somewhere down the road
there will be answers to the questions."**

Those answers aren't always for now.

Jesus let John the Baptist be beheaded for his faith.

**God let Jesus be crucified, even as he asked,
"Father, why have you forsaken me?"**

We all have unanswered questions.

**We all have trials, problems, sickness, tragedy, etc.
that we wish God would take away.**

But he doesn't, and he doesn't tell us why even.

**This is why we're called to have trust and faith in God.
It's not trust and faith in what God should or could do for us.**

"Blessed is he whoever shall not be offended at me."

Snapshot 232

Our self-saturated, ego-inflated ways,
and near blindness to many spiritual truths, makes it hard
for us to understand and experience God at times.

Much of God's ways, means and thoughts
that Isaiah says are much higher than ours.

They go right over our heads.

What the Bible shows us in the lives of many people
is how God works in us during our lives on earth.

He works in the reality of our lives
that is personally the life experience we each have.

This even includes God working with our sin
and failures and shortcomings and doubts and fears.

His goal is always to establish and accomplish
his purposes and plans for our greater good,
even in bad, sickly, unwanted and even distressing, tragic,
and sorrowful times: times we all begrudgingly share.

Most often God does this unnoticed and behind
the scenes, except in the knowledge of our hearts
that are linked to his heart.

Snapshot 233

The Holy Spirit (part 1 of 3)

It is often said the Holy Spirit's main job and ministry is to convict us Christians of our sin (John 16:8-11).

This doesn't even say this. See it for what it says!

+

Working backwards Jesus says Satan is judged (vs. 11).

Then he says the Holy Spirit convicts us believers of our **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, not of our sin (vs. 10).

We are all sinners, and I don't know about you, but I need to be convicted of my righteousness, especially when I sin, because I don't feel righteous.

I feel more like an enemy of God due to bad things I do or think or say (Col 1:21).

It is unbelievers who are convicted of sin (vs. 9).

This is because they don't believe in Jesus, which is the only sin to keep them out of heaven.

Can it be that 'blaspheming the Holy Spirit' is accusing him of doing something he doesn't do, unless he sometimes absolutely has to?

Snapshot 234

The Holy Spirit (part 2 of 3)

Romans says The Holy Spirit reveals God's love, righteousness, peace and joy, we have no guilt or condemnation if we are in Jesus.

He shows us we are sons of God.

II & II Corinthians says he teaches us spiritual things, discerning them from worldly, carnal things.

He shows us we are the temple of God on earth.

He shows us all of God's blessings, favor and promises.

Galatians, Ephesians and Colossians has us crying 'Abba Father' — calling God our 'Daddy.' He works all of the good fruits of God into us, causing us to minister grace and love to other people.

He strengthens us in our 'inner man,' where we need it, and seals us safe until the day we get to heaven.

Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus say that as the 'Sanctifier,' he sanctifies us totally. His gospel is what endues us with power and establishes us. He regenerates us and renews us of the good news of our new covenant with God and being part of God's family even here on earth.

I don't have space to tell you what Hebrews, Peter, John and Jude say in addition.

Snapshot 235

The Holy Spirit (part 3 of 3)

Yes! I know about I John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We’re told we should do this daily so we are faithful and just with God. If we don’t do it daily, or at least often, he may judge us to hell and gone.

But this is not what this verse is saying!

First, it’s the only verse that we are told says that we believers should confess our sins. It is repeated NO-where else in the New Testament.

This is not talking about our faithfulness to confess our sin to God daily or even often.

“Jesus became sin for us, and he gave us his righteousness as a gift” (II Cor 5:21).

This is talking about God’s faithfulness to us in forgiving, even forgetting our sin (Heb 8:12, 10:17). WHY? Because we were unbelievers, but now we’re believers in Jesus and we have been forgiven all our sin (Eph 1:7, 4:32, Col 1:14, 2:13, 3:13, I Jn2:12). The Spirit doesn’t often convict us of sin (John 16:8-11), as we saw in the last two times, in parts 1 and 2.

Snapshot 236

God's Zoe Life

This is the life we are called to live as human beings: allowing the life of God to be joined to us, influence us and even direct us, if we are willing. It is us living with God and for God and even in God.

Human Bios Life

But if we only live a bios life of physical existence without God, even our bodies speak of God. If you just do a casual study of the body, you see it has so many miraculous and unbelievable parts that defy description. It would take a genius to create them.

Then the HEAVENS have countless stars, many of which make earth look tiny. Then comes the EARTH and as far as we know, it is the most glorious creation in all of the heavens, with all its diversity, unexplained creativity and splendor — the only one discovered so far to sustain life and to be inhabited by human beings. Then there is the amazing story of the crucifixion and resurrection of God becoming man we know as JESUS.

Yet, so many say all of this just happened by chance.

This takes a lot more faith than believing in God.

They choose to defy the opening words of the Bible:

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,
and he made man in his image.”*

The Bible has one thing to say about this thinking:

“He is a fool who says there is no God.”

Here are a few of my books on my flip-page book shelf.

Most are short reads, not like normal full-size books.

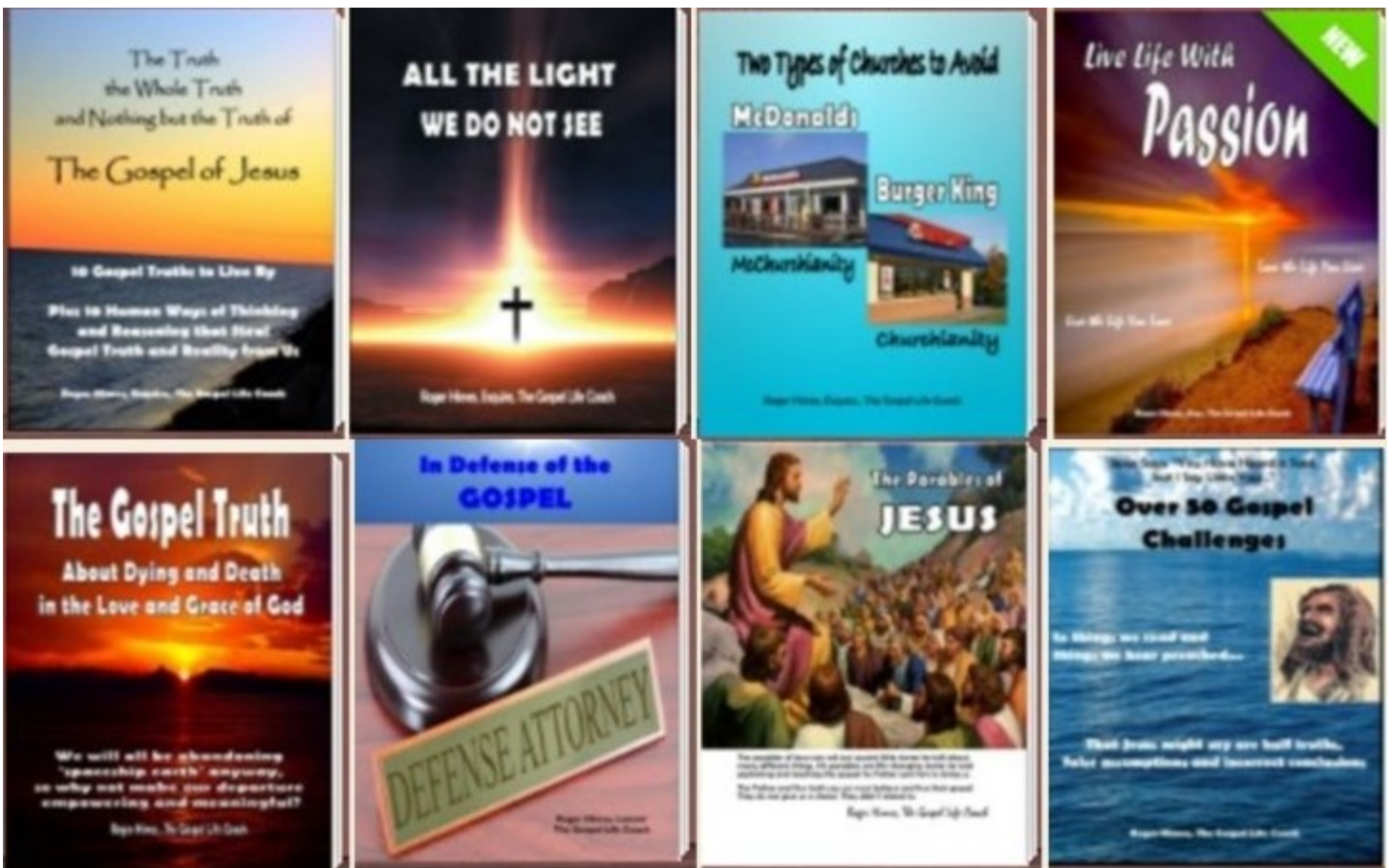
All are free.

Jesus and Paul didn't charge for the gospel
and I don't either.

Besides, the Lord blesses me financially in other ways.

Here's my website link to them:

Rogers-Inspiration-Books.com



**Two newer books on my webpage
Both are also free as are all my other books**

One new book I'm exposing is this one that is a fictional story about an angel coming to earth

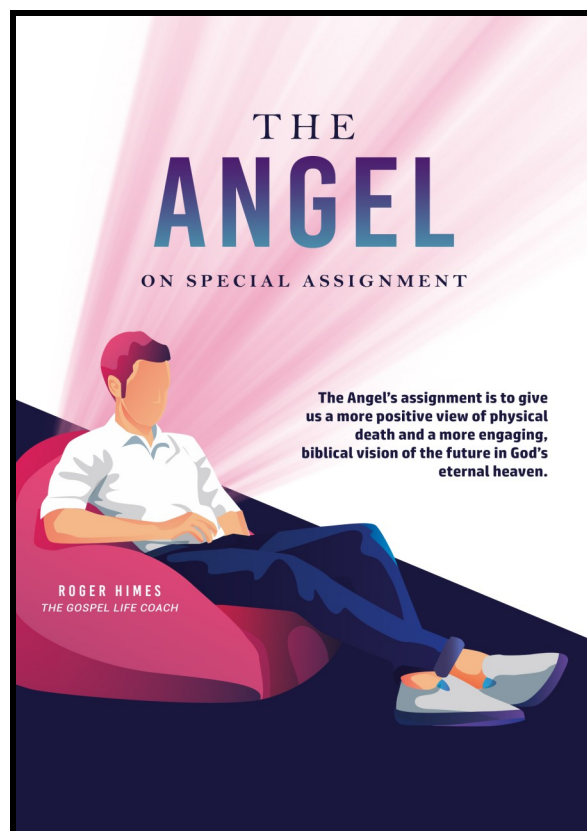
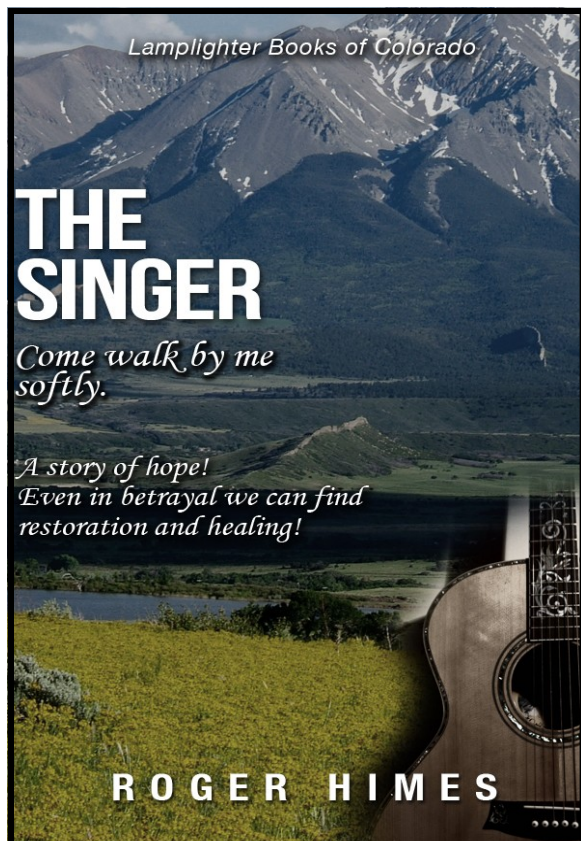
THE ANGEL

On Special Assignment

But it's really a non-fictional book of the angel giving us a better Biblical view and perspective of what heaven will be like.

It is also on a flip-page book on my webpage:

Rogers-Inspiration-Books.com



I've also written one Family-fiction-romance book
THE SINGER

Come Walk By Me Softly

It's very unique in one way. It comes complete with a 12-song music soundtrack I composed that follows the story-line of the book.

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