

January 2021 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

“Swimming in Information...Lacking in Knowledge”

You are going to need some very important things to get you through the New Year, 2021. Where will these things come from?

What we all need is truth, truth that comes only from God, truth that will set you free. And truth seems to be in short supply.

Many of us are looking in all the wrong places. We spend countless hours in front of the TV watching and listening and we end up swimming in enormous amounts of information but as hard as the TV hosts are trying to present the facts, many are on a mission to offer their point of view supporting their positions and often, it's far from the truth. If what they offer fails to line up with God's word, truth, it's worthless information.

Truth! What is the truth? Where do we find it? How can it help us? Who can we trust? It all seems like what the author of Ecclesiastes wrote. Meaningless, Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! He found himself, after a lifetime of tasting every part of life, life's pleasures, things that appealed to his desires, he had his belly full of a life that offered pleasurable experiences, satisfied his flesh, swimming in what he knew was not good, was sinful, deadly. He found it all meaningless and wrong. Truth, God's truth was not in it.

The Bible warns us over and over of the risk of swimming in bad information, accepting what the Bible calls sin that will bring death...as opposed to embracing knowledge, God's truth and being fully satisfied. But we, as believers in Christ, what do we embrace? What do we stand for?

One day, you and I will be held accountable for all of our choices...good ones and bad ones. We will not be able to claim, “Everyone else was doing it.” You and I, will be

standing alone before God responsible for our choices. It's time for you to decide, what are you living by and for? Is it all meaningless? Have we gradually taken on a "It's none of my business or I can't do anything about it attitude?" The Bible says there are consequences to our behavior. Sin comes with a price.

We wonder why our children are not in church while we support their Sunday activities. And we have our own, don't we? We wonder why so many marriages are not working out as planned. We wonder why our bank accounts are running so low but there are still bills to pay. We wonder why there is so much hatred and violence in the world. We wonder why Covid is upon us. We wonder why politics is so corrupt. We wonder why? You can add to this short list.

Yet we elect leaders who are OK with taking the lives of millions of unborn children. Nineteen were taken from their mother's wombs in Greensboro on Monday. Then these mom's, dad's, parents, drivers have to live much of their lives with the unbearable guilt that follows. My heart breaks for them all. What is happening to God's plan/rules for marriage and family and joy and peace and hope and promise. We are swimming in information...the wrong information and we lack knowledge or perhaps said better, we have pushed knowledge and God's truth to the side for our own will to be done. It's not complicated to understand. We believe we know better than God.

Here's the truth. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. (anything that takes the place of God or His truth) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Remember thy father and thy mother that the day may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

Why are we experiencing all the things we are experiencing today? Because we are living life by our own standards, principles, and desires. The Bible calls this selfishness, greed, envy, and pride. It got the devil thrown out of Heaven and sentenced to Hell. Here's God's warning for you...and me today. Jesus is coming again soon. Might be today or

tomorrow or next year but He is coming. There will be judgement upon the land. Does your life reflect His truth?

We all make bad choices. We all sin and fall short of God's glory, and His truth is this...His grace is sufficient. The Bible says we are to repent of our sins. Repent means to turn away, make a change to truth. Stop and restart our life on a new path. Truth? Only obedience to His truth will set you free to experience His promises. Following His truth is where peace and joy and the abundant life comes.

They call the Bible, the Gospel "The Good News". If your heart is burning with regret and tears from past mistakes, here's the Good News, the truth from God's word. "Come to me all who carry a load of guilt and sorrow and I will give you rest. Jesus died for your sins and mine. He will forgive us of everything in our past, present and future If WE BELIEVE in Him. Lay all your heavy burdens at the foot of the cross today and rid yourself of a heavy heart because of His love for you. He loves you. Always has, always will...but He despises disobedience/sin. He requires obedience and He desires a close, loving relationship with you. Will you love Him with your life?

With the deepest love for you,

Pastor Steve