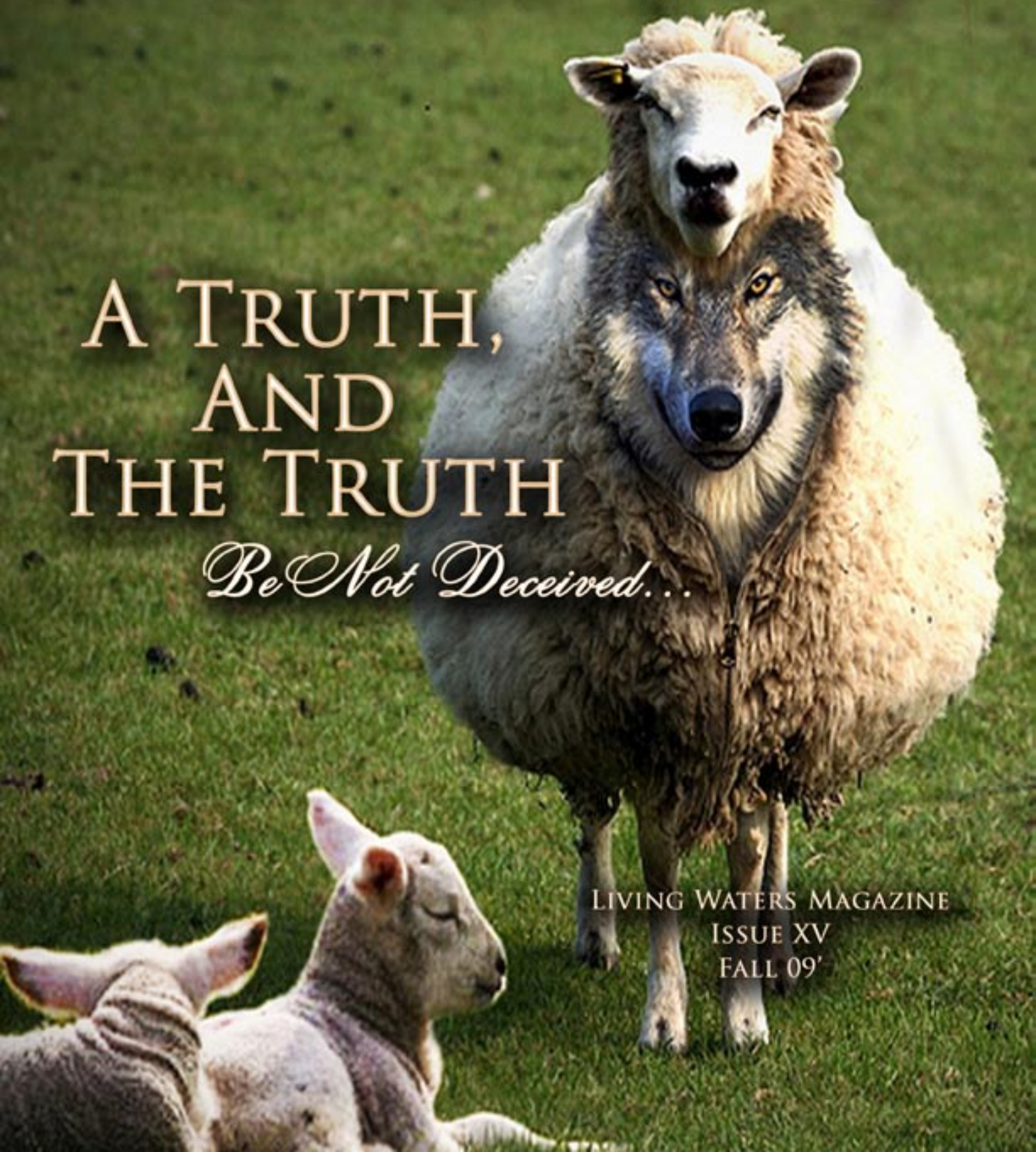


Rivers Of Living Water

A TRUTH,
AND
THE TRUTH

Be Not Deceived...

LIVING WATERS MAGAZINE
ISSUE XV
FALL 09'





A Strong Delusion

BY PASTOR DAREN DOWNS

A STRONG "DELUSION"

There is nothing worse than being deceived – convinced that you know the truth, but in fact you do not; you have believed a lie. I find that unbelievers and those from other religions can be deceived, but tend more often to be ignorant – they have never heard; but those that have a form of godliness, a form of Christianity without its life-changing power are those that tend to be the deceived ones.

The world doesn't judge us on rather or not someone gets healed in the church, but they rather look at us to see if we are hypocrites. Do we practice what we preach? Do we live what we claim to believe? Has our gospel changed us for the good? The growing divide between the teachings of the Word of God and the actual life of the Christian is a greater threat to the church than anything else out there.

When we speak of something that is "deluded" we are saying that it has a mixture in it. Who sends this delusion? God. Why does He send it? They received not the love of the truth.

Who will be deceived? Those that loved not the truth. It is not enough that we believe the truth; we must love the truth. What is truth? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Man thinks that knowledge is possession and says: "Believe the doctrines, and you are safe." The testimony borne by the Gospel is: Believe, love, obey and live: none of these can subsist without the other. The faith of a devil may exist without loving obedience; but the faith of a true believer worketh by love; and this faith and love have not respect to some one commandment, but to all; for God writes his whole law on the heart of every genuine Christian, and gives him that love which is the fulfilling of the law.

The Amplified reads that of the delusion that God sends: "Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false, In order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on] the Truth, but [instead] took pleasure in unrighteousness." 2Thes. 2:11-12

We are not forced to believe God. We have evidence that the Word of God works, but ultimately you and I are saved by grace through faith.

This coming strong delusion will have the power to make men believe a lie. The spirit of antichrist is already working in the world today, and is out to deceive. Christian evangelization is to be offered to anyone who will hear it. It is forced upon no one. But the evangelization of hell is forced upon man and the only option is the satanic lie or physical death – as seen in Islam and in the not to distant past Roman Catholicism.

We are coming to a day where they will teach our children anything they want in school and imprison you or take your children away from you if you resist it. The homosexual doctrine is coming to be required learning, while the message of Christ has been outlawed. Just as Islam offers you the Koran or the sword, so also the liberal progressives are on the move. This morning the Islamic call to prayer rings out daily over Dearborn, Michigan. It also rings out in parts of Detroit and another town. The America our forefathers founded is gone! The communism and socialism that we fought for seventy-five years is becoming the law of our own land. And the greatest surprise of it all is just how quickly it is being implemented. There was no nuclear war. There was no Soviet invasion. It

was said many years ago: "Inject society with liberalism and wait for the body to become a corpse."

It began in the church. There is hardly a single seminary you can go to that won't attempt to corrupt you; casting doubt on everything taught in the Word of God. The American way of life was changed by nineteen men with box cutters.

Church, I have worked in Cuba, I have lived in the former Soviet Union, I know what communism and socialism are – I see where we are headed as a nation; and I know that our only hope is the Lord Jesus Christ. I've seen the promise of Communism make everyone poor and deny men the freedom to worship God. I have seen the banners of socialism in Europe and Cuba and seen all the consequences and suffering that go with it. We the church, must turn to God with all of our heart, soul and mind, and we must do it today.

RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH

The truth cannot contain anything false. Something with ninety-nine percent truth and only one percent falsity can make the whole thing untrue. Truth requires one hundred percent. On the other side it only takes one percent error to be false.

What is it to "love" the truth? First of all it is an openness to the truth. I may not know everything, but I can live in an attitude of heart and an openness to God where He can lead me by His Spirit into all truth. The Christian life is a life of following Jesus. It is an onward progression. Sanctification is a continual working process in our lives. To refuse to move onward with God, to halt at the sanctifying work of the Spirit of God will ultimately lead us down the path of deception. Sitting in church year after year will not save you – life in Christ is what

what saves us. To sit and never do anything in the Kingdom of God is not a life of faith, nor is it "fighting the good fight of faith."

We are faced with a two-front battle in the church. There is a wearing down of those that pour their lives out unto God; and on the other side there is a spell hovering over the inactive and lethargic causing them to believe that everything is all right, when it's not all right. Who would have ever thought that in the midst of all of the clear signs of the end that people that call themselves Christian could be so lackadaisical about their attendance, and stingy in their giving.

The first and greatest commandment to us is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind. Those that don't are open to the strong delusion. That deception may be a complete delusion of the Gospel or it may be the convincing of the mind that my lethargic ways and carnal lifestyle are the Christianity described in the Bible. What if I have to stand before Him today? Am I ready to present this life before Him?

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. Jn. 16:13

The world was created and the first thing that entered man's ears was truth from the lips of God. But then Satan came to man with the lie – "Hath God said?" Today it is just the opposite; man is born into a world filled with lies. The television is filled with lies, the education system is filled with lies, the political system is a lie. We are surrounded by lies.

You are hard pressed today to find the truth even in the church. You can find many forms of godliness, but where can you find the power of God? Where can you find the life-changing power that will transform and conform your life? The Lord knows of this and gave us His provision to be filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. There has never been a day like today, to seek to be filled with the Holy Ghost, and to have our every footstep and every decision led by Him.

WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. Jas. 4:17

There is nothing that leads down the path of deception like disobeying what we know to be true; not living what we know. No amount of study can cover my sin. No amount of good works can wash them away. I must repent and forsake.

The greatest challenge to our lives is not what we don't know, but rather the willful things we do against that we do know. The temptation comes and we sit there with that swirling feeling in our stomach, hands trembling and heart pounding – your spirit cries out, "Don't do it!" but the flesh is weak. The contemplation begins: "This will be the last time," but that is what we said the last time. When we love our sin more than we love God we begin to make an excuse for it, and even attempt to create doctrines to support it.

I remember when the Christian music industry coined the idea of separation between your natural and spiritual life. There has never been a greater lie. You had better hope that the Lord doesn't come while you're living on the natural side. You cannot divide your life like that. Everything I do relates to the spiritual. Everything I do, and how I do it, reveals my spirituality. What I do on my job is not spiritual, but how I do my job is. Once our spiritual life begins to wane, so also will our natural life. The mixture of the two lines: flesh and spirit, brought the flood in Noah's day and such people will hold out their hands willingly for the mark of the beast. There is no time left to toy with sin.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Heb. 12:1

This willful disobedience leads to spiritual drunkenness.

DRUNK ON THE CARES OF THIS LIFE

On the day when Noah entered into the ark there were many that woke up thinking, "It's just another day." Noah's been building that ark a long time. He has preached to us the same message year after year, and nothing has happened.

In the land of Sodom, the sinful heathen thought throughout the day of the debauchery that they would involve themselves in that coming evening. They had

made their plans for tomorrow while they were doing the business of today. Little did they know that the sun was setting for the last time on the city of Sodom.

The day that the Lord returns will seem like any other day for many. They will make their plans for the coming evening and for tomorrow, not knowing that today is the last day of the world, as we know it.

There is currently a restraint on evil so that it cannot move as it would. There is coming a day of the beast where evil will move almost totally unhindered. The first part of the seven-year tribulation is the earth being turned over to man, the second part is God's wrath poured out. When man gets the reigns of the earth the result will be the four horseman of the Apocalypse: Death, War, Famine, and Disease.

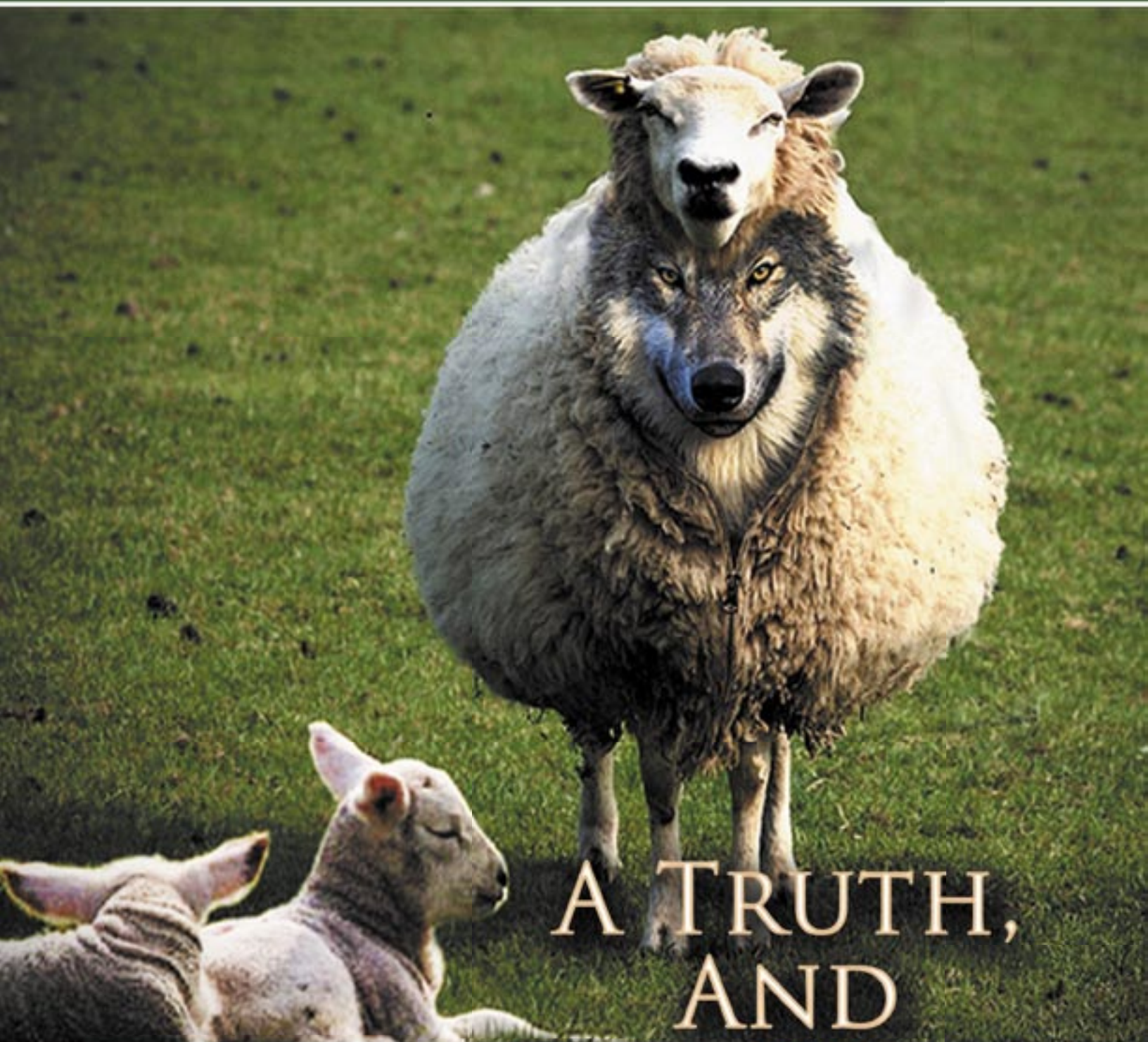
We witness today men being deceived by the words flowing from the mouths of those under the influence of the spirit of antichrist. What will become of the people of the world when the satanically empowered miracles begin to happen?

What would ever make Satan believe that he could overthrow God? Who could have deceived him into thinking this? Just the other day he was leading us in worship unto God, but today he hates God and everything about Him. It's a pattern – our pride rises up – we begin to see ourselves as more than we truly are – and then we begin to lose respect for others, and finally attempt what we once never would have dreamed.

The signs are so clear of the impending end that even the weakest among us should see them. But it seems the closer that we get to the end, the more complacent people are becoming. We are hearing more talk from unbelievers than from Christians of a change in the spiritual atmosphere. There is more of an urgency of the end amongst sinners than amongst the so-called believers. Why? We have come to the time when our commitments to God last no longer than the time it takes us to make them. The moment the words flow out of our mouths that we are committed to the Lord, we instantly break those commitments.

The cup is full! I believe we have past the point of no return.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Lk. 21:36



A TRUTH,
AND
THE TRUTH
Be Not Deceived...

A TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." There is no match to all power, and all authority. Jesus said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Mark 16:15-20 – Is the same context, same authority, and same principle.

Preach the Word. Preaching the Gospel is preaching the Word of God in context. Not a truth, but the truth.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

All power is given unto Christ. All the power we possess is based on the amount that Christ is Lord of our life. Satan is only subject to Christ in us, not us. The only difference in a police officer, a fireman, and a civilian is their uniform. What they wear is their authority.

Preach the Gospel – What is the Gospel? Is it about me, myself, and I or is it all about what God owes me, or what I can have materially from God? Is it about chasing your purpose, and your dreams? Or is it about chasing God's purpose, God's will and desires? Is our faith trying to use God? Or is our faith in a God that uses us?

DECEPTION

Mark 16:17 says, "And these signs shall follow them that believe..." Believe what? We can make people believe just about anything if we twist it or make it appealing enough they will believe it, but is it the Gospel? The greatest danger we all face in the Last Days is deception.

Mat. 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matt. 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Being deceived is one thing, but it is far worse to be a deceiver. You can receive in thirty minutes, total deception on so-called "Christian Television" and via the Internet, when one-hundred years ago it would have taken months to be deceived. Right now, you can turn on your cable television and you can watch every deceiving spirit as it gives you such a mixture, that you have no idea what to believe. On Christian Television, in one weeks time, I heard three interpretations of the Ezekiel war (Ezekiel 38

39). One preacher said, "It's the Tribulation", another said, "We'll be three and a half years into the war before the church is raptured," the last said, "The church will be raptured before the war." Mormons, Catholics, Seventh Day Adventist and Muslims all have their own channel. If we are not rooted and grounded in the truth of God's Word, we will be easily swayed with every wind of doctrine.

A survey was taken for five years. Many were asked, Are you a Christian? Those that replied, "Yes" could not explain what it meant to be a Christian. Their only answer was I'm a Christian because I repeated a prayer of repentance, however, it was nothing further or deeper. That may be a truth, but it's not the truth.

FALSE TEACHERS

Mat. 16:1-12 – The yeast or the leaven here is not only the teaching of the Pharisee's, but it is the evil that is sown into the heart of the hearer.

1Cor. 5:6-7 – Paul's telling the Corinthian Church to get the sin out of the church because it's like leaven that will leaven the whole lump.

Gal. 5:7-9 – Paul is rebuking the Galatians for allowing themselves to not obey the truth. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Disobedience is leaven in our life that will eventually destroy us.

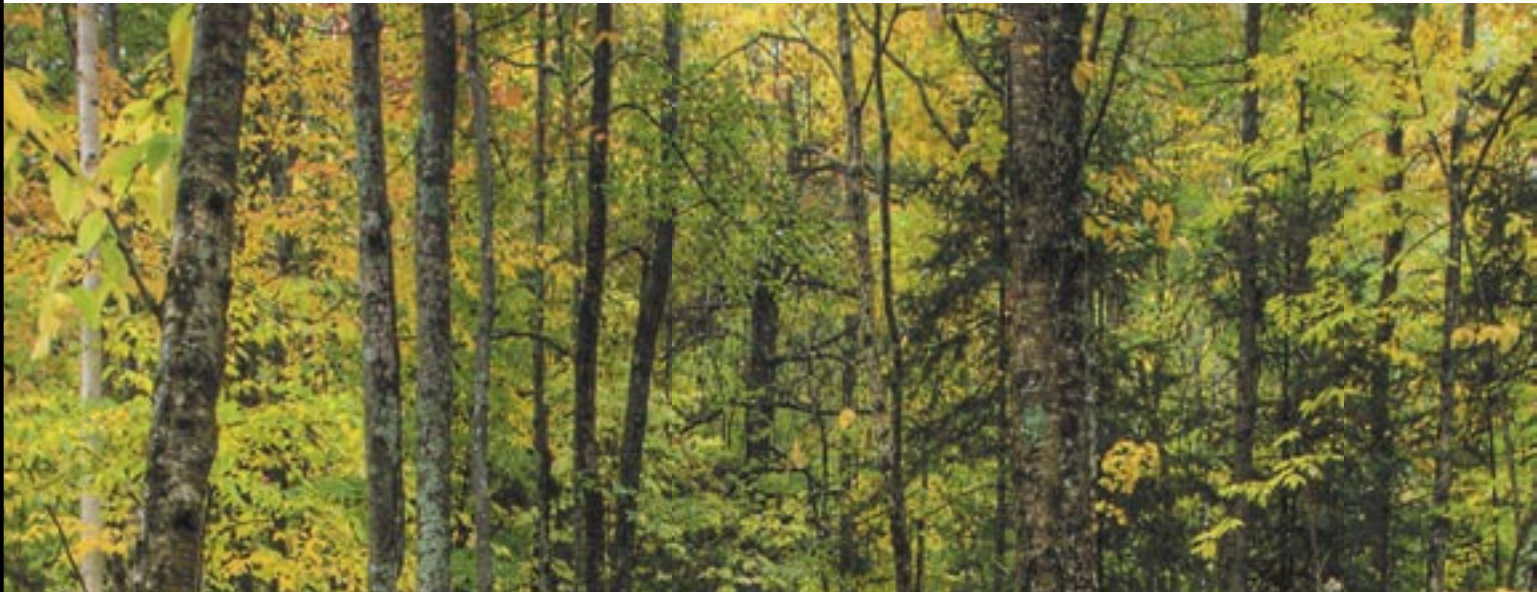
1Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

1Tim. 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

1Tim. 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

1Tim. 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

1Tim. 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.



Now the Spirit speaketh expressly meaning that the Holy Spirit will reveal to us clearly. Satan has been very successful to eliminate the need to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and if that doesn't work, he will offer an imitation or a counterfeit Holy Spirit. Jesus had already warned them and us repeatedly to guard against false teachers, and more so in the Latter Days. If you don't believe this is the Latter Days surely you can believe we are much more latter than two-thousand years ago when the warnings were given. The Last Days began with Christ's resurrection. Jesus and the apostles forewarned us that in the Last Days false teachings will abound, loving money and attention, distorting the truth, dividing believers, causing many to go astray as they follow lying spirits, and teachings that come from demons. These false teachers in the church will turn away from the faith even though they will appear to still be faithful believers. They have a truth, but not the truth. They pretend to be religious but their consciences are dead.

The Word of God has no patience for false teaching and no soft words for false teachers. Paul never said that the false teacher's misunderstood the Gospel or that they simply taught in error and that we can agree to disagree and have tolerance. Rather he said they were hypocrites and liars, with their teaching coming from Satan himself. Many times we are so worried about hurting someone's feelings and we say nothing, which means we agree and we leave them in error.

Satan deceives people by offering a clever imitation of the real thing. Forbidding to marry and demanding abstinence from certain foods. Years ago there was a teaching that came out that we know as Gnosticism. A belief that the spirit is good but the physical world is evil, which they taught that anything done for the body's pleasure or to fulfill its needs such as sex or eating was considered to be evil. To be "good" and to achieve a higher spiritual state, a person must deny all evil, including natural physical desires. Their teaching made the false teachers appear self-disciplined and righteous. It had a taste of legalism in it. Some of this teaching was in our Pentecostal forefathers and some still practice it. This is how cults get started. But all their strict disciplines for the body could not remove sin. Error can be taught under the guise of devotion. (Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.) The physical world that God created should be received with thanksgiving by those who know and believe the truth. All foods are acceptable by those who regard God as their provider and are thankful to Him. God said His creation was good, therefore we are in agreement with God's declaration when we see all creation as suitable for special use. Of course it's done by prayer and thankfulness, which will bring a balance to our lives.

A TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH

Mat. 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.



Let me close with this! There is a truth in no doubt every false religion of our day, It takes a truth to lead people astray, then the leaven is put in the loaf and Satan knows all he has to do is sit back and wait for the leaven to permeate the whole loaf. A truth is not the truth and this is where the masses in this final hour will be deceived and miss the rapture. A truth may be that once upon a time you got saved, but the truth is, is Jesus Lord of your life? Or is He just Savior?

Mat. 25 – Jesus said to the foolish virgins, I don't know you but He said to the other so-called Christians, I never knew you.

The foolish at one time were saved and had their vessel full of oil, but missed the rapture wedding.

The religious were just religious; they knew all the Christian terms, but Jesus was never their Lord. They missed the rapture. If Jesus is not your Lord, then you only have a truth, for Jesus to be Lord is to spend our lives being conformed to His image.

*God Bless You,
Pastor Duke Downs*



AN UPDATE FROM *Olot, Spain*

THIS UPDATE IS FROM JOHN CASTRILLO, WHO IS A MISSIONARY THAT WE SUPPORT ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

God greatly bless you,

Since the last time I have written to you, God has been moving in a very special way. We have had three consecutive Sundays that God has brought Salvation. Eight people have come to the Lord in the last two Sundays and three weeks ago five people surrendered at the feet of our Savior. We are happy and excited, but not satisfied, for we know that it's God's desire that this nation would know Him. On our part, we want to be His vessel through which His Kingdom can be extended to this country. Each Sunday we are seeing about ten new people at the church and some of them have been touched by God, and in brokenness of heart have given their life to Christ. We are determined to see the life of God in the church. In the past few weeks we have begun a time of fasting and prayer, where we open the church each day in the morning and night for prayer, the answer has been surprising; God has restored homes and saved people like we have never seen in this country. For the other part, the result of this prayer and seeking has been to lift up a chain of prayer. Each day from three in the morning we are praying for a revival in Spain. Now we have begun to see what a man of God once said in the past, "Prayer brings change, but principally prayer changes the one that prays."

As we fast and pray this week, we want to see the glory of God. We are touching the gates of Heaven like David Brainerd; we are hearing the voice of the prophet Isaiah in a cry each time more clearly Is. 55:6 - "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Yesterday at the end of the message in one of the churches



where God gave me a word from Ezekiel 37:1-12, the worship leader came to me crying wanting to repent of his lack of prayer. Brethren, my heart is broken. God has begun to send us drops of His rain. In the past services God has responded to a particular prayer, I said to him that I am tired of seeing people in the church living in sin and not answering to God in a decision to live as He has called us to. I am tired of only preaching and seeing people stirred emotionally and never changing. The tears don't cease in every message. I'm not saying that tears produce the change, but never have I seen a heart broken



in someone whose eyes continued to be dry.

We are praying that this won't be a passing fire, nor an attack of emotion, but the beginning of an awakening that can speak the truth that this nation needs more than ever. I don't want a church full of cold hearts, nor leaders qualified in intellect but with little spirit, or with a smoking call without ignition to light those who are serving. I don't want to bring a good sermon filled with eloquence but without His presence. Beloved, His coming is at the door. He is coming for the same church that was born in the upper room. I am asking you to continue to pray for an awakening in Spain, that this country would know that the Lord is God.

Another miracle that is taking place is healing. A few Sundays ago a sister was very sick with an infection in her kidneys. She had been taking antibiotics for a couple of weeks, and was not getting better. She asked me to pray for her and instantly God healed her. The following day she went to the hospital to have some tests done to see if she had really been healed. The nurse didn't want to pay attention to her, but finally they made the analysis. The sister told me that the nurse, very bothered said, "How did this happen? You have nothing!" That moment the sister responded, "God healed me yesterday!" God is wonderful! All the glory be only to His name.

You have no idea of our gratitude that we have in our heart, for giving us the honor to serve God with you. Thank you for your spiritual support through prayer, and also the financial support and faithful offerings that you have sent. We know that God will give you real value to every penny you send us, that we may continue doing His work here.

God bless you for giving us the opportunity to be part of your lives and ministry.

The Castrillo Family



AN UPDATE FROM *Chiapas, Mexico*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It had been ten years since I had gone on a long term mission's trip. I have been on several one day mission's trips with the youth group to Mexico and a few trips to help build the Tijuana church and facilities, but my wife and I felt for many years that our responsibility was at home with the young people. When Brother Dean Helzer came in the beginning of the year to discuss his desire for a youth conference in Chiapas, Mexico, I knew instantly that God wanted me to go. Having returned just a few days ago, I realize why, but the majority had more to do with me than with youth. I believed that I was going to minister to the youth, but found that God had more to say to me about life, youth, ministry, my family, and my own personal relationship with Him. Psalms 103:5 says, "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Although I am only thirty-eight years old, which our youth continually remind me is as old as a dinosaur, God met me in the hotel room in Siltepec, Chiapas and renewed my youth like the eagle's. It is difficult to put spiritual things into natural words, but he encouraged me and He strengthened me and I can testify that there is no God like our God.



As a youth pastor, my heart is to see God move in young people. I have read story after story of how God chose to use young people to accomplish a purpose. God used Samuel when the lamp of God had gone out, God called Josiah to bring a nation to repentance, and Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." That is not to say that God will not use adults, but there is an energy, purpose, and strength that comes with being young. We spent three days with forty to fifty young people, from the surrounding churches in Siltepec, Chiapas and after nearly every message the altars were filled with prayer and tears. It was a blessing to see the youth weeping before God, praying in the Holy Ghost, and seeking to know God more intimately. I am encouraged that God is still using young people that will commit to His will. I look forward to what God will do in the young people of America.

God Bless You,
Mike Smith
Living Waters Youth Pastor



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