

124 - Truth in every lie

This may not be so much a study tonight, as I pray that it will be a baptism.

I pray that you who are listening will always be as curious as little children when it comes to the word of God. I pray that you will always endeavor to “correctly [cut] the word of the truth” as Paul instructed Timothy. I thank God that many of you have poured over the scriptures throughout all 123 studies since LUTS began. I pray that your lives, as well as your minds, have been enriched, and that your faith has been deepened and strengthened. I thank God that we escaped “**the systematizing of the deception**” that Paul wrote about in Ephesians 4. Most importantly, I pray that we will hold God’s word sacred – not man’s interpretation of it -- because God does.

Psalm 138:2 – You magnify Your name, Your promise (Your declaration, Your Saying) above all else.

I responded to a FB post by one of our family this past week:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph 6:12, NIV)

I wrote back: Actually, it's "blood and flesh," and the word order matters. See Light Up The Scriptures, #44 from 10/29/2011: www.LightUpTheScriptures.com

Two people responded: one linked “flesh and blood” from Bible Gateway, and another said he’d looked it up in 6 versions and found “flesh and blood.”

I wrote back: Read the Greek: www.Concordant.org. Most English versions have mistranslated the original in many instances, changing word order, leaving out whole sections, adding others, changing words to suit doctrine -- it's a 2,000 year-old challenge. Fortunately, for the truly curious, there are alternatives that enlighten.

No further discussion followed. I guess everyone seemed satisfied with their current understanding, and could see no reason to pursue a higher understanding. To me, that’s how we discover who is truly curious, truly searching for God, seeking His face, as Paul said:

Philippians 3:10-11

10 to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, conforming to His death,

11 if somehow I should be attaining to the resurrection that is out from among the dead.

“Flesh and blood,” “**blood and flesh**”...what’s the difference, and who cares anyway?

Barbara sometimes calls me a theologian. I hate the term, literally, because of its association with Christian tradition and, therefore, with its errors that have led to 2,000 years of confusion, contentions, misunderstanding and misapplication. I only pray that it has not led to disqualification!

What I am is a ravenous student of the scriptures. I don’t care about someone’s opinion about God’s word, I want to know HIS word. I’m no Greek scholar, and even less a Hebrew scholar. I love the languages and I am certain that God chose them for their richness and clarity. I also believe that He knew full well how the languages He authorized would be butchered throughout the centuries of religious tradition which He did NOT authorize!

Every lie contains a kernel of truth; **that’s how it gets in!** Lies are not wholly preposterous, or they would be rejected out of hand. Conversely, truth that is **rejected** is **evidence** of the lie which has taken its **place**. Christians who insist on dogmatically holding to their mistranslations of Hebrew and Greek as if they are **infallible**, do a disservice to God, to His word, and to the credibility of Faith in Jesus Christ.

The first lie appears in the naming of the first book of the so-called BIBLE: “Genesis,” in Hebrew, means “Beginnings” or “In a Beginning.” Now, if you don’t find that intriguing at first, look at what has happened to the first verse of the scriptures:

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

CLV:

Created by the Alueim were the heavens and the earth. Yet the earth became a chaos and vacant, and darkness was on the surface of the submerged chaos.

FIRST: What happened to the words that appear in the ESV but not in the CLV in Ge: 1:1, “In the beginning”? This is not the **ONLY** instance in which words were added to the original text. It is merely the **FIRST** such instance in a long line of errors.

If we simply go with the usual versions, we have to conclude that God created a world that “**was formless and void**.” That’s what it says in the ESV and other versions, right? But a Concordant translation says that “**the earth became a chaos and vacant**.”

So, what shall we believe is correct? Well, either we will become Hebrew and Greek scholars ourselves, or we will have to trust someone's efforts as authentic.

Consider this, from the preface of the CLV of Genesis:

Wherein does a concordant translation or version differ from others? It is generally acknowledged, first of all, that the inspired Original is the only infallible evidence for divine truth. Consequently, the nearer we can get to that, the safer we are...I did not want to lean on *any* man, least of all myself. Could we not have a *translation* which exhibits the *facts* of God's revelation in such a way that no one is dependent on any intermediary? A *uniform, exclusive sublinear* comes as close to this as is humanly possible when it is complemented by a concordance of the Original. This is true of any language. I cannot conceive of any other plan which so nearly excludes the bias of the translator or puts the student into possession of the facts...Of course, it cannot exclude the prejudices and predilections of its many readers, but it should help to correct them...I am *not* an authority, but the facts presented have been checked by many aids, and may be depended upon. If you know of any other publication which gives you anything like this unbiased presentation, and does not depend on human opinion, I will be glad to know of it.

Soon after someone dear to me came to Christ, he asked, "*So what do we do about the scientific evidence for prehistoric man and other creatures.*" I was able to point him to a different Genesis than He had known; one that was "***A beginning***" rather than "***The beginning***." We have no information about the previous earth, other than what it became. To me, science simply fills in some of those gaps in our knowledge, without excluding the credibility of the scriptures in any way.

For my part, I only want to know the truth. I take the Lord at His word:

John 8:32

you will know the truth, and the truth will be making you free

Look what He said just before that:

John 8:26-32

26 Much have I to be speaking and judging concerning you, but He Who sends Me is true, and what I hear from Him, these things I am speaking to the world."

27 They know not that He said this to them of the Father.

28 Jesus, then, said to them again that "Whenever you should be exalting the Son of Mankind, then you will know **that I am**, and from

Myself I am doing nothing, but, according as My Father teaches Me, these things I am speaking.

29 And He Who sends Me is with Me. He does not leave Me alone, for what is pleasing to Him am I doing always."

30 At His speaking these things, many believe in Him.

31 Jesus, then, said to the Jews who have believed Him, "If ever you should be remaining in My word, you are truly My disciples,

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will be making you free."

In our study two weeks ago, we looked at a perspective of death and dying based on a correct rendering of the scriptures that leads inevitably to a correct understanding. I'd like to share with you, one of the results in the lives of two of our family of God:

Read Butterflies and Diamonds

Now, come with me, in the time remaining tonight, into the Garden with Jesus in John 17. As I said, This may not be so much a study tonight, as I pray that it will be a baptism in His prayer on behalf of His disciples, among whom we are today as much as they were then.

John 17

[Jesus] said, "Father, come has the hour. Glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son should be glorifying Thee, **[THE SON]**

2 according as Thou givest Him authority over all flesh, that everything which Thou hast given to Him, He should be giving it to them, even life eonian.

3 Now it is eonian life that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Him Whom Thou dost commission, Jesus Christ.

4 "I glorify Thee on the earth, finishing the work which Thou hast given Me, that I should be doing it.

5 "And now glorify Thou Me, Father, with Thyself, with the glory which I had before the world is with Thee.

6 I manifest Thy name to the men whom Thou givest Me out of the world. Thine they were, and to Me Thou givest them, and Thy word they have kept.

7 Now they know that all, whatever Thou hast given Me, is from Thee,
8 for the declarations which Thou hast given Me, I have given them,
and they took them, and know truly that I came out from Thee, and
they believe that thou dost commission Me.

9 "Concerning them I am asking. Not concerning the world am I
asking, but concerning those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are
Thine.

10 And Mine all are Thine, and Thine Mine. And I have been glorified
in them.

11 And no longer am I in the world, and they are in the world, and I to
Thee am coming. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, in which Thou
hast given them to Me, that they may be one, according as We are.

12 When I was with them in the world, I kept those whom Thou hast
given Me in Thy name, and I guard them, and not one of them
perished, except the son of destruction, that the scripture may be
fulfilled.

13 Yet now to Thee am I coming, and these things am I speaking in
the world that they may be having My joy filled full in themselves.

14 "I have given them Thy word. And the world hates them, for they
are not of the world, according as I am not of the world.

15 I am not asking that Thou shouldst be taking them away out of the
world, but that Thou shouldst be keeping them from the wicked one.

16 Of the world they are not, according as I am not of the world.

17 Hallow them by Thy truth. Thy word is truth.

18 "According as Thou dost dispatch Me into the world, I also dispatch
them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I am hallowing Myself, that they also may be
hallowed by the truth.

20 Yet not concerning these only am I asking, but also concerning
those who are believing in Me through their word,

21 that they may all be one, according as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I
in Thee, that they also may be in Us, that the world should be believing
that Thou dost commission Me.

22 "And I have given them the glory which Thou has given Me, that
they may be one, according as We are One,

23 I in them and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in one, and

that the world may know that Thou dost commission Me and dost love them according as Thou dost love Me.

24 "Father, those whom Thou hast given Me, I will that, where I am, they also may be with Me, that they may be beholding My glory which Thou has given Me, for Thou lovest Me before the disruption of the world.

25 Just Father, the world, also, knew Thee not, yet I knew Thee. And these know that Thou dost commission Me.

26 And I make known to them Thy name, and I shall make it known, that the love with which Thou lovest Me may be in them, and I in them."

- Life after death
 - WE know that there is life after death, called **resurrection**,
 - Popular Christian theology somehow allows for dead people to go to Heaven, pearly gates and all, to "be with the Lord," they say, but later to take part in resurrection upon His return. That is so confusing as to be nonsensical, yet that is exactly what Christianity teaches.
- Heaven and hell
 - WE know that Heaven is real and that the Lake of Fire is real, but Heaven isn't where dead people go, and "hell" is a made up word.
- Eternal life
- The "Fall" of man
- Sin and death
- Flesh and Blood