



The

Ambassador

October 2023

Delivering the Truth that Sets People Free

We are therefore Christ's Ambassadors (2Cor. 5:20)

www.AMBASSADORNEWSPAPER.COM



By Seth Halpern
Editor

Through the years, we have published a number of cover stories about "Truth". Usually, however, the truth we were discussing was the "Truth" of God's Word- The Bible. This article refers to the truth of who we are and more importantly "How" we are doing.

This truth is often hidden behind our theology and a pretend smile. It is not the kind of truth that is discussed very much at all. Matthew West's song titled "Truth Be Told" describes this as well as I've ever heard. As soon as I listened to it, it became my favorite song. The lyrics are below.

*"Truth Be Told".
Lie number 1 you're supposed to
have it all together
And when they ask how you're
doing just smile and tell them
"never better"
Lie number 2 everybody's life is
perfect except yours
So keep your messes and your
wounds and your secrets safe with
you behind closed doors*

*Truth be told
The truth is rarely told
I say I'm fine, yeah I'm fine oh I'm
fine, hey I'm fine but I'm not
I'm broken
And when it's out of control I say
it's under control but it's not*

*And you know it
I don't know why it's so hard to
admit it
When being honest is the only way
to fix it
There's no failure, no fall
There's no sin you don't already
know
So let the truth be told*

*There's a sign on the door saying
"come as you are" but I doubt it
If we lived like it was true every
Sunday morning pew would be
crowded
But didn't you say the church should
look more like a hospital
A safe place for the sick and the
sinner and the scarred and the*

*prodigal like me

Truth be told
The truth is rarely told
Am I the only one who says...*

*Can I really stand here unashamed
And know that you love for me
won't change
Oh God If that's really true
Then let the truth be told*

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THE AMBASSADOR

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The Ambassador

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INSPIRATION

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--- We All Fall Down ---

By Paula McBride

The leaves have fallen from my backyard trees and now occupy eight plump bags which are lined up on the curb awaiting pickup. Raking leaves is an autumn chore I used find delightful, yet grueling. Now that I am older, my gardener handles that task, but without fail, each autumn the leaves will fall. Nothing I do will change that. It's a fact of nature.

In fact, falling is a fact of nature as we learned when studying gravity. If I trip over a stone, it's the force of gravity that pulls me to the ground. As much as we wish it weren't so, falling brings us down.

It's fitting that the event that pulled our first parents, Adam and Eve, down from the grandeur of Eden into the thistles of the desert is called the Fall of Man. A desperate history follows as humankind initiated a downward spiral that continues today. So, what do we do? Just spin around the planet without purpose?

No! Creator God never left His people without hope. At the gate of the garden of Eden, He set in motion a plan to lift up the fallen, to reverse the fall. Is that plan working today? Let's take a look at some Biblical examples, and then apply them to our own lives.

Our first fall is one we didn't actually fall into; we inherited it. That is sin. Paul writes in Romans 3:23, "For all



have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." But God doesn't leave us there as Paul says later. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (6:23). Jesus encountered death during His ministry. In fact, death is called "falling asleep." When Jairus' daughter was raised, Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up (Mark 5:41). Sometimes we feel dead, too, and Jesus, by His great grace will lift us up.

Sometimes we fall into temptation, addiction, feelings of self-pity or inadequacy. These are deep pits from which there seems no way out. Jesus offers the way if we will come to Him and delight in Him. "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him; though he may stumble, he will

not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand (Psalm 37:23,24).

We also fall by the effects of a haughty spirit or a tongue that lost control. Relationships are damaged, jobs are threatened, children and spouses are alienated. The resulting pain is indescribable. Yet, if we come to the Lord with a humble heart, He will forgive and restore. "The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down (Psalm 145:15).

What a gracious and mighty God we serve who is able to reverse the fall! We all fall down and will continue to do so until we're called home to heaven. Until then, we don't have to live fallen. Christ will lift us up when we humble ourselves before Him.



THE AMBASSADOR

- ✂ **The Ambassador** is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches
- ✂ **The Ambassador** has a circulation 3,700 - 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- ✂ The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✂ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✂ We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven.
- ✂ We welcome editorial content from anyone wishing to promote the mission of **The Ambassador**. All articles and advertisement content is subject to the approval of the editor.
- ✂ Views expressed in *The Ambassador* do not necessarily reflect those of our sponsors or advertisers.

Editor/Publisher - Seth Halpern

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INSPIRATION

The Promised Land

By Christy Boals

www.gracefilledpurpose.com

For the Israelites, the land signified God's promise. So much so that they regularly referred to it as the "Promised Land." The land, more than anything else, symbolized God with them and also His blessings.

When God first made humans, He placed them in a location, the garden of Eden. When sin entered, they were sent out of the land and symbolically out of God's presence. When the people were released from slavery, it had not been God's idea for them to wander in the desert for all those years. His plan had been to deliver them from slavery to the land He had promised Abraham years before. For people in the Ancient Near East, deities were connected with a location and the Israelites would have viewed Yahweh in the same way. Much like the garden, when the Israelites were obeying, they remained in the land, but after continued disobedience, God allowed them to be exiled.

God used the concept of land to illustrate and teach many things to the Israelites. He wanted them to fully trust in Him. He wanted them to know that He would fully provide for them. The people fully expected a



land of abundance, flowing with date honey and milk. God even allowed the people to struggle to claim the land so that their faith in him would be strengthened.

Even when Jesus came, the Jewish people still viewed God through a lens of place. They were looking for a time when God would establish His reign on earth, centered at the temple in Jerusalem. God has other plans, but these still involve his promises to us today and the ultimate renewal of all the earth, not just Israel.

Believers today still "dwell" with God. The same promises that He gave His people are ours today. He is still a God of abundance and blessing. Even if we cannot understand the significance of physical land, we can take comfort that our dwelling place is with God and as Joshua 1:9 ends with, "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



"Trick or treat. I'm an usher."

Did You Know?

- Five of the ten commandments mention family relationships, either implicitly or explicitly.
- When Boaz bought land that had once belonged to Elimelech he also acquired a wife called Ruth.
- Luke's genealogy of Jesus traces his ancestors directly back to God whilst Matthew's goes back to Abraham.

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ROAD TO RECOVERY - Sundays, 7:00pm
Christian 12 Step support group
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

GRIEF SHARE - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.
A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information about GriefShare you can go to www.griefshare.org or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
Church of Glad Tidings
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GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

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"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

FREEDOM NIGHT - 2nd Friday of each month
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BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM
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• **What Do You Need?** •
• **Find it Here** •

• Prayer List for October 2023 •

- 3-Oct **Veterans-** Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need
- 4-Oct **Pastors-** That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 5-Oct **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 6-Oct **The Bird Family- Pray for God's comfort on Kristen, David and the entire family as they grieve the untimely death of their beloved son, Jayden.**
- 7-Oct **World Affairs-** Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- 8-Oct The Persecuted Church around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 9-Oct **Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed-** pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- 10-Oct **World Mental Health Day- Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Health/Illness issues that they would receive support & treatment**
- 11-Oct **Race Relations-** Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 12-Oct **Global Revival-** Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 13-Oct **Homeless-** Safety, health and provision- Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- 14-Oct **Marriages-** Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 15-Oct **Local Ministries-** Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 16-Oct **California-** pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 17-Oct **Pray that fathers** would give Godly wisdom and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- 18-Oct **Disabled-** that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- 19-Oct **Life and 40 Days for Life-** Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- 20-Oct **A Woman's Friend Banquet- Pray for an outpouring of finances to help continue their work for the next year.**
- 21-Oct **Addicted-** pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord pursue and receive the treatment they need
- 22-Oct **Discipleship-** Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 23-Oct **President-** Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 24-Oct **Pray that children of fatherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 25-Oct **Human Trafficking-** Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 26-Oct **Israel-** Pray for safety from violence, and for the Peace of Jerusalem
- 27-Oct **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 28-Oct **Pray for each of us** to be bold by the Holy Spirit to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 29-Oct **Unity of Churches/Global impact-** Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 30-Oct **Seniors and Elderly-** Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 31-Oct **Halloween-** Pray for safety and for all spiritual darkness to be exposed by the light of Christ!

CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

AGAPE WORSHIP CENTER'S 13th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
504 J Street, Marysville
October 14, 5:00 pm
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10 Ways You Can Help The Ambassador Ministry

1. Pray with us and for us to not only sustain but to grow in impact. Pray for our health and for spiritual protection
2. Read it yourself – You will be enriched by reading it.
3. Share a copy or an article with someone- you will have someone in your life benefit from an article in every issue, cut it out and send it to them, or send them the whole issue
4. Leave a copy of The Ambassador when you're having coffee or a meal or waiting for your car. Use it like a tract. It may be less intimidating.
5. Monitor The Ambassador at your church: assure its presence and visibility
6. Subscribe for a friend or family member (or yourself)
7. Find new locations- ask businesses that you frequent to take some papers, deliver and monitor them
8. Deliver a small route- 1 to 2 hours each month
9. Give financially as an Individual partner, business partner, churches/ministries partner (every dollar helps to impact the community)
10. Talk to your like-minded Christian friends, family, business associates and church leadership, about helping as well.

*If you would like to help, please contact
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**I CAN ALL THINGS
I DO ALL THROUGH
CHRIST
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life

New Research on Abortion Pill Reversal's Effectiveness

By Bradley Mattes

Abortion pill reversal saves unborn babies when their mothers have a change of heart part way through a chemical abortion pill procedure.

A new study demonstrates an impressive success rate which translates into legitimate hope for tens of thousands of women who want to save their babies.

Chemical abortion consists of taking two different pills, mifepristone, followed by misoprostol to effectively kill an unborn child early in pregnancy. The first drug, mifepristone blocks progesterone receptors in a woman's body and reduces the receptivity of the endometrium or lining of the uterus. Progesterone is the major hormone needed to maintain a pregnancy. Misoprostol causes uterine contractions to expel the dead baby.

Progesterone has been safely and effectively used with at-risk pregnancies for over seven decades. So, common sense led doctors to consider it to counteract the effects of mifepristone. In spite of the abortion pill reversal's success rate of 64-68% and saving thousands of babies, it has no shortage of flat-earth-minded distractors.

- Facts Are Important: Medication Abortion "Reversal" Is Not Supported by Science. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- The latest social media misinformation. Politico
- Experts say this so-called "reversal" is unfounded and could be potentially dangerous. ABC News
- How an unproven abortion 'reversal' treatment has advanced in the US. PolitiFact

New research, published in Scientific Reports by Doctors Christina Camilleri and Stephen Sammut is the first heaping spoonful of crow that naysayers will have to eat. I hope they're hungry.

Using a rat model, they divided them into three different groups.

- ✓ A control group of pregnant rats given neither mifepristone nor progesterone.
- ✓ Those given mifepristone and no progesterone.
- ✓ Rats given both mifepristone and progesterone.

All were carefully monitored throughout the gestation period, tracking weight loss/gain, blood loss,



and fetal heart rate. The number and condition of the gestational sacs and fetuses were also followed.

An impressive 81% of rats given both mifepristone and progesterone resulted in saved pregnancies with fully developed living fetuses.

Why rats? Dr. David Prentice, a renowned expert with nearly 50 years' experience as a scientific researcher and professor, says, "The biochemistry regarding progesterone, its receptor, and mifepristone (which competes for the progesterone receptor) are virtually identical to the human situation. So, this model gives insight into how the system works in humans." An Executive Summary on the research is available.

Many in the media and elsewhere point to a study conducted by abortionists and abortion activists with the goal to disgrace abortion pill reversal. The research had only 12 women enrolled and two dropped out because of the pill's difficult side effects of nausea, vomiting, and bleeding.

The research was abruptly ended when three women required emergency hospital treatment for hemorrhaging. Two of the three women received mifepristone only which clearly demonstrates the dangers of the abortion pill. However, many in the media twisted the results to advocate for abortion. Kayla Epstein writing for the Washington Post falsely stated, "One of the women had received a placebo, while two others had taken the progesterone." The reverse was true as stated in the study.

In spite of mounting evidence that abortion pill reversal is safe, effective, and accommodates women's choice and desire for healthcare, the other side will mount aggressive campaigns against this breakthrough protocol to save unborn babies.

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MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

The Power of Silence

By Ryan Casey Waller

In my work as a priest and a therapist I have heard many people lament the absence of God's voice in their lives. Given these experiences and my own frustration with God's immense vocal absence, I'd venture to guess that most—if not all people—have felt this way.

We ask for direction in life. We plead for medical miracles. We cry out in anguish for the overwhelming suffering and endless inequities of this world.

And what comes back is silence.

In the Bible, Jesus himself says that if we knock the door will be opened and if we seek we'll find what we're looking for.

And yet, in the spiritual life, it often feels like just the opposite is true. Our knocking receives no answer and our seeking finds no treasure.

And so we burnout in our quests for meaning and return to whatever distracts us from the longings of our soul.

But what if it's in the silence—in God's apparent failure to reply—that the answers to our soul's deepest longings and confusions are to be found?

The longer I walk my spiritual path, the more I believe this to be true.

In the Hebrew Bible there is a story about a great prophet who is told to



stand on the side of a mountain and wait because God is about to pass by. The prophet is fearful so he hides in a cave instead. A great wind rushes by, but God is not in the wind. Then a terrible earthquake erupts, but God is not in the earthquake. A fire breaks out, but God is not in the flames.

When the chaos ends, the prophet comes creeping out of his cave. Finally, when there is nothing but silence, God speaks.

I take this to mean God's first language is silence.

Which, of course, is not ours.

But maybe silence should become our second language? After all, our world is so noisy, Lord knows we could use some. In the age of information, it's not more voices we need, but ears.

Years ago, when I was a schoolteacher I had only one trick for getting rowdy teenagers to quiet down and listen when

they felt chatty.

It wasn't by raising my voice.

The secret was to stop talking altogether. If I stopped and stood still, the class would fall quiet. Sometimes it took a long while, but it always worked. Once we embraced the silence, our dialogue could begin. Teacher could speak. Student could listen. Conversation would bloom.

I don't know what you need from God. I don't know if you believe in God. I don't know how you pray or whether or not you think prayer a worthwhile practice.

What I know is the noise of this world makes it hard for me to hear from my soul. What I also know is the quieter I get, the more I seem to hear. And the more I hear, the more peaceful and powerful I feel.

And that is something I very much enjoy.



"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

The Ministry

The foundation of ministry is **CHARACTER**, not a professional skill.

The nature of ministry is **SERVICE**, not being served.

The motive for ministry is **LOVE**, not money of power.

The measure of ministry is **SACRIFICE**, not success.

The authority of ministry is **SUBMISSION**, not pulling rank.

The purpose of ministry is **TO GLORIFY GOD**, not to glorify ourselves.

The tools of ministry are **PRAYER AND SCRIPTURES**, not marketing handbook.

The privilege of ministry is **GROWTH**, which may be in depth rather than in numbers.

The power of ministry is **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, not programs.

The model for ministry is **JESUS CHRIST**, not a corporation or a man.





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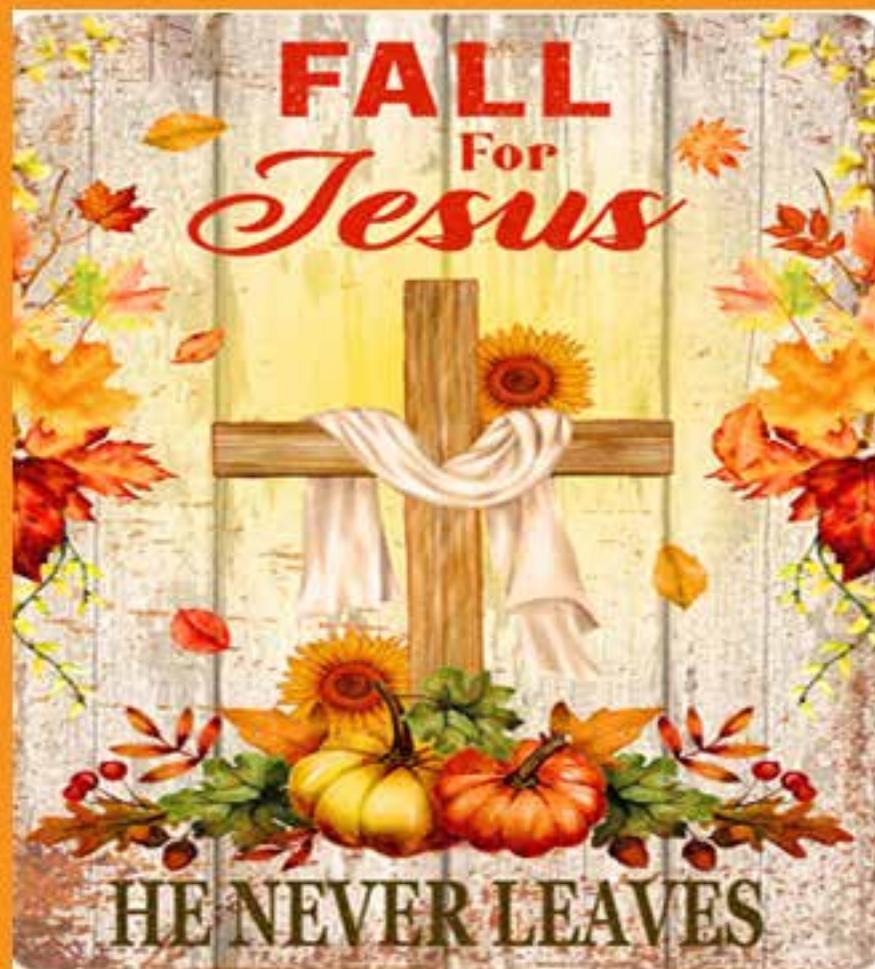
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October CCN Weekly Schedule:

10/3 Roy Souza
 10/10 Amy Carpenter
 10/17 Frank South
 10/24 Prayer
 10/31 40 Days for Life

*Schedule subject to change

We hope you can join us!
For weekly updated detail emails, send an email to info@ysccn.org

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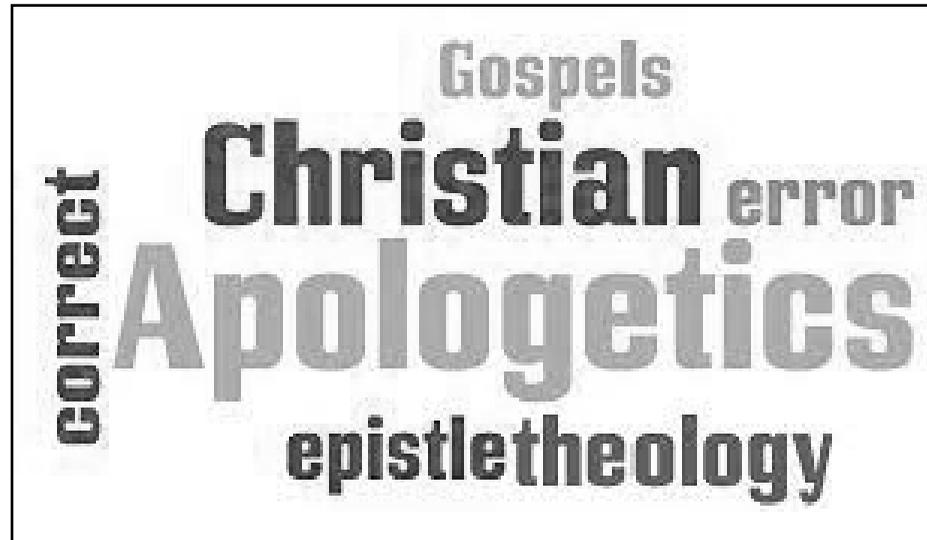
Christian Apologetics

By Kelly J. Walters, DDS; author of "Truth and Proof for the Christian Worldview- A Comprehensive Summary of Christian Apologetics".

Christian apologetics is the discipline of defending the Christian faith by providing intelligent, rational, and factual evidence and arguments for the truth of Christianity and the Bible. The word "apologetics" is derived from the Greek root word apologia, which means "speaking in defense of." The purpose of Christian apologetics is to provide Christians the theological, philosophical, historical, scientific, and logical evidence and proof to bolster and defend their faith, to save souls, and to establish the unequivocal truth that there is but one God – and the one true living God of the Bible is that one and only Creator, King, and God of the universe.

Listed below is a much-condensed summary, from my book, of the primary proofs and arguments for the existence of God – specifically, the God of the Bible.

- **The Cosmological Argument:** All effects and contingent things or beings that have come into existence (i.e., the universe and all life) must have a transcendent cause. As such, God is a necessary, all-powerful, self-existent, and eternal mind/Spirit being for both the explanation and the first cause for the creation of the universe from nothing (ex nihilo) in the finite past. Note: Both naturalistic (atheistic) scientism and the Bible claim that the universe had a beginning; consequently, absolute "Nothingness" existed before the universe – no space, time, matter, energy, physical laws, or quantum



fluctuations were in existence before the "Big Bang". Thus, the proverbial question: "Why is there something rather than nothing?" The evidence clearly proves Jesus as the only rational answer to that question – pure naturalistic science, admittedly, has no provable or definitive answer for the big bang or for the origin of life!

- **The Fine-Tuning or Teleological Argument:** Almighty God is the only logical and non-contradictory explanation for the necessary intelligence and design behind the existence of the exquisitely precise and fine-tuned natural physical laws and mathematical constants required for both the universe and life to even exist – in addition to the amazing "order" that is apparent in our universe. The calculated astronomical mathematical odds against such order and fine-tuning occurring in our universe only by random "chance" through pure naturalistic/materialistic hypothetical means have proven such Godless theories logically absurd.

- **The Intelligent Design (ID) Theory:** Current scientific evidence

points logically to the necessary existence of an all-powerful and intelligent supernatural mind as the best rational explanation for the apparent design and intelligence behind and required for the creation of the complex, intelligent, and information-rich life on our planet (i.e.- digital coded DNA), and the substantial observable order within our universe. Such complex information, intelligence, and design requires an intelligent source. ID theory is proposed as a rational science-based alternative to the logically impossible, unprovable, and random-chance based "spontaneous-creation from nothing" hypothesis -- which is the only explanation given by atheists and naturalists.

- **The Moral Argument for God:** For moral absolute truths to exist (and they do), there must be a transcendent morally perfect lawmaker and law enforcer being/mind, outside of humankind, to establish the absolute moral standards necessary for the very existence of such absolute moral laws, obligations, and truth. That perfect, morally good, transcendent, and

necessary being is God. God created moral absolutes, which debunks the relativism of the godless postmodernism theory that pervades our secular society.

- **The Resurrection:** Jesus Christ the Lord was miraculously raised physically from the dead three days after His crucifixion. He continued to teach His disciples for another forty days until His ascension in to heaven. He has truly risen, and is alive!

- **Biblical Prophecy:** The precise fulfilment of a plethora of accurate prophecies that were documented in the Bible many hundreds of years before they predictably came to pass.

- **Witnessed Miracles:** Multitudes of early well documented miracles performed by Jesus and His disciples were witnessed by thousands of people.

- **The Authenticity of the Bible:** The Word of God has been reliably and historically proven to be truthful, infallible, and inerrant.

- **Archeology:** Thousands of archeological artifacts and findings, plus other ancient extrabiblical literature, have undeniably confirmed the truth, historicity, and the authenticity for the Bible.

Additionally, much other cogent evidence and arguments exist that provide rational and irrefutable proof for the veracity of the Bible, for Jesus, and for the one true and triune God of the Bible as the only logical explanation for the first cause behind the creation of the universe and all life.

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Bible Trivia



TRUE OR FALSE

1. _____ Aeneas was healed from palsy by John the Baptist.
2. _____ John the Baptist raised Dorcas from the dead.
3. _____ After the apostle Paul saw a vision of Jesus, he temporarily lost his sight.
4. _____ Before Amos was a prophet, he was a carpenter.
5. _____ Amos spoke about justice rolling down like a boulder.
6. _____ Paul told believers to set their affections on things around them.
7. _____ Paul described his friend Luke as a beloved brother.
8. _____ Nebuchadnezzar was king of Egypt.
9. _____ Before the Babylonians changed Meshach's Jewish name, it was Daniel.
10. _____ Nebuchadnezzar had worrisome dreams that kept him from sleeping.
11. _____ Nebuchadnezzar promised various gifts, rewards, and great honor to the person who could interpret his dream.
12. _____ During Belshazzar's feast, a mysterious hand wrote on the wall.
13. _____ David was the only king in the Bible referred to as "the Mede."
14. _____ King Darius ordered Daniel be thrown into the lions' den.
15. _____ Daniel would kneel and pray five times a day.
16. _____ King Darius fasted after Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.
17. _____ Daniel had a vision of a horse with eagle's wings.
18. _____ The angel Gabriel gave Daniel an understanding of the future.
19. _____ The angel Gabriel visited David while he was confessing his sins.
20. _____ When Moses died, he was 130 years old.

Answers Page 16

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

Bible Word Search



Bible Wordsearch

Sermons of Jesus 4

Matt. 7:1-12

R	O	O	D	E	R	C	A	S	I	T	O	I	S	E
R	E	H	T	A	F	K	N	A	L	P	P	F	K	S
A	G	V	S	T	H	R	O	W	B	R	E	A	D	U
E	E	G	O	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	E	U	M
T	I	L	T	M	G	N	R	U	T	S	E	N	O	S
P	P	I	P	I	E	C	E	S	O	D	D	O	H	E
M	M	E	F	M	H	R	T	T	O	E	P	T	S	E
E	E	T	A	E	A	Y	O	R	R	S	D	S	I	K
S	S	A	A	R	L	R	E	M	R	T	E	A	F	S
I	P	V	S	R	L	C	T	S	K	E	G	K	I	S
M	E	E	A	U	E	S	R	L	C	H	D	N	N	W
N	U	E	C	I	R	E	Y	E	O	P	U	O	D	A
E	L	C	V	K	H	E	T	H	N	O	J	W	S	L
C	R	E	H	T	O	R	B	E	K	R	K	L	O	R
D	S	D	O	O	G	I	V	E	N	P	E	V	I	L

BREAD	DOOR
BROTHER	EVIL
CHILDREN	EYE
CLEARLY	FEET
FATHER	FINDS
GIVEN	FISH
GOOD	GIFTS
HEAVEN	KNOW
JUDGED	LAW
KNOCK	LOOK
MEASURE	MORE
OPENED	MUCH
OTHERS	PIGS
PEARLS	PLANK
PIECES	SEEKS
PROPHETS	SNAKE
RECEIVES	SPECK
REMOVE	STONE
SACRED	SUMS
SAWDUST	TEAR
THROW	TIME
TRAMPLE	TURN
UNDER	

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Answers Page 16

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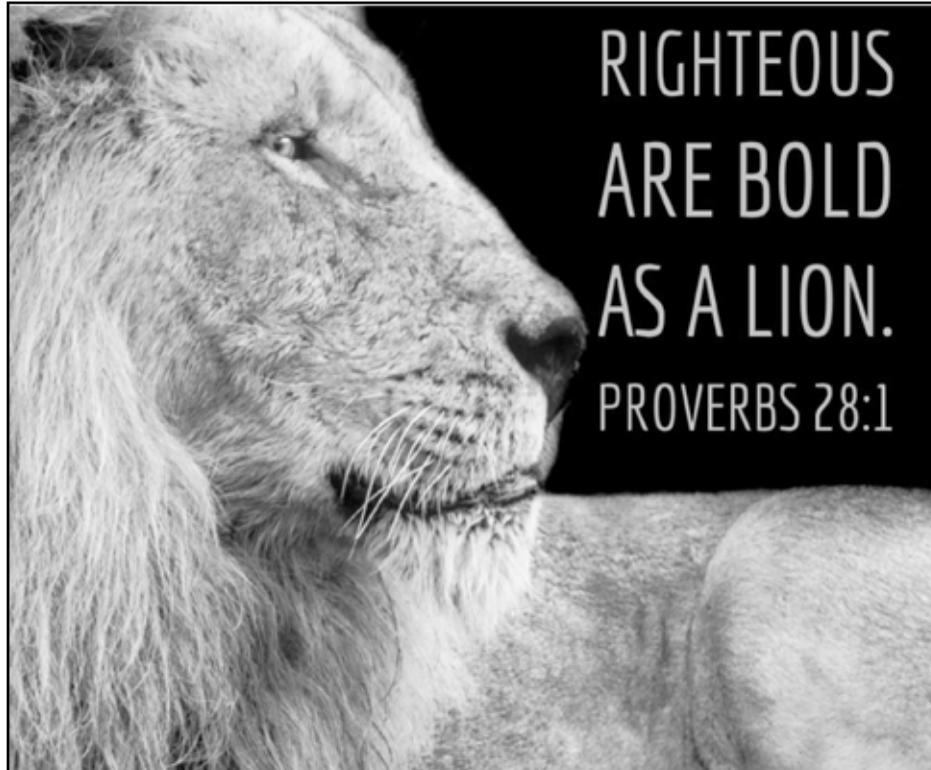
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Continued for Page 1: "Truth Be Told"

There are a lot of Gospel songs about the goodness of God, rejoicing in worship and even struggling with our brokenness, but this song gets right what many Christians and churches get wrong. We need to be authentic and tell the truth about who we are and "How" we are. Of course, we are not asking everyone to air their "dirty laundry" (so to speak) or tell every detail of our saga to people passing by. But, we need to find a safe space, safe, non-judgemental relationships where we can share the reality of our struggle to some extent. If we are to obey scripture and "Bear One Another's Burdens" we need to have some idea what those burdens are.

Our American Church Culture has taught most of us to put on a good front when we show up to church. Maybe we were having an argument with our spouse on the way to Sunday Service. Well, we need to straighten that out before we're handed a bulletin even if it is an ongoing problem that hasn't gotten better over time. Perhaps we struggled to get out of bed because of depression or some "not-so- Christ-like" activity the night before. The list is endless, but the need is the same- to get to church appearing to "have it all together"

Fellowship (Koinonia, the Greek word used in the Bible) refers to



intimate relationship and communion together with God and other believers. Sadly, the American church has lowered the bar to simply eating together and talking about fairly shallow topics. Of course, this is not always the case. Small groups and other ministry venues can offer the opportunity to develop deeper relationships.

In West's song, he says "We're told to come as you are, if that were true all the pews would be crowded". Statistics

show that since Covid, 25 to 50% of people in our congregations are battling some sort of mental health issue (diagnosed or not) from depression and anxiety, OCD, PTSD or a variety of other life-altering struggles. Add to that traumatic experiences, dementia, physical and financial struggles, entering church with a smile is no easy feat. Certainly, we can be encouraged by friends, music, Bible teaching and prayer, but the active listening of a

compassionate believer, is like water to a dry and weary soul.

The responsibility falls not only on the suffering ones to share their story and pain. Those in in the Body of Christ have the responsibility to ask, listen, and encourage the sufferer. Active listening means more than "hearing" the words, but helping the sufferer to "feel heard". This requires engaging without distractions, not judging but compassionately empathizing with the person. This is not the time for advice or platitudes or even well-meaning Bible quotes. Some of that can come later. After that, specific offers of sacrifice can be a life-saver in many cases. Instead of a generic "Call me if you need anything", offer to watch the kids, go grocery shopping (and pay if possible), or drive them to an appointment. This is ministry and is not limited to pastors or other church leaders. In fact, it may be appropriate to consider training the congregation on how to "bear each other's burdens".

The next time you're asked how you're doing, instead of saying that you're "fine" (when you're not), say you're not fine, you're broken. Ask the Lord for discernment and wisdom about when to share and with whom and let the Truth Be Told.



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"A JOURNEY THROUGH 3 JOHN"

A Man Named Gaius
Part 2
3 John 3 & 4

By Dave Peterson
Pastor of Loma Rica Baptist Church

3 John 33 For I was very glad when fellow believers came and testified to your fidelity to the truth—how you are walking in truth.

John had gotten some good news about Gaius. Other brothers and sisters had told him that Gaius had not just embraced the truth – He was known as a believer – He had said yes to Jesus – he had that nailed down.

You can get a lot of things wrong in this life and survive – you can make a lot of mistakes and recover – you can make some wrong turns and course correct – but you and had better get it right when it comes to Jesus.

And Gaius had a reputation of gettin' it right about Jesus. The other brothers that John met had testified to Gaius' "fidelity to the truth."

The definition of fidelity is, "faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support." And that was Gaius- faithful to Jesus, faithful to the



church, faithful to the gospel, loyal to the Lord and fully supportive.

But wait – there's more. John not only heard that he had embraced the truth – and was faithful, loyal and supportive – he heard that Gaius was "walking in truth."

So Gaius didn't just know the truth, or just believe the truth, or even just be faithful to the truth – he walked the truth. He lived the truth. There was not "church Gaius" and then "work Gaius." There was no inside the church walls Gaius and outside the church walls Gaius. There was not talk the gospel Gaius but not walk the gospel Gaius.

Gaius walked it. He lived it. Would

John write the same about us?

The Word is filled with passages instructing us to walk in the Lord, to grow in our faith, to increase in grace and knowledge.

2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity."

Colossians 1:10 "so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,"

Now, back to John and Gaius.

Verse 4 "I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth."

This leaves us with the impression that John had led Gaius to faith in the Lord Jesus. And John said that hearing that Gaius (and any others that he may have had a hand in leading to the Lord) was walking in the truth – living in the truth – that the truth was not a concept

for them, but a way of life – hearing this, brought John great joy.

As a pastor myself, I can agree with John here. It is a huge joy to see those that are a part of the church I pastor grow in their faith and live it out – defeating sin in their lives and sharing their faith, growing in their depth of understanding of the Scriptures and in their love for Jesus.

But the truth is that we should all feel that way about one another – church is a team sport...we're in this together. We need one another – this is why committing to a local body is so important. The New Testament knows nothing of a "Lone Ranger" Christian. We need one another to help us walk the God-trail together. We should all take great joy when we see one another mature in the Lord – when we see new births into the Kingdom and then grow and mature – it should thrill us!

Gaius was committed – to the Lord, to the gospel, to the church – and it thrilled John – it brought him great joy!

So my prayer for all who read this article is that you might KNOW that you have eternal life through Jesus Christ, and that you, like Gaius will be known for your faithfulness to the truth of the Gospel and the truth of Jesus, and that your life will be one where you walk in this truth, and that it will be a natural part of your life as much as breathing in and out is. And finally, I pray that as you grow and live and walk in Christ, that you will bring great joy to the brothers and sisters.


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10 Ways Church Leaders Can Support People With Mental Illness

The first week of October is Mental Health Awareness Week. We, the church, can support people struggling with mental health in a number of ways. Please consider the suggestions below:

1. Make sure you know when to refer people to mental health professionals and where to refer them when the need arises. You can also refer congregants and family members to a variety of support groups and classes.

2. Stay in touch with the person with mental illness and his or her family after you make a referral. People with mental illness and their family members need your ongoing support.

3. Encourage your congregation to treat people with mental illnesses the same way they treat people with other illnesses. Offer to visit them if they are hospitalized. With their permission, ask your members to send them cards and bring them dinners when they are ill.

4. Plan a specific day to focus on mental health (perhaps in conjunction with Mental Health Month in May or Mental Illness Awareness Week in October). Say specific prayers for people with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety



disorders, depression and other mental illnesses.

5. Talk about mental illness in your sermons, classes, and adult forums, especially when you are addressing compassionate outreach, social justice and erasing stigma and discrimination. Talking openly about mental illnesses reduces the grip of stigma. Emphasize the biological nature of brain disorders and remind your congregations that they can affect anyone, regardless of age, race, religion or income. Mental illnesses are not the result of personal weakness, lack of character or poor upbringing.

6. Pay attention to the words you use. Avoid stigmatizing language

and encourage everyone in your congregation to do the same. Do not refer to people as "crazy," "psycho," "lunatic" or "mental." Use phrases like "people with mental illnesses" rather than "the mentally ill."

7. Educate your congregation. Bring in speakers from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), the medical community and your local mental health center. Run a series of articles in your congregation's newsletter. Show videos

on the subject and then encourage your congregation to discuss the issues raised.

8. If you have a peace and justice ministry, encourage them to get involved in the systemic problems that affect people with mental illness. More people with mental illnesses are in jails and prisons than are in mental hospitals. Programs for people with mental illnesses are underfunded and axed quickly when budgets need to be cut. Many chronically homeless people have chronic mental illnesses.

9. Housing and jobs are critical to the recovery process. Encourage members of your community to help find jobs and provide housing options for people with mental illnesses.

10. Start a spiritual support group in your faith community for people with mental health challenges and their families.

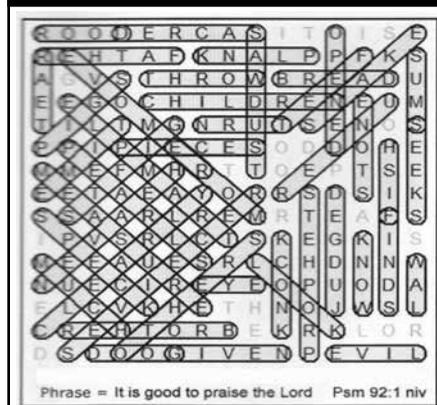
Bible Trivia Answers · From Pg 13:

1. False - He was healed by Peter (Acts 9:32-34)
2. False - Peter raised her from the dead (Acts 9:36-41)
3. True - (Acts 9:8)
4. False - He was a herdsman (Amos 1:1)
5. False - He spoke about justice rolling down like a river (Amos 5:24)
6. False - He told believers to set their affections on things above (Col 3:2)
7. False - He described him as a beloved physician (Colossians 4:14)
8. False - He was king of Babylon (Daniel 1:1)
9. False - It was Mishael (Daniel 1:7)
10. True - (Daniel 2:1)
11. True - (Daniel 2:6)
12. True - (Daniel 5)
13. False - King Darius was "the Mede" (Daniel 5:31)
14. True - (Daniel 6)
15. False - He prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:10)
16. True - (Daniel 6)
17. False - He had a vision of a lion with eagle's wings (Daniel 7:4)
18. True - (Daniel 8:15-26; 9:21-27)
19. False - He visited Daniel (Daniel 9:20)
20. False - He was 120 years old (Deuteronomy 34:7)

JESUS LOVES YOU!



From Pg 13: Word Search Answers



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• The Real YOU •

By Anonymous

When I was a young man, I used to wash and wax my car every weekend. I'd scrub the tires, polish the chrome, wash the windows (inside and out), and scrub the bug guts off the grill. It was so important to me, back in those days, that my car looked good. I wanted to leave a good impression on those who saw me coming their way. The slightest scratch or ding to the paint job really bothered me. This



morning as I headed back to my truck after my morning walk, I realized how far I've drifted from those concerns of my early years. It doesn't matter to me that paint is chipping off the hood. It doesn't bother me that the grill is speckled with the guts of 100,000 bugs. It doesn't matter to me that the windshield has a dingy tint to it. That truck gets me where I want to go. It's just a machine. It's just a tool that I use to take me from one place to the other. It's exterior has little relevance to me. My main concern is that the engine is healthy and strong. The engine...that's the most important part!

The same holds true for this body of mine. I don't spend nearly as much time in the mirror as I did when I was younger. Yes, I still regularly bathe

Smirk), but my "exterior" is not nearly as important to me as it once was. I don't care that my hair is turning gray. I don't care that there are some lines, wrinkles, and creases where there used to be smooth skin. There have been a few scars bumps and bruises along the way, but that doesn't really bother me. This old body of mine is just a machine that takes me (the real me) from one place to the other. The real me, the man on the inside, is the

one that I'm trying to take the best care of. What good does it do to have a beautiful, impressive exterior if the engine is running on its last cylinder and there's no oil in it?

So, today, I give this word of encouragement: Take care of the spirit man within you. That's the REAL YOU. Let the person within you be what people notice, not your exterior.

2 Corinthians 4:16 - *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, the inward man is being renewed daily.*

1 Samuel 16:7 - *For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*

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Kug's Kolumn

Everyone On The Side Of Truth Listens To Me

The above quote is from Jesus Christ and is found in John 18:37.

It's time for Christians to have civil discussions with fellow "Christians" who hold a position that is clearly in opposition to what the Bible teaches. For example, the following is an excerpt from an article dated Oct 28, 2016, titled, "Why I Am Christian and Pro-Choice." Written by Charles Clymer. That headline in and of itself says a lot but I wanted to specially address his comments below:

"My religion -- or anyone's religion -- has no place in the affairs of other people." My disconnect with the "pro-life" message, aside from the obvious autonomy issue, is that very rarely have I seen my pro-life friends argue as passionately for children's healthcare or universal healthcare or refugees or against the death penalty or poverty or for mental health advocacy or homeless advocacy or for VA reform, etc."

I couldn't disagree more starting with the first sentence. Jesus says we are to be salt and light having a positive influence on our culture which will result in God receiving the glory. Secondly, Paul says in Ephesians 5:11 "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." Too many deeds of darkness to address in this article. We cannot claim to follow Christ and then pick and choose what we believe is right and wrong. God decides, period. So, let's have the courage to challenge someone "respectfully" when they take an un-

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 18:37

biblical stand.

I also want to challenge the writer's additional comments because he claims we only are concerned with the pro-life message. Who started hospitals? Christians! Who assists in serving refugees around the world? Oh yeah, Christians. As far as his point on the homeless. According to the "National Alliance to end Homelessness", Faith-based organizations serve as the backbone of the emergency shelter system in this country—operating at a minimum, nearly 30 percent of emergency shelter beds for families and single adults at the national level. I think arguing for children's healthcare starts with arguing for them to be born! This writer claims to be Christian, and I know that God is the ultimate judge. However, I think he (and others who hold a similar clearly un-biblical views) should be concerned that Jesus might say on judgement day, "depart from me because I never knew you."

David Kugelman is the president of the Christian Community Network which meets each Tuesday at noon at various locations. Dave welcomes your questions or comments on this article at drkug@comcast.net

WHAT IS TWISTED?

By Jon Skillman

Reminder: This is an opinion piece since I am not a biblical scholar.

I have a pile of index cards on my night stand that have my scripture memory verses on them. Each night I review a number of them before going to sleep in order to keep them fresh in my mind. One verse, which I memorized several years ago is Ecclesiastes 1:15. This verse reads; *"What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted."* (NIV)

I remember when I first came across this verse and how it struck me as both confusing and obvious. I found the statement; "What is twisted cannot be straightened" to be confusing because I have twisted many things in my life ranging from knees to the truth and have been able to straighten most of them out. On the other hand, I found the statement, "what is lacking cannot be counted" to be so obvious it bordered on the edge of... "Well duh!" I mean how can you count something that is lacking or even missing?

As I stared at the words I had memorized, I came to the conclusion that it might be a good idea to find out what God is actually trying to tell me...a good idea for all scripture. So I referenced several commentaries and consulted with a trusted spiritual mentor and guess what? My interpretation of this verse had completely missed its meaning.

My first mistake was trying to look at scripture through my worldly glasses...meaning I was thinking worldly and not spiritually. It wasn't speaking of a twisted knee or a twisted

piece of metal, it's talking about God's word? If God declares something to be twisted or perverted, we, as mortal beings cannot change it, or make it right or straight. Likewise, if His Word does not speak of something, we, as mortal beings, cannot add to His Word. God's word cannot be changed, added to or subtracted from.

Take for example: murder. Murder is defined as; "The unlawful, premeditated killing of one human being by another human being," and God has declared it to be wrong, a sin or even twisted. (His sixth commandment). So, Ecclesiastes 1:15 says we do not have the ability or authority to make it right. But we just don't get it! In our ignorant arrogance we think we can out law, God.

Let's say we want to legalize abortion, and we think we have found a loophole in God's law. What if we write a law that declares the unborn as not yet human...then it won't, by definition, be murder. Nice try nimrod...you may fool some but not God. Here is where the "What is lacking cannot be counted" comes in. Nowhere in God's word does it say a human fetus is not a living human being...what else could it be? And why is it that murdering a pregnant woman brings a double homicide charge? And yes, I said a pregnant woman not a birthing person...that's another twisted conversation that Ecclesiastes 1:15 will debunk and straighten out.

In the simplest and most concise explanation of Ecclesiastes 1:15... *Don't mess with God's Word!*

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BEING A CHRISTIAN IS LIKE BEING A PUMPKIN

God picks you from the patch and brings you in.

(John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

(Roman 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling face.

(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.

(Matthew 5:16)

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For help, questions, or more information, contact us at
The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.