

## Are You Afraid Of The Truth?

*Author Unknown*

Jesus stated, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Think about what that statement says.

**First, we can know truth.** Jesus said so. Some people think that truth is relative. They believe that truth changes based on time, circumstances, and personal feeling and interpretation. They see truth as fluid, always adjusting, changing. What is true today may not be true tomorrow, and then it may be true again next week. Jesus, however, settled the matter. His statement is unequivocal; **we can know truth!**

**Second, it is the truth that will make us free.** How odd that so many people see it exactly the opposite. They're afraid of the truth; it scares them. They believe what they believe, and they're happy in that belief. Any substantive examination of what they believe makes them extremely uncomfortable. To put their understanding of truth under a microscope of analysis is taken as a threat to them personally. Often, they react to the prospect by simply shutting down the process. They will not allow examination of what they believe to be truth. But Jesus said, "the truth shall make you free!" Learning truth should set one's mind free, it should be liberating. Going through the process of gaining knowledge of truth is exactly what education is all about. Study is aimed at searching for truth. Knowing truth **equips** a person to successfully deal with whatever situation might confront him.

**Third, some points of truth can be inconvenient, even painful.** But even in those cases, the truth is still the truth. Running from it, pretending it doesn't exist, refusing to believe it does not change the fact that it is the truth. **Denying** the reality of truth in a given situation ultimately makes it harder to deal with that situation. A person who is injured from a fall, examined, x-rayed, and subsequently diagnosed with a broken leg can refuse to believe that his leg is broken. He can even refuse to see a doctor for fear of what the truth may be. That will not change the fact, however, that his leg is broken. Denying the truth, refusing to believe it will only make his life more difficult.

Many people **refuse** to face the truth that their spiritual lives are a mess. Their defense mechanism is to simply not think about it. But not thinking about their spiritual state, refusing to deal with it realistically will not help them - "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

**The only thing that will help you get your life in order is to get into God's word, search out the truth, and properly apply it to your life.**

## 2020 IN HINDSIGHT

*Adapted from an article by Lee Moses*

As the year draws to a close, it seems appropriate to take a moment to review it—even though it may not be pleasant. Many have lamented this past year as a particularly difficult year. It has been a contentious year in the United States, with an unusually combative and controversial election. Rioting instigated by Black Lives Matter and other activist groups brought brawling in the streets, deaths, and extensive damage of property. Then more recently a march on the Capital of the United States by many who were overzealous over the recent election results. Of course, a pandemic happened and turned the world upside down. Due in large part to the COVID pandemic, 2020 projects to be the deadliest year in U.S. history, by far.

Greensboro Road has neither been exempted from COVID, nor from the death of some of our members. The COVID pandemic itself led to the unprecedented steps being taken to suspend individual Bible classes for our young ones, no Vacation Bible School, or gospel meetings for the year. Although not directly related to the pandemic, we lost members to death overcoming some. In addition to losing beloved brethren, we also had several close friends and family members of the Christians at Greensboro Road who departed from earthly life.

Although reflection upon the past year will inescapably bring painful thoughts, the year was not without its significant joys. With all the troubles and sadness, we endured, we must also remember that some good was also done. We had several who were restored to their first love and we have been blessed to have those who were baptized into Christ in 2020. Not everything that happened in 2020 was bad. There were some good things that happened, as we have grown together in Christ and learned to use ways and means of keeping in touch and encouraging one another. It is good to see how some have taken on responsibilities they had not taken on before and have grown as Christians.

2020 has been a learning experience for all of us. Hopefully, we have learned to place our trust more firmly in our Lord, and to spend our time more fervently in His service. As we leave 2020 in hindsight, let us give ourselves to the word of God, to prayer, to worship, to serving others according to the Lord's will, all to His glory! "Let us go on unto perfection.... And this will we do, if God permit" (Hebrews 6:1-3).

# NEWS AND NOTES

**“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)**

**Remember in Prayer:**

*Myra Preston* remains in ICU in NEA Baptist. She is off the ventilator.

*Marshall Lands* is in Encompass, Room 215 by the door, and if all goes well, he can go home January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.**

Please update us if needed.

**Also please pray for these who are directly or indirectly affected by Covid-19,**

and please keep us updated.

*Tim and Tracy Johnson* (son and daughter-in-law of James and Sandra Johnson).

Tim and Tracy are in ICU at NEA Baptist.

**In Other News:**

*Children and Teens: Even though our elders and your Bible class teachers are showing an abundance of caution to keep you safe by keeping you with your family during class time for now, that does not mean your Bible study needs are forgotten!*

*Ages from Babies to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and parents are invited to continue the routine of going before Bible class to Room 4 on Sunday a.m. and Wednesday p.m. to pick up a Bible study/activity packet to carry to the auditorium and work on during each Bible class period.*

*Teens, please go to your classroom to get your Bible study packet to work on in auditorium during class time or at home if you prefer!*



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## KeeNotes

Every Lord’s Day is good. The opportunity to gather with the saints and worship is always a blessing we share. When we can enjoy fellowship and join together in praising God we are blessed. Our worship includes preaching. Not always is that which is preached pleasant for the preacher to address. There are times when we need reproof and rebuking and not all preaching can be exhorting and encouraging. However, even in reproof and rebuking there is the desire to see everyone do better and there is encouragement and exhortation.

We preached a sermon this past Lord’s Day which addressed shepherds and their responsibilities to the flock. This resulted in our shepherds both, Randy Oden and Dan Nichols, coming before the church and asking for our prayers. Both expressed their desires to do more and work harder in protecting and feeding the flock at Greensboro Road. We all appreciate the love these men have for the church and their desire to see her grow and prosper. May every sheep work diligently to help our shepherds to be able to rejoice in their labors. May we all work in our own lives so that our shepherds “may do it with joy” (Hebrews 13:17). Keep them and their efforts in your daily prayers as they shepherd the flock of God which meets at this place.

Our theme this year is “Each one, invite one, in twenty-one.” All of us know people who we would love to see come to Christ. Maybe we have family, friends or simply someone we know at the bank, grocery store, etc. who we can simply invite to visit with us. Make the effort each week to invite at least one person to come and visit. Many will not come for one reason or the other, but at least we can make the effort to invite them. You cannot drive people to church, but you can lead them. Make it the goal of every one of us to invite someone each week to come and be with us. Make 2021 the most productive year the church can enjoy.

### SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden*

### DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Marshall Lands  
Mark Wooten*

### EVANGELIST

*Terry Joe Kee*

### MISSIONARIES

*Samrit Kammanee  
Arnold Kelley  
Micah Robertson, Montana  
Warren, PA*

### SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

*Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.*

#### WEDNESDAY

*Bible Study 7:00 p.m.*

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear the Word of God  
Romans 10:17*

*Believe the Word of God  
John 8:24*

*Repent of your sins  
Luke 13:3*

*Confess your faith in Jesus  
as the Son of God  
Romans 10:9,10*

*Be Baptized for the  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38*

*Live faithfully  
Revelation 2:10*

*“Lift up your eyes, and  
look on the fields; for they  
are white already to  
harvest.” (John 4:35)*

*Each One Invite One  
in Twenty-One*

### Those Privileged To Serve

January 17, 2021

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten  
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer  
Closing Prayer: Stacy Eddleman  
Bible Reading: Ryan Manley  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Stan Honeycutt  
Mike Felts Dan Nichols  
Jack Johnson Jimmie Powell  
Tom Carner Carlos Wood

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Randy Oden  
Opening Prayer: J. L. May  
Closing Prayer: James Johnson  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

January 20, 2021

Song Leader: Ben Johns  
Opening Prayer: Jason Garland  
Closing Prayer: David Loggins

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

January 20, 2021

Ben Johns

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

January 10, 2021

Sunday Bible Study 64  
Sunday AM Worship 113  
Sunday PM Worship 83  
Wednesday Bible Study  
Contribution \$6877

**“Whoso stoppeth his ears  
at the cry of the poor, he  
also shall cry himself, but  
shall not be heard.”**

**Proverbs 21:13**