



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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The Way, The Truth, The Life

Thirty three years ago I went on a search for God...and truth. I was raised in a traditional Jewish home and was taught to believe in God. I did believe. But I knew that I did not know Him. I imagined God up there...somewhere...and in my young mind, I knew there must be some way to know Him.

I also knew that, if He could be known, He must have given us a way for that to happen. I guess I was protected from the idea that there are many ways to God. **I could not fathom a personal God who would create us and not give us some direction on how to have a relationship with Him.**

As my story goes, when I was in college I "stole" a Gideon's Bible from a Motel Six in Raleigh, NC...and began to read. Through my reading of the messianic prophecies in the Old Testament, and then my reading of the New Testament book of Matthew, I became a believer in Jesus as Messiah. I fell in love with a Rabbi. **I knew that I had found the truth and immediately knew that the truth I had found was not only for me, but for all people.** I was then called to take the message back to my Jewish people. The journey began.

There was an interesting article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution a few years back. **In bold letters the headline proclaimed, "Christian Group says Jews Don't Need Jesus."** No new idea here. Throughout the centuries men have debated whether people need to believe in Jesus in order to have a relationship with God. This issue, for many who call themselves Christians, becomes more of a dilemma when discussing the Jewish people. It is easier to say that those of other faiths or religions, who are not Jewish, need to be reached with Jesus. But, God's



chosen people? **God would not keep THEM out of heaven if they don't accept Jesus...would He?**

This group of "Christians" decided that Jesus is for everyone **BUT** the Jewish people. They stated that because God made a covenant with the Jewish people in the Old Testament through Abraham, Jewish people are "saved" by virtue of that covenant (called the **Duel Covenant theory**), and do not need Jesus to go to heaven. **They also repudiated any form of attempts to bring Jesus to the Jewish community.** Unfortunately prominent leaders within Christendom have, throughout the centuries, been proponents of **Duel Covenant theology.**

After reading the article I began to wonder what I was doing with my life and whether, because of their decision, I was out of a job! **Of course, their decision was wrong and based upon an erroneous reading of the Bible.** What they decided is not true and, in fact, is the most anti-Semitic decision that could be made. **Their decision is stating that either Jesus is not good enough for my people or my Jewish people are not good enough for Jesus.** As we celebrate the birth of "the way, the truth, and the life" this month, let me give you some thoughts on the nature of truth and the Gospel.

♦ We live in a world where most people believe that there are many ways to God. **Some say Christians have their way to God; Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and other people have their way.** Truth has been relegated to the realm of the subjective. Truth, it is believed, is relative to the person who believes it. There is not one way to God, but many. **The problem with the position is that if truth is relative to the person who believes it, then we have no way of judging which truth is the right truth.** Truth, therefore, becomes meaningless.

♦ **The reality is that spiritual truth is not subjective and can be objectively known.** Right and wrong can be known because God gave us His view on right and wrong, truth and falsehood, in His Word. The scriptures are the only God-breathed, authoritative, objective means, for us to discern right from wrong and good from evil. Therefore, we can determine what is right and wrong, true or false, from Scripture. The Ten Commandments are not subjective. They are mandatory rules for living a godly life. The Bible also gives us a picture of the nature of God and man. God is holy and just, man is separated from God because of sin.

♦ **Jesus cannot be the "way" for the Gentiles and not for the Jewish people. If Jesus is true, His truth has to be for everyone, not just for the Gentiles.** Either he is "the way, the truth, and the life" for all or He is a false god, who should be rejected by all.

♦ **Jewish people need Jesus, just like everyone else.** In the Book of Acts, Peter said, "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) **Salvation in Jesus alone is the cornerstone of true Christianity.** No one who says there are many ways to God, or that any person can go to heaven apart from Jesus, under-

stands the Gospel. Jesus came as the Jewish Messiah. He said to His disciples at the Last Supper (a Passover Seder—order of service), “I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:16) He came as foretold by the Jewish prophets. He lived in a Jewish land, spoke to the Jewish people when He was here, and proclaimed Himself Messiah. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, as the Jewish prophets of the Old Testament did before Him. But He wept as “God on earth.” His tears were the very tears of God Himself.

♦ **Jewish evangelism is not an option, it is an imperative.** When Jesus sent His disciples out He said, “Do not go the way of the Gentiles, but go first to the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel.” (Matthew 10:5) Jesus sent His disciples out beginning in Jerusalem (to the Jewish people), then to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The Apostle Paul showed his understanding of the importance of reaching Jewish people with the message of Jesus as Messiah when he said in Romans 1:16 that the gospel was the power of God for salvation for all who believe “to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile.” To show his great desire for Jewish people to know Jesus, as an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul made it his practice to always begin his proclamation of Jesus in the synagogue everywhere he went. **If the Apostle Paul modeled Jewish evangelism in his ministry, we must also model Jewish evangelism in our mission efforts.**

As you celebrate the birthday of our Savior please remember that my people need the Savior too!

Email Blessings

I get many emails worth sharing. I wanted to share the following email (dated Dec. 4th) that truly expresses the impact our ministry is having both on Christians and Jewish people.

Murray,

My sister recently purchased a van from a car dealership here in GA. The sales man was Jewish and not a believer in Jesus as the Messiah. My sister felt strongly impressed to talk to this man about Jesus. The



Holy Spirit led her to say, “This is not the first time you have heard what I am telling you.” It took the man by surprise, and he asked her if she was a born-again Christian. When she said yes, he said, “I can tell...you guys are always more passionate about your faith than any other religion.” She had a pretty lengthy conversation with the gentleman.

I told my sister I would help her by emailing you to see if you guys had any materials you could mail to us so that my sister can drop the info off to the sales man to further help him in his search of the true Messiah. The man was on the verge of believing, and it seemed to my sister that he just needed the “proof”. In witnessing to this man, my sister was able to use information she learned from a Sunday night church service where you and your wife shared the meaning behind Passover.

Let me know if you have something you can mail to us to pass along to him.

Also know that my whole family has been changed (parents, sister/brother in law, me, my husband and kids) from hearing you and your wife’s presentation on the Passover. We also went to a full Passover meal that you did and had some friends come along that have been changed by it as well. We are all eagerly anticipating the Savior’s return, which seems VERY

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close!! We want you to know that we join you in prayer for God’s chosen people and hope you are encouraged in ministry and don’t get down hearted. Remember that in this life you will have troubles, but TAKE HEART, we serve the ONE who has overcome the world!! Hallelujah, may God bless you and your wife for your wonderful ministry.

THANK YOU!

My prayer for you as you celebrate the birthday of the Jewish Messiah Jesus, who was born in a manger in Bethlehem, is that you will remember that His people need Him!

Thank you for sending us out to the Jewish community with that message of peace and salvation in Jesus. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for standing with us financially. May the Lord richly bless you!

Blessings in Messiah,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
 Light of Messiah Ministries

Light of Messiah Ministries is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization. We are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. All gifts are tax deductible. All gifts received by December 31, 2013 will be receipted by January 31, 2014. You may also donate online at lightofmessiah.org

We are also able to accept donations of appreciated stock, one of the best ways to maximize your giving. Please contact our office and your financial advisor for information on how to give to Jewish ministry in creative ways.