



Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

Prayer Letter Volume 10 Issue 11

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRY

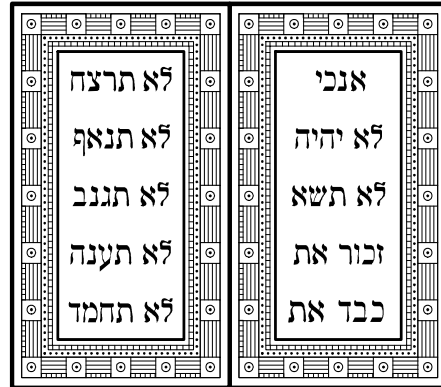


November 2002

TRUTH

Twenty four years ago I went on a search for God. As a young Jewish boy growing up in North Carolina, I wanted to know the truth. I believed in God, but I knew that I did not know Him. I knew He was 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 to know Him. I guess God protected me from the idea that there were 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, 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 had found the truth and immediately knew that the truth I had found was not only for me, but for all people.**

There was an interesting article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution recently. **In bold letters the headline proclaimed, “Christian Group says Jews Don’t Need Jesus.”** This is not a new idea. 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 in relationship to 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?** This recent group of “Christians” decided that the Gospel is for everyone **BUT** the Jewish people. They stated that because God made a



The Ten Commandments in Hebrew.

covenant with the Jewish people in the Old Testament, 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 people.** 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. Let me give you some thoughts on the nature of truth and the Gospel.

◆ We live in a world today where 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. Basi-

cally, whatever a person believes for themselves is their truth. Truth is relative to the person who believes it. There is not one way to God, but many. **I have a big problem with this idea. For, 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. Truth is what a person believes to be true. Morality, ethics, integrity, right and wrong, are made up truths that no one can judge. **If truth is relative to the person who believes it we cannot say that what happened on September 11th of last year was wrong.** The perpetrators of that heinous crime did what they did in the name of their God, and in the name of their faith.

- ◆ **Spiritual truth is not subjective. It can be known. Right and wrong can be discerned because God gave us His view on right and wrong, truth and falsehood, in the Bible.** The scriptures are the only God breathed, authoritative, objective means for us to discern right from wrong and good from evil. Given this supposition, we can determine what is right and wrong, true or false, from Scripture. The Ten Commandments are not subjective. They are fact. 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 the Jewish people. If Jesus is true, He has to be true for everyone, not just those who believe, or the Gentiles. Ei-**

ther 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.” **The exclusivity of the gospel and the idea of salvation in Jesus alone is the cornerstone of true Christianity.** No one who says there are many ways to God, and that any person can go to heaven apart from Jesus, understands the Gospel. We must question their form of “Christianity.” When Jesus came He came as the Jewish Messiah. 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 His Jewish messiahship. 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.” Jesus sent His disciples out beginning in Jerusalem (to the Jewish people), then to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The Apostle Paul showed his understanding of the importance of reaching the Jewish people with the message of the messiahship of Jesus 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 the Gospel in the synagogue everywhere he went. **If the Apostle Paul modeled Jewish evangelism in his ministry, we must also model Jewish evangelism in our missions efforts.**



WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP PROCLAIMING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE. My people need Jesus. **With your help and prayers will continue to do the good work God has called us to.**

Nursing Home Ministry Update

During a recent staff meeting I encouraged Bert to try to expand his ministry in nursing homes. Bert has been able to develop relationships with many Jewish people in nursing homes and goes to a local nursing home on a regular basis to talk to the elderly Jewish residents about Jesus. He also conducts special services for the Jewish holidays and the Sabbath. Bert has seen many of the residents respond positively to his being there. **Jewish residents are rarely visited by rabbis and enjoy having someone come to talk to them about their lives and about spiritual issues.**

It is our policy to make sure that the administration of the nursing homes know who we are and we get their permission to visit the residents. Usually the administration is excited that we want to come because it is difficult to get people to come in a visit with the elderly.

How to Contact Us

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Bert dropped in on a few nursing homes and was invited to conduct services for a group of elderly Jewish people at one of the homes. Bert and the administrator were very excited when Bert left. **Unfortunately, several days later, Bert received a call from the nursing home administrator who said they had reconsidered and the service was being cancelled.** I was not surprised. Pressure from the Jewish community and Jewish family members can be great on these administrations. **Please pray for more open doors into local nursing homes.**

As of the writing of this prayer

Financial Report

letter on November 11th our expenses have exceeded our income by \$63,447.00 this year.

Please consider a special gift to Light of Messiah Ministries as we end the year.

During this season of Thanksgiving we are thinking of you. Thank you for

Thank You!

standing with us in our ministry to the Jewish people.

Blessings,

Murray Tilles for the staff
 Light of Messiah Ministries

**All Contributions to
 Light of Messiah
 Ministries are Tax
 Deductible.**

**All gifts postmarked
by December 31, 2002
 will be received by
 January 31, 2003.**