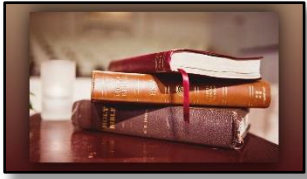


## Are We Living the Truth of the Gospels

August 3rd, 2023



“Little children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” That’s in 1 John 3:18.

Dear ones, Mother Clare began, I believe it is important to go deeper when we embrace the teachings of our faith, as they are handed onto us from pastors.

They are men, not able to come to an agreement on what teachings in the Scriptures mean. Thus, we have hundreds of different interpretations of the simple gospel message.

I firmly believe that we should formulate our beliefs according to what Scripture says, without leaving some things that do not agree with their culture out. In other words, men have for hundreds of years focused on different passages of Scripture and left out others which they thought were unimportant to the Lord's message. This has left us with a lop-sided gospel and men who favored one approach to Jesus' words while ignoring others, then others distorting the meaning of those doctrines.

Some have said we have a cafeteria style gospel. Certain doctrines have been emphasized while others were down played, resulting in an incomplete picture of what Jesus taught us. Denominations fight over how to baptize, full immersion, partial immersion, in Jesus Name, in the Name of the Holy Trinity. Some baptize infants, others wait until the age of accountability to be sure the child understands what it means.

Some say there is no rapture, others say it is after the tribulation, others say it is in the middle of the tribulation, and still others believe it is before the tribulation? Who do we believe? The loudest voice, the most comfortable voice, the highly educated voice, the institutional voice of great congregations???

The Lord told us that the Holy Spirit would lead us into all truth. But what about those who want to keep the traditions of their culture and mix them with Christian teachings, causing them to be watered down and lacking the integrity of what Jesus taught? And what about those who stand on the modern teachings and ignore the foundational teachings from the very start of the church, the first 300 years? Very simply, the gospel message and way of life have been ignored as being too old fashioned and not relevant in this modern age of industry and internet.

I believe it takes the working of the Holy Spirit, going back to the first century, to see what believers lived and died for. The traditions that were begun by the apostles were HOLY traditions, when the Jews tried to insert their traditions, they were UNHOLY. When men were influenced by political and financial gain, with the motive to control the whole world, such as the Vatican, they diverged greatly from what the apostles taught and spoke about and lived in their meetings.

Yet a few early traditions from the Apostles did get preserved and the meaning of the gospels were enriched by the Holy Spirit through faithful men. For instance, nowhere in the Bible is the Holy Trinity mentioned. However, it was shown to be true by the Holy Spirit as men searched deeper and prayed. So, now we know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as equal parts of God, expressing His different natures. This was legitimate tradition. Pressuring people to pay for a church burial was a greedy tradition, selling spiritual blessings by the clergy was a greedy and ungodly tradition that persists in some places today.

I pray that we all walk in the truth, that we do not avoid certain doctrines that are clearly outlined by Christ in the Scriptures, and traditionally avoided by the modern church. I pray that we will not be a heretical church

that teaches suffering is not part of the Christian experience or Evangelical poverty is also not Christian....when Jesus taught these things so firmly in the Beatitudes and Paul affirmed them in his letters.

If we do not seek to live the truth, but live only our cultures' idea of truth, how will we face Jesus in that day when we have spent our lives seeking material luxuries, higher learning, political status, and all of modern man's gospel of prosperity and good health? While standing beside those who loved Jesus enough to do what He asked, "Go, sell all you have, give to the poor, then, come and follow Me." I pray we live in the truth, not modern man's truth which will be burnt up in the fires of purification with all the works we did for those worldly motives.

It takes guts to sell all you have for the pearl of great price. It also took guts not to call down angels to deliver Himself from crucifixion for our sakes. The point is, He will give you the guts, the courage, if you love Him more than anything else in the world, otherwise you will make yourself a lukewarm Christian, always juggling compromise to still look good, when you face Him in the Final Judgment. All I can say, dear ones, is that I never regret giving it all away to have Him and what He gave me in return was unspeakable glory and fellowship in His Heart, forever and ever. Amen!