



# The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

*"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"*

## What is TRUTH?

by Edward Earwood  
Executive Director

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*Jesus saith unto him (Thomas), I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" (John 14:6)

It seems to increasingly popular to present truth as *personal*, something that might be reality to one person but not to another. However, it is important to remember that this relative thinking is not new to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Jesus spoke with exclusivity, not relativity, when he addressed Thomas in John 14: "the" way, "the" truth, and "the" life. Jesus was excluding all others.

First century believers and the early church were built on exclusive truth. Acts 4:12 states that there is only one way to be saved: "...for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Jesus taught exclusivity of eternal *life* (John 6:63). Just as Jesus is the only way of salvation and the only way to have eternal *life*, He is also "the" *truth*.

Several years back I had a

discussion with a younger family member; in the course of our discussion, I re-stated an exclusive statement from the Bible. Her retort caught me a bit off guard: *But, Uncle Edward, that is your truth. It is not my truth.* As I contemplated our conversation in the days that followed, I was reminded of several important ideas concerning TRUTH.

### Truth is ETERNAL

*"...and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever."* (Psa. 117:2b)

John 14:6 equates Jesus with truth; couple that with Hebrews 13:8 and we see that "Jesus Christ (the truth), the same yesterday, today, and forever." Truth is not truth unless it is true for all eternity. Psalm 90:2 says that "from everlasting to everlasting" He is God. If Jesus is truth and Jesus is everlasting, then it naturally follows that truth is everlasting. John 17:17 states that God's Word

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## The Moral Twilight of our Times

by Dr. Chester Tulga

From the booklet *"The Doctrine of Right and Wrong in These Times"* pp. 36-48

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6. The Widespread Prevalence of Moral Neutrality Is a Symptom of the Moral Confusion and the Lack of Deep Moral and Spiritual Conviction.

*"Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they come not to the help of the Lord against the mighty" (Judges 5:23).*

Meroz was neutral, impassive, useless. It did not turn traitor; it did not play the spy; it did not

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## Do you really believe God?

I Samuel 15:1-35  
Editor's Desk Tod Brainard

Let's say I have an envelope with \$10 inside. Do you believe that there is cash inside of my envelope? Some of you might say, "I believe." Others say, "I have to see it to believe it." I think there is a much greater question here, "Do you believe me that there is \$10 in the envelope?" It is this very thought that is the heart issue of King Saul's actions in I Samuel 15.

King Saul is going to be charged with a serious task that God is going to give him. This task relates to a judgment upon a people concerning an event that happened well in the past before King Saul or anyone alive at that time. It was a task that required full faith in the veracity of God in carrying out His word. Tragically, King Saul failed the test. He did not obey God in the total, utter destruction of the Amalekites and therefore demonstrated that he did not believe God. He *partially obeyed* God's command, blamed the people for his decision, and basically felt he had done nothing wrong. However, he had interjected his own objectives into the commands of God and diluted them to suit his personal, selfish purposes. No-one has the latitude to dilute God's commands.

Is faith merely in the *text* of the message received in God's Word? Is faith dependent upon the merit or the vitality of my faith? Is faith based upon the character or worth of the person having faith? What is it? It is not just that we believe in the "idea" of the Word of God, or that we believe the "text" of the words were given by God, but rather that we believe God!

The mere intellectual assent to the facts of Christianity, however great or true, or even of the inspired record of those words falls short.

The book of James tells us "*that the devils believe and tremble*" (James 2:19). Do we think for a moment that their belief changes their eternal destiny? What empowers faith is trusting God Himself! Here was King Saul's great failure. Romans 10:17 "*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*". King Saul heard the words, filtered their meaning through his mind, changed the meaning of the words, and went out and disobeyed God. There was a sinful and deliberate failure of faith which resulted in a rebellious act. The powerful words spoken by God to the prophet of God delivered to King Saul was refused. King Saul rejected God's words for his own ideas.

I Peter 1:3 "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*" Vs. 12 – "*Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*" Vs. 23 – "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.*"

This is at the heart of why so many fall away from the truth today. It is not that they do not give intellectual assent to the testimony of the Bible, many do. It is that they do not fully believe God who gave the testimony. They will take to themselves some of the Word but miss the One who gave this Word.



## The PROJECTOR

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(Continued from page 1 - *The Moral Twilight of our Times*)

succor the foe. It was neither Israelite nor Canaanite. It was neither on this side or that. It did not fight. It just did nothing. The struggle between truth and error never ceases but many remain neutral and even persuade themselves that they are more pious than the contenders, not sensing that neutrality between truth and error is unfaithfulness. Many remind us of what "The Gentleman with the Duster" said of one of Britain's prime ministers. *"His scholarship has made no difference to scholarship. His moral earnestness has made no difference to morality."* The moral neutrals of our day testify to the immoral tolerance of our day, the shallowness of moral convictions, and that cowardice which believes there is nothing to fight for and less to die for.

7. The Moral Confusion of Our Times Has Contributed to the Present Widespread Pleas for Compromise of Moral Principles.

Harold H. Titus (What is a Mature Morality, pp. 106-107) lays down some principles which are important in the consideration of this problem. He says, *"The attitude of compromise, or of laxity toward some agreement or standard, is likely to be morally suspect. Under certain conditions it is clearly wrong. This is the case when we deviate from some clear*

*moral demand and give way to the indulgence of some personal desire which has no genuine claim against the demand. Whether we give way completely or stop at some halfway point between the two, the compromise is to be condemned. To 'split the difference' between a line of duty and some vice is clearly to err... Nor are we likely to have respect for the person who lightly casts aside his ideas and ideals merely because those about him do not accept them."*

The cynical attitude of many in our times toward truth and principle is illustrated by the well-known story of Bishop Francis J. McConnell, long a leader of liberal forces in the Methodist Church. *"During the Boxer Rebellion hundreds, probably thousands of Chinese Christians were martyred. There they knelt, wit their heads on a block, the knives trembling in the hands of the executioners. All they needed was to grunt out in Chinese word that meant 'I recant,' and their lives would be saved. Now, what should I have done under these circumstances? And I speak not simply personally, but in a representative capacity, for I think the rest of you are very much like myself. With my head on the block, I suspect I would have said: 'Hold on! I think I can make a statement that will be satisfactory to all sides."*

F. Olin Stockwell (with God in

Red China, pp. 236-238) followed this philosophy. He says, *"It is easy enough to say that I should have stuck to the truth as I saw it. I have done that for fourteen months of solitary imprisonment and had convinced no one....After my case had been cleared I had some six months or more of continued reeducation or indoctrination, months of reading, discussion, and listen to the Chinese newspapers which were read daily. The final turn was to write out an accusation of America in which I denounced America for all her sins. Much that I said was true, but sound like a drain inspector's report on American life.... They accepted this statement and at the end of nine and a half months permitted me to pack up my things."* The liberal missionary purchased his freedom at the cost of his own integrity, while hundreds of soldiers died rather than "confess."

Compromise is an essential part of human life and group activities, but compromise cannot violate certain fundamental principles and remain ethical.

(a) *Compromise must not be a substitute for a conflict between right and wrong.* Men of weak principles and small integrity often use the method of compromise as an "easy way" out,

(Continued Next Issue)

# Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 11:10,11, **When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, *there is shouting.* By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.**

We all know of the principle of sowing and reaping, the principal of cause and effect. This is played out in our proverbs for we are told when things go well with the righteous in the city then things also go well for everyone. In the same manner, when the wicked is in power the people of the city suffer. Seems familiar to us does it not.

I remember as a seven-year-old boy in 1945 the fall of the Nazi empire and the death of its evil leader, Adolph Hitler. I remember the hanging by the feet of the one who aligned himself with Hitler, that proud man of Italy called Benito Mussolini. We have seen example after example of the falling of the wicked in our time, the slaying of the dictator Gaddafi, before that the hanging of Saddam Hussein, and then the killing of Osama Ben Laden. What followed these falls from power was an outpouring of rejoicing by the peoples who had been unjustly treated. Remember the young people who danced in the streets of New York and Washington after hearing that Bin Laden was dead. I realize that these people are not all righteous, but they are people who have been created in the image of God. Their motives may not be pure, but they still have the desire for justice. Even in our own history our Revolution was about tyranny and injustice.

Remember the story of Esther and Mordecai and how the wicked had a strategy for victory. Haman, a member of the unrighteous, was in charge. He declared the Jews to be enemies of the state. However, God turned his evil into good and all of Haman's plans for their destruction turned to his own destruction. When God's plan unfolded, oh how the people rejoiced! The Jews continue to rejoice annually when they celebrate the feast of Purim. During this celebration, the enemy Haman continues to receive scorn for he is the enemy the Jews love to hate. When Haman's name is read out during public chanting in the synagogue, which occurs 54 times, the congregation engages in noisemaking to blot out his name. There is a practice of writing his name on two smooth stones and banging them together so his name cannot be heard. Some write the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of his name they stamp their feet in contempt. Another method is to use a noisy rattle to blot out the hearing of his name. God's deliverance from Haman's evil has been remembered for 2400 years. Talk about rejoicing that endures!

Even though the Jews have continued to be repressed though the centuries they remember Haman's demise and Mordecai's elevation. Mordecai was a

righteous man who feared God and operated by God's standards of justice and charity. He was a virtuous man, a man of integrity, a man whose motives and acts reflected the highest values. God placed him in a position of power and as a result, the Jews had deliverance.

The man in power who brings gladness will be the man Solomon recalls in Proverbs 16:7: He will be a man whose: **ways please the LORD, a man who: maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.** The people will know his virtues, will know his honesty, will know his fairness and will live rejoicing.

See how important it is to have righteous leadership! Look at what happens in your place of work, or in your church, or any place where leaders function. An indication of righteous leadership is a rejoicing people. Everything rises and falls on leadership.

I remember this saying from my Navy days: **"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."**

A Christian leader is one who knows Jesus Christ as the Way, who follows in that Way, and who shows others the Way.

Ω



(Continued from page 1—What is TRUTH)

is truth; in light of John 1:1, the Word (Jesus) was in the beginning. Truth, then, is eternal.

## Truth is EXTERNAL

What is meant by truth being external? It *must* originate outside of man. If truth is eternal, then truth existed prior to the creation of humanity; therefore, it reasonably follows that truth was established prior to mankind. While truths can be discovered by mankind (i.e. gravity, spherical shape of the earth, etc.), these truths are external of humankind.

For this reason, truth is never “my truth.” All truth is God’s truth and is simply revealed to mankind. Scripture is replete with this truth. For example, Psalm 91:4 states that “His (God’s) truth shall be my shield.” Man’s ways, though right in his own eyes, lead to destruction (Prov. 12:15). Only folly originates with man. Truth is external to man. Even Jesus said in John 5:31 that “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.” Why? Jesus was reiterating the principle that truth, while eternal, is also external to man. People in John 5 were seeing Jesus in his humanity, sometimes missing His deity. Therefore, God the Father bore witness of His truth (Baptism of Jesus) and now the Comforter bears witness of the truth (John 16).

## Truth should become INTERNAL

So, truth must be ETERNAL in nature and EXTERNAL of mankind. So when truth is established, then God instructs us to make truth INTERNAL. Praying to His Father in John 17:17, Jesus asks the Father to “sanctify them (disciples) through thy truth.” Jesus wants God’s eternal truth to sanctify His disciples. How can the truth do that?

The Psalmist instructs to internalize (hide) God’s Word (truth) in our hearts. This is the same truth that Jesus proclaims that if we know it that it will set us free (John 8:32).

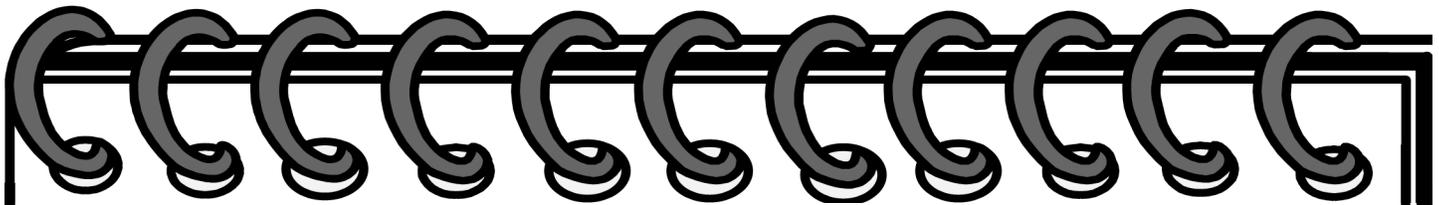
1 Kings 17n records the story of the widow and her son that were caught amid a great famine. After the miracle at Mount Carmel, Elijah pronounced that it would not rain until he prayed, and God sent rain. You might remember that God used this widow to provide for the material needs of the prophet Elijah; however, the story did not end there. Soon the widow’s son died, and the widow questioned the validity of the prophet of God. Elijah cried unto God asking Him to restore the life to the young man. And the giver of life did so. The widow’s response is quite instructive; she finally realized that Elijah was a true prophet and “that the word of the LORD in thy (Elijah) mouth is *truth*.”

In Romans 1:18, we find that God will unleash His wrath

on those that “hold the truth in unrighteousness.” The implication here is not that the truth originated with man, but that to man truths have been revealed—eternal truths that originated with God—and now man is living in direct contradiction to these truths. Man is not “holding” the truths (internalizing the truth) and allowing the truths to direct his lifestyle. Rather, in rebellion, man has known the truths and chosen to rebel and follow his *own truth*.

So, what should be our response to the eternal and external truths of Scripture that we have appropriately internalized? First, we must KNOW the truth—read and study the Bible and commit the truths to memory. Second, we must LIVE the truth—“to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin (James 4:17)”. Finally, we must TEACH the truth—to our children, to our grandchildren, to our church congregations, to those that the Lord allows us to mentor.

In a culture intoxicated with self and proclaiming a personalized, designer *truth* that is fraudulent, the people of God must faithfully proclaim truth—eternal truth established before creation, external truth never originates with man but always with God, and truth that is internalized so that all can testify that, like Elijah, “the word of the LORD” that we speak and live “is truth.” (1 Kings 17:24) Ω



*Teaching Tips*

*by Doris Peppard*

### Teaching Truths of God to Children

God gives children to parents; and, as Christian teachers we have opportunities to teach and train boys and girls that are not our own. When a parent enrolls their children in Christian schools, we can have a positive impact on the spiritual development of our students. In fact, grandparents, aunts, and uncles can also have opportunities to help lead their relations to Christ. The responsibility is great and we should not shirk any opportunity to share truths of God's Word with any and all children who come into our care.

Teaching Bible stories to children is not enough. Children need to understand certain fundamental things in order to understand the reason the story is included in the Bible. Otherwise, it is simply another story told to children. For example: The story of Zacchaeus is enjoyed by children every time they hear it. But, what good does this story do for the child unless he/she has been taught that Zacchaeus needed a Savior - just like they do, and that Jesus seeks "to save that which was lost." Truths of Scripture need to become ingrained in the hearts of our children.

Theme verses to help us determine a plan to teach these truths are found in I Cor. 14:40: *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* And Isaiah 28:9-10: *"Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."* Well, that lets us know that teaching Bible truths to children can and should begin very early in their lives!

#### General hints to teach these truths:

- 1) Young children usually tie murder to the word sin, so we can use the term "bad things" next to the word sin. All children understand they do bad things and they must come to the point that they realize that their "bad things" are sins.
- 2) The term "Trinity" can be difficult for children so we can explain the term as "Three Persons in One."
- 3) Stress that every child does bad things. Unless children see that they themselves do bad things (SIN), they cannot see their need of a Savior and will not be able to understand that Jesus' work on the cross was necessary.
- 4) Our terminology must be explained simply and clearly.

There are seven foundational Bible Truths children should be taught. One of the best ways to teach them is using a catechism. This will provide order needed in our theme verse. Teaching children to answer questions about truths of Scripture will help them gain an understanding about the important Biblical truths God intends us to learn. I found this quote in a workshop handout on teaching Bible to young children: **"IT IS NEVER GOD'S WILL THAT TRUTHS BE HIDDEN FROM CHILDREN, FOR CHILDREN ARE MORE RECEPTIVE TO SPIRITUAL TRUTHS THAN THEY WILL EVER BE AGAIN!"** The seven foundational truths that children should learn concern God, Heaven, Sin, Salvation, Assurance, Bible, and Satan. A catechism (question and answer format) easily addresses each of these topics. Teaching truths of the Bible to young children is a great responsibility!



Stars of the Morning

MISS BETSY and the BULL PART 2 A True Story by "Aunt Carolyn"



The story so far: Jim and Betsy Frazier were called from ministry and the conveniences of New York to meet the desperate spiritual and physical needs of Native Americans on the Navajo Reservation in the bleak, harsh Arizona desert.

Another Crisis

The Frazier's labored faithfully together for many years, then the Lord called Jim home to Heaven in 2003. What would happen now? Would the mission close? Betsy couldn't carry on by herself. She couldn't live out in this harsh wilderness by herself! It would be too dangerous! Or would it? Betsy never even considered leaving! God would take care of her. Of course, she would stay! She could not, she would not leave the dear people she loved and who needed her! She was the person they turned to in so many troubles. Like one young woman who had hit rock bottom several times, but always thought she could work it out herself. Finally coming to Betsy she said, "Can I come stay with you?" Betsy has taken in countless down-and-outers to reach them for the Lord. They might be found sleeping on her couch or she might make a place for them on the floor, but they find a refuge with Betsy, who points them to the only true Refuge, the Lord Jesus Christ!

A New Hardship

Another obstacle came in the form of eye disease. Betsy lost the sight in one eye completely, and the sight in the other fades more each passing day. No longer able to see to read, she depends on others to read the Bible for her and can listen to the Bible on cassettes. She also depends on others to read any letters she receives. If no one is there to "write" for her, she takes out her felt-tip pen and writes with broad letters about one-half to three-fourths inch high and answers every letter from her heart. It is a struggle, but Betsy perseveres! Communication with her has improved since the coming of cell phones. She can be reached by cell service now but cannot see the numbers on the keypad well enough to return calls.

Several decades of faithful service have passed and Betsy continues to face extreme conditions, harsh weather, desert sand, vagrants, alcoholics - never knowing who next might appear at her door, but she welcomes all who need help. She takes them to the storage sheds or trailer or her garden to give them anything possible to relieve their suffering or need. She spends countless hours comforting or counselling with Bible answers, and pointing the lost to the only Answer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Betsy and the Bull

Now we return to the disaster that began this story. In 2017, Betsy suddenly faced another staggering difficulty. Early one morning while out working in her garden before the heat of the day, pandemonium suddenly broke loose! There was no time to get out of the way! Two huge bulls from the free range pasture surrounding the mission were startled by barking dogs and came bulldozing through the fence into her yard! One massive bull, with head down and nostrils blazing, launched Betsy three or four feet into the air, crash-landing her on the ground and dashing her head on the rocks! One hoof stomped her leg so hard it took out a hunk of flesh down to the bone! Dazed, she lay still a moment not sure if she was dead or alive. Everything was dark. She couldn't see. As she felt through the blood on her forehead, she felt...she felt her eye! Her only good eye was sticking partly out of the socket! Somehow Betsy had the presence of mind to push it back in and was able to see faintly. Dragging herself over by the house, she lay crumpled on the ground in a bloody heap. She was helpless. How long she lay there she didn't know, but thankfully, a Native American couple passed by. Their angel Betsy was nowhere in sight. Concerned, they entered the yard to check on her.

Now they were her guardian angels! They called 911 and tried to stop the blood flow until an ambulance could come. The Widow's Mite is a long way from any help, so it was a long wait, but at last they came and rushed her to the hospital. The

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\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* (Continued from page 7—Stars of the Morning) \*  
 \* miracle was that she was still alive! With two skull \*  
 \* fractures, a cheekbone fracture, and a cracked orbital \*  
 \* bone around her good eye, her condition was \*  
 \* serious! The bull’s hoof had taken a chunk out of \*  
 \* her leg leaving an open wound down to the bone. \*  
 \* After emergency care, Betsy was put in the Intensive \*  
 \* Care Unit. Family and friends waited. Doctors said \*  
 \* it would take six weeks to heal and that “older \*  
 \* people” take longer. She must rest and also be very \*  
 \* careful not to bump her head, as it was full of \*  
 \* staples. “Six weeks or longer.” Not Betsy! After \*  
 \* two weeks, they took the staples out, peeled the \*  
 \* adhesive off the cuts on her face, and the doctor gave \*  
 \* her the O.K. to go back to her “normal activities.” \*  
 \* At age 81, Betsy does not “do normal.” She has an \*  
 \* overcoming, dynamic spirit from the Lord that won’t \*  
 \* quit! Someone asked her how the doctor did it. \*  
 \* Betsy answered, “The doctor didn’t do it. God did!” \*  
 \*  
 \* **God Is Faithful** \*  
 \*  
 \* And God is Betsy’s answer to all her needs, from \*  
 \* clothes, and food and blankets for the Native \*  
 \* Americans to her own personal needs. She simply \*  
 \* calls on the Lord. As Sarah “judged Him faithful \*  
 \* who had promised” (Heb.11:11b), Betsy looks to \*  
 \*  
 \* Jesus, and “Jesus never fails!” She is ever grateful \*  
 \* for people who hold her and the mission up in \*  
 \* prayer. Her mission prayer letters always close \*  
 \* something like this: “We provide food, clothes, \*  
 \* shoes, bedding, furniture and whatever donations \*  
 \* come in. We can always use clothes, bedding, \*  
 \* sewing materials, fabrics, cooking pots, Navajo and \*  
 \* English Bibles, gospel cassettes, batteries, and \*  
 \* always candles. Thank you so much for helping, and \*  
 \* may God richly bless you!” Those letters come from \*  
 \* a *servant’s heart!* \*  
 \*  
 \* **For His Name’s Sake** \*  
 \*  
 \* Boys and girls, young people, like Miss Betsy, let’s \*  
 \* ask the Lord to give us a servant’s heart, a heart of \*  
 \* caring for and serving others “for His name’s sake!” \*  
 \* Let’s ask Jesus to give us a burden for lost souls. \*  
 \* May we also be willing to answer God’s call to His \*  
 \* mission field, at home or abroad, to reach the \*  
 \* multitudes who have no hope. Ω \*  
 \*  
 \* Sources: The Widow’s Mite Prayer Letters; Internet \*  
 \* Sites \*  
 \* **(Please pray for Betsy and** \*  
 \* **The Widow’s Mite Mission)** \*  
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