

## Truth Lives!

Joe Slater

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness”* (Romans 1:18, NKJV).

In “A Christmas Carol,” Charles Dickens’ 1843 classic, the ghost of Christmas past shows Ebenezer Scrooge how much he has lost due to his obsession with material wealth. He could have enjoyed a full and happy life with his beloved Belle and a houseful of children. Instead, he dwells in self-imposed darkness and cold with only his money to comfort him. So painful is this realization that Scrooge can bear it no longer! He places the ghost’s large candle extinguisher over her head and pushes it down as if to extinguish the light of truth about his wretched misery. As he does so, the ghost exclaims, “Truth lives! Truth lives!”

Truth can, indeed, be painful to face. Truth often conflicts so sharply with the desires of the flesh that people find it intolerable and try to suppress it, as in the Scripture quoted above. Some even deny the very existence of God, not because evidence is lacking, but because *“they did not like to retain God in their knowledge”* (Romans 1:28). As Paul also wrote, *“they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved”* (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Legion are the Ebenezer Scrooges of today. They aren’t necessarily miserly old curmudgeons, but resistance to the truth characterizes them all. Let us be like Dickens’ ghosts of past, present, and future as we explain what they have lost, warn of what they are about to lose, and urge them to repent.

Dickens didn’t mention cleansing through the blood of Christ, but we can and must. We serve the God of truth (Psalm 31:5), and God lives (Revelation 7:2). God’s word is truth (John 17:17), and His word lives (Hebrews 4:12).

The ghost of Christmas past was right: Truth lives!

## Ironies About Jesus

- \* He who was the bread of life began His ministry hungry.
- \* He who was the water of life ended His ministry thirsty.
- \* He who was often weary is our rest.
- \* He who paid taxes is the king of the universe.
- \* He who was slandered as demonized cast out demons.
- \* He who wept dries our tears.
- \* He who was sold for 30 pieces of silver redeemed the world.
- \* He who was led as a lamb to the slaughter is our Good Shepherd.

--Author Unknown

## WHY WE SING

We do not sing because we need a “warm-up” before the sermon.

We do not sing so people have time to get to their seats.

We do not sing because we need to be entertained.

We sing because God is good.

We sing because God is worthy.

We sing because it is a communal act of unity in which we declare the glory of God, the gravity of sin, and the grandeur of grace!

--via @MBOGGS14

## Don’t Be Naïve!

**“The naïve believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps”** (Proverbs 13:15).

Naiveté is found in all age groups. We often hear about the elderly being swindled out of their hard-earned cash. Or some assume that the person selling them a car is honest and would never conceal the serious problems with the vehicle, so they sign an “as is” contract, only to find out later that they purchased a junker.

There are many people who listen to televangelists, or door knocking false teachers, and assume they are teaching the truth. The expression, “he swallowed it hook, line, and sinker” comes to mind. The Bible expects us to assess the spirits to see if they are from the Lord (1 John. 4:1).

I ask those who hear my preaching not to take my word about anything, but to do exactly what those who heard Paul preach did. *“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true”* (Acts 17:11 NIV).

We see many attend services without their Bibles. They don’t even open a pew Bible. I heard about a member sitting behind a visiting preacher tapping his shoulder and asked him, “Brother, what do we believe about. . . .?” Seriously? We must know what we believe rather than follow someone just because he is widely known, preaches for a big church, and writes books!

When Paul said love *“believes all things”* (1 Corinthians 13:7), he did not mean for us to be gullible, naïve, and easily deceived by evil people.

Let’s be sensible and consider our steps!

--Rob Redden (Arroyo Grande, CA)