



PRODIGAL SON-TIMES™



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GRACE AND TRUTH

Grace and Truth are the building blocks of Christ-centered living. We are to walk the truth (3 John 1:3), love the truth, and believe in the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10,11). All truth has a center of gravity: Jesus Christ, who declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Today, the world's low standards, its disregard for truth, and attraction to the world's slickly marketed substitutes, leads many astray to become victims of Satan's conning, lying, and godlessness. Many are gullible, and Satan is eloquent, smooth, persuasive, and believable to them.

What is the truth? Much teaching today is popularity-driven, not truth-driven.

Some pastors and television preachers are well paid to play false and loose with the truth. But Charles Spurgeon said, *"Christ's people must have bold, unflinching lion-like hearts, loving Christ first, and His truth beyond all the world."*

Jesus said that He alone is the only way to come to the Father. "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

We're so used to being lied to, and so prone to self-deceit that it's hard to discern what's true and what's not. Only 31% of Americans agree that "Honesty is the best policy!" The words of Judges 21:25, seem eerily prophetic of our times: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own eyes" (NASB).

(Continued on page 4)

Light

Light shines outward like the love of a mother

Light is a positive when darkness tries to take over

Light makes a way when there seems to be no way

Light shines into a dark heart and makes it bright

By Charles Rider

HOW MANY TIMES BY Charles Rider



How Many Times. . .

have we watched the sun go down and the moon come up?

have we watched the hands of the clock go round and round as time passes by?

have we sat in the dark and cried ourselves to sleep?

have we thought about the past and the choices we could have made?

have we said, "Jesus, help me"?

could we say our life was changed because we let God change it?

Have we said, "Just one more time, and then never again"?

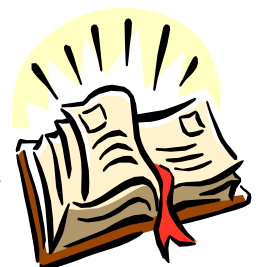
What happens when there is no time left?

Bible Quiz

Fill In The Blanks: From The Book of Psalms

- 1.) Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be _____
- 2.) The fool hath said in his heart _____
- 3.) In Thee O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be put to _____
- 4.) I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor _____
- 5.) Wait on the Lord: be of good courage and he shall _____
- 6.) Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is _____
- 7.) Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own _____
- 8.) God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in _____
- 9.) Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother _____
- 10.) Restore unto me the joy of thy _____

(answers found on page 4)



RESIDENT COMMENTS

“I love being here,” states Kevin who has been a resident for two months. “Before I came here I was abusing alcohol and drugs. Now, I’m starting to not desire it, and I’m starting to trust in the Lord. I have made significant changes in my short time here. I especially enjoy working with computers in the Learning Center, and I like being around others. Kevin rated himself as “greatly improved” physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually since he came to the Rescue Mission.

How Much Like Jesus Are YOU?

*Every reborn Christian is progressively sanctified and becomes more and more like Christ.
What characteristics do you and/or your friends notice that are Christ-like in you?*

- 1.) *I’m sensitive to others’ feelings and can help make them feel whole.*
- 2.) *I’m usually willing to do something for someone.*
- 3.) *I have a way of sharing my faith that is inspiring.*
- 4.) *I’m able to organize and accomplish things easily.*
- 5.) *I have a way of bringing Scripture to life, offering hope to others.*
- 6.) *I have the courage to say what needs to be said, even if it isn’t popular.*
- 7.) *I’m a leader and people tend to follow me.*
- 8.) *I’m willing to sacrifice anything to glorify God.*

Each day practice at least one of the above, Christ-like qualities without letting other people know about it.
This daily practice will help you to spiritually grow.

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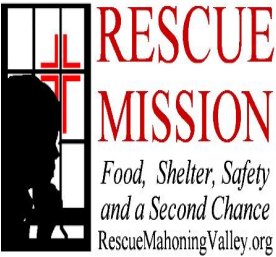


YOU, MOST OF ALL, CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH

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The purpose of the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley is to serve and glorify GOD through CHRIST-centered outreach of love and compassion that responds to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of disadvantaged men, women, and children without regard to race, color, or creed.

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Truth resonates in the human heart. God put it there. People may resist, yet it's the truth they need, for it's the only truth that sets them free. When we fail to tell the truth, we fail to represent Jesus, who is the Truth.

Ephesians 4:15, tells us to speak the truth in love, not to withhold the truth in love. Our job is not simply to help each other feel good, but to help each other be good. We need to love one another enough to tell them the truth.

We need the truth of the Bible to know where to go. Then we need the empowerment of grace to help us get there. We show people Jesus only when we show them truth and our own fruits of the Spirit.

It Defies Logic

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen. I love him and I am pleased with him."
Matthew 12:18

Those who saw Jesus—really saw him—knew there was something different. At his touch blind beggars saw. At his command crippled legs walked. At his embrace empty lives filled with vision.

He fed thousands with one basket. He stilled a storm with one command. He raised the dead with one proclamation. He changed lives with one request. He rerouted the history of the world with one life, lived in one country, was born in one manger, and died on one hill...

God did what we wouldn't dare dream. He did what we couldn't imagine. He became a man so we could trust him. He became a sacrifice so we could know him. And he defeated death so we could follow him.

It defies logic. It is a divine insanity. A holy incredibility.

Only a Creator beyond the fence of logic could offer such a gift of love.

Bible quiz answers:	1.) Fed
	2.) There is no God
	3.) Confusion
	4.) his seed begging bread
	5.) strengthen thine heart
	6.) covered
	7.) inheritance
	8.) trouble
	9.) conceive me
	10.) salvation