# WHOLE WHEAT

The truth is simple...just simply not known.

A PUBLICATION FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

# God's Simple Truth

God's simple truth is this: A disciple of Jesus Christ is to live a life of pleasing the Father in heaven by doing good as Jesus gave us an example to do (Eph. 2:10; 5:10). By living a life of doing good, we leave behind the selfish life of doing evil (Gal. 5:16). Could anything be more clear? We overcome a life of sin by persevering in a life of doing good for God (Rom. 12:21). When we do what the Lord has told us to do, we are obedient to Him.

Then we begin to suffer for doing good for God (2 Tim. 3:12). Why? It is through suffering that we build godly character. We build integrity when we continue to do good, even when we don't feel like it or when we're persecuted for allegiance to God because we put Him first in our lives. A soldier doesn't feel like getting up at 4:30 a.m. and going out in the front lines for his country, but his allegiance to his commanding officer and his sole purpose to glorify and honor his country motivate him. Some of the greatest men who ever lived came forth from the wars that were fought down through the ages. The stress, endurance, pain and suffering of war has made many mighty men.

We must repent (change) or we will most definitely perish. God knows it is more difficult to repent in good times. That is why the word of the Lord says men will repent when war comes. Those of us who are wise will repent now and be spared by God when the war comes.

War is precipitated by sin and any nation that continues to sin and does not repent before God, is inviting the inevitable punishment upon itself.

# Inside This Issue... God's Simple Truth It's as Simple as This A Gospel That Works It's so Simple Listen to our podcast: "The Simple Gospel" here. Visit our Newsletter Archive for the voiceover version of this newsletter. wholewheatonline.com

## God's Simple Truth

The sure word of God says that God in heaven makes nations great, then destroys them (Job 12:23). Wouldn't it be wise on our part to repent now by living a life of doing good so we can be considered God's friends, instead of His enemies?

'All God wants us to do is practice being humble, compassionate, charitable people each day so He can live in us and through us and form Jesus Christ's nature in us.'

All God wants us to do is practice being humble, compassionate, charitable people each day so He can live in us and through us and form Jesus Christ's nature in us (Gal. 4:19). He causes the growth but He can only do so, when we repent and continually practice doing what is right, that's repentance (1 Cor. 3:7). He wants us to put aside all filthiness, such as swearing, backbiting, gossip, slander, evil living and the many forms of fornication—which includes sex before marriage. Do not do anything you cannot imagine your Savior, Jesus Christ, doing or anything that you feel would be displeasing to Him. Keep vour mind clear and your conscience clear of all filthiness so that you can live before the Father and the Son with a pure heart (2 Tim. 1:3). The Lord will take care of all your needs, including godly companions or a godly spouse, but He wants you to trust Him first by showing Him your unfailing allegiance.

'No good thing will God withhold from those who walk uprightly and live their lives to please Him.'

There are hundreds of Scriptures concerning the righteous just waiting to be fulfilled. For example: No good thing will God withhold from those who walk uprightly and live their lives to please Him (Psalm 84:11). Seek to enter God's kingdom first by practicing righteousness for Him and then all things will be added to you (Matt. 6:33). Give to others personally of your time, your love and your

service. Share your money, your clothes and your home, and they will return blessings to you, running over until you have no more needs (Luke 6:38). Your barns will be full.

When you suffer for doing what is wrong, it is just, for sin always has its penalty. Those who sin and do not repent suffer in vain, for their end is always death. On the other hand, suffering for righteousness builds godliness and is great gain because it bears fruit for eternal life (1 Tim. 6:6). When you suffer, you don't feel like sinning. That is why God uses suffering to stamp out sin in You give in to sin less when you your body. practice righteousness more. Practicing righteousness is such a beautiful, simple, glorious way to overcome sin. No wonder God's word says, "Who is there to harm you if you become zealous for doing good?" (1 Peter 3:13).

'We, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are admonished to do all that we do in good words or good works in the name of Jesus Christ for the glory of the Father.'

Doing good for God is God's conversion plan for true repentance. The New Testament is filled with Scriptures admonishing us to do good and encouraging us not to get weary of doing good (Heb. 10:24; 2 Thess. 3:13). We, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are admonished to do all that we do in good words or good works in the name of Jesus Christ for the glory of the Father (Col. 3:17).

It stands to reason then, if we are not doing good with our mouths, in what we say and we are not living lives of service to others, we are not disciples of Jesus Christ, but are liars and the truth is not in us (1 John 2:4). The word disciple comes from the word discipline and if we are not disciplining ourselves for the purpose of godliness daily, then we are not picking up the cross daily and following Jesus (1 Tim. 4:7). And if those who teach are not teaching about the

### God's Simple Truth

doctrine that conforms one to godliness, they are stupid and understand nothing. Do not listen to them (Luke 21:8; 1 Tim. 6:3-4). Any other message but this, is a doctrine of demons (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

It is time to understand suffering, understand righteousness, understand true repentance and holy living, and get back to the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). Return to the faith that makes you holy and the faith that makes you righteous. The faith that has works is the faith that works. If anyone comes to your door and does not bring this teaching, but another gospel, don't let him in your house (2 John 10). You must abide in the teachings of

Christ to be His disciple, and not in the teachings of men (2 John 9). If you do not abide in Jesus Christ's words, you will be burned (John 15:6). But if you bear much fruit, in every good work, you will abide in Jesus Christ and prove to be His disciple (John 15:8; Col. 1:10).

Jesus Christ commands us time and time again to love one another (John 15:12-17; 1 John 3:10-11). We are to show love to others by doing good works, with our deeds and not just with words. This is how we assure our hearts before God, knowing that we are His disciples (1 John 3:18-19). Could anything be more simple than God's simple truth?□

### It's as Simple as This

We are God's creation. We are His children. He wants us to be good children so that He can bless us. He wants us to be good by continually doing good for Him so He can change us, form His spiritual nature in us and make us new creations. Very simply, we do the practicing and He does the perfecting. Practice makes perfect (2 Peter 1:4; Gal. 4:19).

However, the entire New Testament warns us that once we have left our old sinful ways, we are not to forsake God by going back to them. The Bible warns that sin will abound in the last days and, as a result, the love of many will grow cold (Matt. 24:12; Rev. 13:10; 22:11). By practicing deeds of righteousness for God each day, we will be learning to live God's holy and righteous Way. This is how we are to do our part until God makes our righteousness come from our heart (Eph. 6:6).

The Lord wants us to live daily like He would live on this earth—the Way that He is living in heaven (Matt. 6:10; Eph. 5:1; 1 Peter 4:11). This is what it means to do God's Will on this earth as it is being done in heaven. Repentance is living God's Way and forsaking our old ways of sin (Gal. 5:19-24). How simple can it get?

God wants us to give in secret, pray in secret and do good in secret, rather than doing it to be seen of men. God's secret is: If you do these things in secret, then God will know that you are sincere (Matt. 6:1, 3-4). He will not only reward you in secret, but He will also change your heart to that of His (Gal. 4:19; 2 Peter 1:4; Ezek. 11:19-20).

Do good to all—even to your enemies (Luke 6:35; Matt. 5:39, 44-45). If someone takes something from you, don't ask for it back. If someone asks you for something, give it to them.

Continued on Page 6

### A Gospel That Works



Jesus Christ came preaching a gospel of prosperity (Acts 3:26). This gospel was called the "good news," because that's exactly what it was.

Jesus Himself said, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus said in Luke 6:38 that His followers' lives would be running over with blessings. God's word says if you live to please Him, you will have no more needs. You will be blessed to such an extent that you won't have room enough to receive all the blessings (Mal. 3:10 King James Version).

Jesus Christ said if you seek to enter His kingdom first, by practicing His righteousness in your life and keeping His deeds or sayings daily, all your needs and wants will be taken care of (Matt. 6:33; Rev. 2:26; John 8:51; 14:12). Yes, Jesus Christ's gospel does work, but man's gospel or manmade doctrines do not. Why? Because many preachers have made the straight Ways of the Lord crooked; therefore, man's gospel is incomplete, as it leaves out the message of righteousness (Acts 13:10; Mark 1:3). Many gospels that are preached today, then, are not the Lord's gospel, but man's.

What is that message of righteousness that man's gospel—the crooked gospel—is leaving out? It is the true message of repentance, which is an ongoing Way of life of righteousness (Matt. 3:2; 21:32).

It is the Way Jesus told us to live daily in order to be pleasing to the Father in heaven. Jesus came to tell us the Father's words and reveal the Father's Ways to us so that we could put them into practice daily in our lives and live them (Jer. 23:22).

Then the simple message of righteousness is to keep God's Ways daily in our lives. That is what it means to walk with God (Gen. 5:22). We are to walk like God walks and talk like God talks (1 Peter 4:11). Walking like God walks is imitating how God would live on this earth as He lives in heaven (Eph. 5:1; Matt. 6:10). How God walks, then, is called God's Ways. When we perform God's Ways on this earth daily, by being a servant to others and by being kind to others, we are doing God's Will on earth as it is being done by God in heaven. You know in your heart that this is the true gospel of the Bible.

Jesus' words or sayings were God's words on how we are to live daily to be pleasing in His sight. Only if you keep Jesus' sayings will you receive eternal life and never see death, says Jesus Christ, who does not lie (John 8:51; Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2). Only if you "live" the life that Jesus lived and came to show us how to live, can you say you truly believe in Jesus Christ. Then, you will receive eternal life and never die, says Jesus who wouldn't lie. Do you believe this (John 11:25-26)? Doing the Father's Will daily, which is performing the Father's Ways of righteousness daily towards others, is absolutely necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven and receive eternal life to live forever (Matt. 7:21; 1 John 2:17).

You cannot honestly say that you know Jesus, nor can you claim to be His brother, unless you do the Will of God daily in your life by serving others and live a life of doing good daily, like Jesus said you should (Mark 3:35; Acts 10:38). Dorcas is one of our examples of this Way of life (Acts 9:36).

You cannot be good unless you practice being good, and of course, you cannot be good without doing good; so then, you must cease from doing evil by learning to do good (ls. 1:16-17; Titus 3:8, 14). You see, the Lord can only do good to those

### A Gospel That Works

who are good and to those who maintain pure hearts before Him (Psalm 125:4).

The very reason God does not hear the prayers of many, is because they are not showing God respect (fear) daily by doing His Will (John 9:31). Walking in His Ways, which are all righteous and kind, is His Will (Psalm 145:17). Keeping the commandments is continually doing things that are pleasing in God's sight. That's called living uprightly (1 John 3:22).

Most humans are being held captive by Satan to do his will, which is evil (2 Tim. 2:26). When you perform God's Will by practicing righteousness for others daily, you are pleasing to the Lord. This is how you overcome Satan and sin in your life. This is how you repent and put to death the deeds of the body, by living to the Spirit, which is God (Rom. 8:12-14). This is also how you walk in the Spirit (keep God's Ways and do God's Will by serving others) so you will not carry out the evil deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:13-16).

If you want to live forever, you must overcome your evil nature by continually doing good for God—think only good thoughts, do only good deeds and say only good things with your mouth (Psalm 37:27). You overcome Satan and sin in your life by performing the deeds or works Jesus told us to do (Rev. 2:26; John 14:12). This is how you resist Satan's temptations daily in your life.

Practicing righteousness towards others continually, has been a hallmark of God's truth from the beginning of time. It is the directions for how to love your neighbor as you would yourself and thus, show your love for God by doing so (Matt. 22:36-40). Practicing this message of overcoming evil assures a person that he will not be hurt in the second death (Rev. 2:11). It assures that he will eat from the tree of life (eternal life) which is in the Paradise of God (Rev. 2:7).

Living this simple, easy and righteous Way of life daily, assures you that your name will not be erased from God's awesome book of life (Rev. 3:5; 20:12; 14:13). Repentance requires doing good works or deeds, daily in our lives (Rev. 2:5). The fruit we are to bear for Jesus is good works (Col. 1:10). Without a life of good works—good fruit on our trees (godly character)—we will be thrown into the lake of fire because our faith is dead (Matt. 7:19; 3:10).

Why wouldn't someone with an honest and good heart want to live this holy, pleasant and easy Way of life (Matt. 11:30)? It's the directions on how to receive answered prayer and how to have a life filled, to the brim, with blessings and every good thing (Luke 8:15; 1 John 3:22).

Here is a word of caution for some to consider: After God has blessed you, and some of you have become rich and in need of nothing, do not become spiritually lazy—become lukewarm or slow down in your life of doing good for God—or the Lord will have to test you severely (Rev. 3:15-22).

No wonder so many preach against God's true message of prosperity. Their gospel simply doesn't work, because it leaves out the need to do good works for God, for repentance (Eph. 6:8, Acts 26:20). However, this gospel does work. Try it, and you will never be the same again. You will be a full-time servant of God. □

## It's as Simple as This

Say hello to everyone and not just to your friends (Matt. 5:47). Be kind to all; be gracious to all. Pay your taxes, because our government leaders are God's servants, the same as you are (Rom. 13:6). When you invite your friends over for lunch, include a crippled person, or maybe a blind, lonely or elderly person (Luke 14:13). God says you will be rewarded at the resurrection of the righteous (Luke 14:14).

To the extent that you give to others, God will cause others to give to you many times more (Luke 6:38). A person cannot afford not to give, as this releases God's power to bless you. It doesn't matter how much you give. It is the action of giving that produces the blessings.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Of course, the more you give, the more you will receive. God wants you to always have the means to do more good, so that you may live His Way of life in your body continually (2 Cor. 9:11).

Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?

- When you give, you are righteous.
- When you give, you are godly.
- When you give, you always receive many times more than what you gave (Eph. 6:8).
- When you give, your evil nature is weakened.
- When you give, you are doing good.
- When you give, you receive peace in your soul and feel good about yourself and your relationship with God.
- When you give, you will never suffer want (Psalm 91:1-16).
- Because giving is the way into the kingdom of heaven within (Luke 17:21 King James Version).

- Because giving is how you enter God's rest (Heb. 4:10).
- Because giving is loving, loving is giving, and God is love.

Let's say you give clothes to a needy person, food to someone who is hungry or money to those who are in need. Give time to the lonely, the elderly and the forsaken. Give time to help anyone in need of anything for God's glory. You see, giving is more than just money. It is time, energy and concern for others. Giving is a cousin to kindness, and kindness is a cousin to charity; they are all cousins of love. If you understand what giving truly is, you simply cannot afford *not* to give. Giving is godliness. It is also repentance (Rom. 2:7). It is proving your love for God (John 15:8).

God is love. God is compassionate, loving, patient, understanding and kind in all His Ways and in all His deeds (Psalm 145:17). God does not lie. Our God is the God of truth. Our God is the <u>fruits of the Spirit</u> mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

God wants you to be like Him. He wants you to make all your ways right and good. He wants you to make all your ways kind. He wants you to have all the fruits of the Spirit. He wants you to crush all the evil deeds and desires of the flesh so you can be His (Gal. 5:24).

Just walk in the Spirit and live to please the Lord in all respects, then you will not carry out the evil desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). It's as simple as this!

### Letter From the Editor

Dear Whole Wheat Readers,

KISS is the acronym for "Keep it simple stupid." It was originally a design principle noted by the US Navy in 1960. It refers to the fact that if most things are kept simple, they work best, therefore, simplicity should be the goal and any unnecessary complications should be avoided. I prefer to say, "Keep it super simple." I have told myself this, many times, when I find my mind going to where I don't want it to go. It is also advice I have given to many people, over the years, when I see that they may be entering dangerous waters and straying from God's simple truth.

Paul wrote to the church in 2 Corinthians 11:3; "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the **simplicity** and **purity** of devotion to Christ." That simplicity of God's truth is not only what this issue of *Whole Wheat* is all about, but it is the branding statement for our website, "The truth is simple...just simply not known."

In our article, *God's Simple Truth*, it lays out the simple formula of how God wants mankind to live daily, but because it is so simple, as our founder says, "No one gets it." As a result, I have always found people searching for more. In doing so, they have shipwrecked their faith and been led astray (1 Tim. 1:19). In our article, *It's As Simple As This*, the first sentence in the last paragraph reads, "God wants you to be like Him." How is this done? It is done by becoming a servant to others for God, just as Jesus our example did (Mark 10:45). This requires godly

humility, a trait that must be developed. I must remind myself of this simple principal every day, when I go to work, because my job requires me to take on this role. As a result of disciplining my mind, on and off work, to stay on God's simple instructions, I reinforce and build my own faith by *A Gospel That Works*. I find myself still in awe, to this day, that God's simple principles work if we just put them into action in our daily life, and we don't add or subtract from them (Deut 12:32). It is so beautiful!

As humans we are experts at complicating This is why we must maintain the attitude of a child, that our founders wife writes about in her Woman to Woman article, It's So Simple. God wants nothing more from us than what we would want from our own children. To be kind, considerate, caring, patient, ready to share and help others. This is pure religion (James 1:27). In a world that is getting more complicated and difficult to live in, I find it so refreshing to develop and live the KISS lifestyle, as there is so much more peace and joy (Rom 14:17). Isn't that what we all yearn for in today's world? Christ came to show us the simple life. and we are to imitate Him, so I encourage you to "Keep it super simple." Who couldn't use more peace and joy in this world?

In His Love.

Scott

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### Woman to Woman

### It's so Simple...

It's so simple, yet people simply don't see it. It's as simple as what I ask of my children each day. All I ask is that they act kindly toward others—doing whatever they can to make others happy,

especially grandparents or any other elderly people they see or have over to their home. Yes, this simple way is God's Way of life.

We ask our children to use good words towards each other. And when evil thoughts come into their minds, we tell them to just get rid of them, by thinking of something good to do—and then doing it for God. If any child visits our home and they are undisciplined, no matter what their problem, we ask our children to be kind and show them a good

time

It's such a beautiful way to live. Our children have actually influenced other children to be respectful to their parents. They have helped other children to clean up their mouth and to stop swearing. They have shown others how to keep their rooms neat and help their mother clean the rest of the house.

Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Only those who do good are of God (3 John 11). We are the children of God. God is our Father, and we show Him respect daily by continually doing what is right in His sight (1 John 3:22).

Will you be that child I described above? Will you glorify your Father

in heaven every moment of every day? Life is simply wonderful when we live this simple, beautiful Way of life. We become precious to God when we serve Him continually in this wonderful Way called "the Way of righteousness" (Matt. 21:32; 2 Peter 2:21).□





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