

# The Gospel Truth

*Easter Sunday*

April 1, 2018

*Welcome to where we're learning that He's God and we're blind!*



He is risen! *He is risen indeed!*

*Know why?* To open the door, to lead the way; because, **He's the Life who is the Way!** And **the Way is Truth**, and **Truth is the Word**, and **the Word is the Door - the True Door-Way to life.**



And when He rose that first Easter and came to His disciples, He bypassed the bolted door and went through the wall. **Why didn't He use the door?** (John 20:19) **Because He is the Door!**

The "Word-made-flesh" said:



"I am the *door*. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved ..." – John 10:9a NKJ

And yet, He says:



"Here I am! **I stand at the door and knock**. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, **I will come in and eat** with him, and he with me." – Revelation 3:20 NIV

**So, if He's the Door, why's He knocking?**



**There's another door ... for Him to enter by.** Ever been told you make a better door than a window? **Turns out ... you're a door too; and, you have to open up your heart to Him. As He enters our heart we enter His Kingdom.** And that's when, as Jesus mysteriously said:

... you are in me, and I am in you. – John 14:20 NIV

**As we enter His Word, His Word enters us.**

And fills us and changes us into His image; *that's* why He said:

... the kingdom of God is within you. – Luke 17:21b NIV

He's the Door, and yet He *knocks*. And, if you're very still and real quiet, you can *hear* Him: tu-bum, tu-bum, tu-bum. **Each heartbeat is a countdown to a date with destiny.** And *that's* why He came. And *that's* why He died. And *that's* why He rose.

And *that's* why we say: **He is risen!** *He is risen indeed!* **He is faithful!** *He is faithful indeed!* **He is true!** *He is true indeed!* And, **His Word is perfect!** *His Word is perfect indeed!*

It says so itself:

As for God, his way is perfect; – Psalm 18:30a NIV

For the word of the Lord is right and true; – Psalm 33:4a NIV

Every word of God is flawless; – Proverbs 30:5a NIV

**It has to be.** *Know why?* **'Cause you're only as good as your Word.**

And, He makes that pretty clear too:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** – John 1:1 NIV

**If God's Word isn't perfect then God can't be trusted.**

And there's an all-out assault on the Gospels (**Matthew**, **Mark**, **Luke**, and **John**), because **they are the proof that Jesus is the Son of God who came as a man, died as a lamb, and rose again!**

The Atheists have YouTube videos and slick websites pointing out the seemingly endless contradictions in the four Gospels. But, they're *dead* wrong. Because, the Gospels are *flawless*.

I know, because I've seen it for myself.



**What should we see when we open His Word? A buffet.** He said He comes in to eat with us. Eternal nourishment He made *himself*. So, don't let it go cold ... you're *faith* that is. Read and feed. Read and feed. And repeat. You say, **"But, I'm not hungry ... I don't like that food ... I think it's an *acquired taste*."** No. *You're* dead wrong. **Starving people stop craving food.**

A former U.S. Food and Agriculture Ambassador wrote about his own starvation diet:

"The sensation of hunger faded in about a week. ... From then on, I could join my family at mealtimes and not be bothered a bit. I now fully understood ... a strange phenomenon I had witnessed during famines: starving children who refused to eat when food was finally offered ..." – Tony Hall, *"Changing the Face of Hunger"*

Not being hungry for lifesaving food not only means you're starving, it means you're deceiving yourself as you waste away. **The Bible isn't a burden; it's an all-you-can-eat buffet.**

And, **the more you seek the more He'll serve.** (Jer 29:13)

But remember, **all you seek is all you get**. So, *don't deceive yourself*.

... listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them ... – Proverbs 4:20-22a NIV

Every seminary teaches as fact that the four Gospels conflict in a way that is impossible to *perfectly, flawlessly*, harmonize. That's why over 200 self-contradicting harmonies have been produced and published, each arguing over which Gospel writer should be trusted when there's a discrepancy in the narratives. But, they're *all* wrong. The Gospels *are* perfect.

And I *know*, because I've seen it. I've done it. And it is *crazy incredible!* **It wasn't an accomplishment of intellect, but of persistence and crying out, and blind faith** (and a bit of OCD tossed in). **Blind faith *isn't* trusting without examining**. That's just naïve gullibility.

Every religion (including Christianity) is filled with those who believe what they believe because they believe. Not me! **When it comes to His Word and His claims, and especially His Gospels, I'm not about to let God off the hook**. *Know why?* Because, ***you don't give God grace, He gives you grace***. He doesn't need it; and, we don't have it to give. And to think we need to help the "old man" out, or look the other way, is *sin*. **Blind faith believes that He's God and we're blind**.

Jesus was referring to this type of blindness when He said the blind will see and the seeing will be blinded. (Jn 9:39) You see, **only this awareness can energize and sustain an ongoing pursuit to see**.

Whenever I wanted to stop diligently pursuing a perfect harmony, I would pray: **"You're God and I'm blind. Open my eyes to see."** And then I'd read and feed, and read and feed. And *He did*.

Granted, it took 4.5 years; but then, I'm a slow eater.

That prayer, by the way, works wonders on *any* problem.

**Do you want to see His Kingdom come, His will be done?** Tu-bum, tu-bum, tu-bum.

He's practically *beating* His way in. **Behold, the Kingdom of God is at hand**.

In fact, **it's in your hands, just waiting to enter your heart**.

And, **it's a Kingdom of delicious, lifesaving, Good News!** Mark's Gospel opens by announcing:

This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. – Mark 1:1 GNT [The "GNT" is the *Good News Translation*]

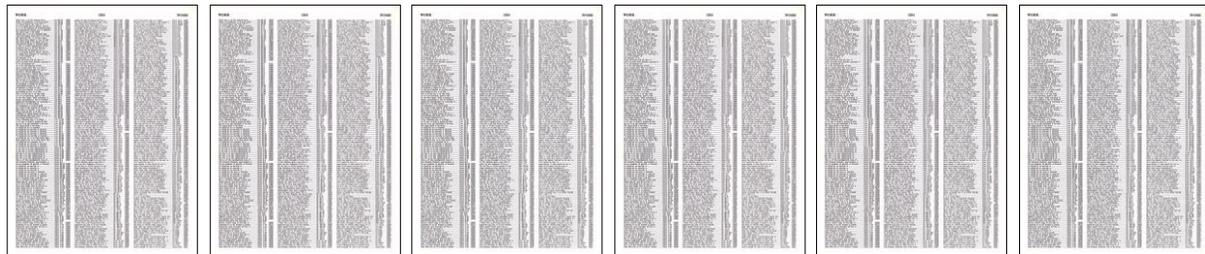


Did you notice how small the book of Mark is (up on the wall)? That's *the whole thing*. **The Harry Potter series has over a million words on 3,407 pages**. Using the same format, **the Gospel of Mark is equal to reading up to page 32!** That's less than 1%! And, Mark has far more in common with a story book than an encyclopedia or history book.

This is how God chose to communicate:



But this is how we tend to think God communicates:



We compartmentalize information as either study or story. And **we avoid the study so we can squeeze in more story.** "I finally finished my homework – history book, science book, math book. Now I can *relax* with a *good book*, or TV show, or movie." **Why? Study drains. Story feeds.**

So, **how do you see God's Word?**

**Your view will determine whether you reflexively avoid it or begin to embrace it.**

Any hypothesis that tries to explain why the Gospels can't be *perfectly, flawlessly*, harmonized, whether Two-Source, Farrer, Griesbach, or Augustinian, is hogwash; because they *can*. **The Gospels were never broken, and they don't need fixing.**

**Turns out, the key is just to see it as a story, not a study.**

**And then to act on the fact that He's God and we're blind.**

Commentators who claim God's Word *was* perfect in its original authorship, but has been corrupted over time are *sadly mistaken*. **If God can't write a book, and preserve the book, He's not the God described in the book.** But, **He can and He did and He is!**

I've seen the proof. It's *literally* surrounding us right now! And, I can't wait to show you ... *next Sunday*, and share my humbling, stumbling, struggle, on my journey to finding it.

**There may be four writers, but there's only One Author!**

Jesus Christ, the Author of Salvation.

He is risen! *He is risen indeed!*