

# Weaving the Word

## *Blessed Are the Eyes*

December 2, 2018

*Welcome to where we're learning how to keep the truth from failing!*

Has the truth ever failed you? *Can truth fail?* The answer to both is: yes.



But first, I don't want to make you jealous ... *but* Shar and I just returned from a two-week, \$20 trip to Hawaii to visit our kids. They picked us up, and let us stay at their house and use their car. And, we had enough Alaska Visa points for two roundtrip tickets. But, I *did* have to pay a handling fee of \$20.



There's a two hour time difference, so most mornings I'd get up very early and get caught-up in Scripture stories for a few hours. Then we'd go to the beach for the day.



I've told you how I used to *really dislike reading* the Bible. **I could only see it as a duty, never a delight.** About the only thing I disliked more ... *was exercising.* Well, we went to the beach almost every day; and, I just *love* riding the waves in a tube near the shore, paddling to the sweet spot, and then trying to stay upright as I was carried along. I did this for a *few days* before I *realized* it was *exercise!* My paddle-muscles got *really sore.*



*And then* I realized that I was *enjoying exercising!* It was big and beautiful and powerful and challenging and refreshing and fearsome and thrilling all at once. **And I was actively responding to its will and nature.** And, it made me feel alert and alive *and relaxed and rested.* *And then* I realized that about 10 years ago **this is the same thing that changed in the way I approached the Word of God.**



This may seem an odd question; but, **how heavy are your ears?** You know how we say our eyes get heavy when we're tired; same holds true for our ears.

Make the heart of this people **[who refuse to seek, listen, and pay attention]** dull, and **their ears heavy,** and shut their eyes ... – Isaiah 6:10a NKJ

**[But, there's hope]** Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; **nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.** But your iniquities have separated you from your God ... your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice **[righteousness],** nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words ... they have made themselves crooked paths ... uttering from the heart words of falsehood. ... So **truth fails,** and **he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.** – Isaiah 59:1-4; 8, 13, 15 NKJ

**Because, truth fails when it's mishandled. And it's mishandled whenever we pick and choose only certain parts or passages to read and believe and receive and live by.**

Most everyone imposes their own preconceived ideas and agendas and bias and perspectives and presuppositions on God's Word. The *classic mishandling* is the legalism of the Pharisees.

[Jesus said] ... "Woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them." – Luke 11:46 NIV



**We're wired to see things the way we want even if it's wrong.** It's called **Confirmation Bias**: the tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories.

**If you enter the Word to support a feeling or desire or theory, you'll find the proof you need to believe whatever you want.**



**The Bible is a fearsome mirror that way.**

**It was created to say whatever your heart desires.** So, we better desire truth in our inmost heart of hearts.

When Jesus brought His 72 disciples to Jerusalem, He publically denounced the "Woe to you" cities, whose religious leaders didn't grasp how empty and crooked and false their way had become.

At that time Jesus rejoiced in **the Spirit** [another name for *the Word*] and **answered** [Isaiah's question in 28:9, about approaching God's Word as children, playing hide-and-  
seek-and-find, line-upon-line here-a-little, there-a-little (Is 28:9-10)] and **said**, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You **have hidden** these things from the **wise** [in their own eyes (Is 5:21)] and **prudent** [in their own sight (Is 5:21)] and **have revealed** them to babes. ... All things have been delivered to **Me by My Father**, [because, I played by the rules] and **no one** knows who the **Son** is **except** the Father. Nor does **anyone** know who the **Father is** except the **Son**, and the **one** to whom the **Son wills to reveal Him.**" [By the rules of seek-and-find, line-upon-line] – Mt 11:25-27; Lk 10:21-22 NKJ

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, [another name for the *Word of God*] these are sons of God. – Romans 8:14 NKJ

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ... there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:26-28 NKJ

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. – 1 John 5:12 NKJ

The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. – John 5:25b NKJ

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. – John 20:31 NKJ

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. – 1 John 5:13 NKJ

And after the public denouncement, Jesus offers an invitation:

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and *lowly in heart* [I became like a child, and I have the solution], and *you will find rest for your souls*. [Just as Isaiah promises to those who play by his principle (Is 28:12)] For *My yoke is easy and My burden is light*.” – Mt 11:28-30 NKJ

Because *His ears* weren't heavy, and He received *every* Word into His heart (Ezek 3:10), and became like a child and applied Isaiah's principle, and “increased in wisdom” (Lk 2:52) and truth didn't fail. But, **you can't take on *His yoke without giving up yours***.

**He only offers it as a trade. Otherwise, Jesus just adds to your burden.**

After His public invitation, the “Woe to you” crowd dispersed, and those who wanted to hear more pressed in. *And ...*

Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that *many prophets and kings* have *desired to see* what you see, and have *not seen* it, and to *hear* what you hear, and have *not heard* it.” – Luke 10:23-24 NKJ

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off ... – Hebrews 11:13a NKJ

Behold, the name of the Lord comes from afar ... and His burden is heavy ... – Isaiah 30:27a NKJ

The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. – Habakkuk 1:1 NKJ

The burden against Babylon which Isaiah ... saw. – Isaiah 13:1 NKJ

The burden against Nineveh ... the vision of Nahum ... – Nahum 1:1 NKJ

The burden of the word of the Lord ... by Malachi. – Malachi 1:1 NKJ

For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. – 1 Corinthians 13:9-10 NKJ

... [in that day] his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed ... – Isaiah 10:27a NKJ

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. – 1 John 5:20 NKJ

**So, do you see from afar or up close and personal? We've received what the prophets all longed for. But, we who depart from evil tend to twist a delight into duty.**

**We can keep His commands without experiencing His love.**

For this is the **love of God**, that we **keep His commandments**. **And** His commandments are **not burdensome**. – 1 John 5:3 NKJ

**The purpose of everything is to transform our character – so how could doing something mindlessly, burdensomely, accomplish that?** The gift is a powerful, purposely piecemeal puzzle that draws us in to challenge us and to give us ownership and involvement. Delight comes with buying into the principle of the thing. And **appreciation and gratitude fuel a whole-heart posture that fires up passion, desire, and enthusiastic obedience.**

**But, it takes effort to own it; you got'a prime that pump!**



Get on the tube and get in the sea, (not to check a box, or prove a point, or make it say what you want to hear) but, just to ride and respond and deepen your comprehension of its nature and your appreciation of His beautiful, powerful, challenging, refreshing, fearsome, thrilling, love, grace, mercy, compassion, wonder, power, beauty, and truth! **And this can only come to those who get immersed.**

One day the waves were *huge*, and I stood and braced myself against one, just to see. And I was literally *driven* and *tossed*. *That* turned out to be an exercise in stupidity *and* futility.

**But, it's not even enough just to be *whelmed* ... you got'a be *overwhelmed*!**

**That's when you feel alert and alive; and duty becomes delight.**

**And we weave and grow and don't even know we're exercising!**

He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ***till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man***, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ***that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine*** ... but, ***speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ*** ... that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the ***futility of their mind***, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of ***the ignorance that is in them***, because of ***the blindness of their heart*** ... But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt ... and ***be renewed in the spirit of your mind***, and that you put on the new man which was ***created according to God***, in ***true righteousness*** and ***holiness***. – Ephesians 4:11-24 NKJ

Truly ***this*** Man ***was*** the Son of God! – Mark 15:39b NKJ

Do ***you*** believe in the Son of God? – John 9:35b NKJ