

Say What God Says

In July 1969 I received a vision from the Lord. I saw a bird come down to alight on the head of a woman, who I knew represented the church. I heard a "voice" say to her, "Thou art a son of God." I was amazed! I said, "It happened to her just like it happened to Jesus." Next, I saw the woman do something that troubled me. She stood on a pedestal and began calling the multitudes to come to her. "I am the one the spirit came upon ...I am the one the voice spoke to." As she exalted herself, I asked God, "How can this be, when it happened to her like it happened to Jesus?" In response, God said to me: "It didn't happen to her like it happened to Jesus. The Holy Ghost came upon Jesus as a dove. A voice from heaven spoke to Jesus." I realized I had not seen a "dove," but only a bird. I had not heard a "voice from heaven," but only a "voice." The last words I heard in the vision were this exhortation: "Always remember, as there are many birds, yet there is but one dove, so there are many "spirits," but only one Holy Ghost, and many "voices," but only one **Word of God.**" As I came out of the Spirit, I heard these words from Revelation 18:2, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Is it possible that many churches that were once the "habitation of God through the Spirit" ^{Ephesians 2:22} have become a "habitation of devils" and a "cage of unclean and hateful birds?" God forgive me if I am wrong, but I fear that it is so. I have lived to see this vision fulfilled in this generation until the "visible image" of much of the "church" is more like the workers of darkness than the image of Christ.

I cannot speak the things I say from a "self-righteous spirit," because within a decade after receiving this vision, I was horribly backslidden in the depths of sin. After "godly sorrow" did its perfect work, God restored my life and ministry in March of 1980. Almost a decade later, the guilt and shame of backsliding continued to weigh so heavily upon me that I began a diligent search for the answer for the "sin problem" that resides in the hearts of men. God gave me that answer in the "blood" and "cross" of Jesus Christ, and in the spring of 1991, in a single moment He "purged my conscience" (my innermost thoughts and feelings) ^{Hebrews 9:14} from the power and presence of sin through "the knowledge of the truth." ^{John 8:32} Shortly after, God began speaking to me by His Spirit to "Say what I say." In the past, I had wearied myself, trying to raise money to stay on multiple radio stations across the nation. I told God, "I am willing to go anywhere you send me, and say anything you say, but you will

have to finance it. You know how large you want this ministry to be, so I will not be a 'beggar for money' to do something you are not doing." God answered me simply and directly: "If you will **say what I say**, I will put your ministry on television, and it will not cost you anything." I told the congregation what God said, and joked, "Probably the five o'clock news." In less than a month the owner of Channel 22 in Houston Texas contacted me. I had never heard of Eldred Thomas or the station he owned, but his elderly sister had read my message on the blood of Jesus, and Brother Thomas wanted that message on his station. At the stations expense, Brother Thomas gave us two broadcasts a week for eight years at no charge to us. I continued to hear this simple instruction from the Lord. He told me "Say what I say, and the world will hear

"I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people." ^{Isaiah 51:16}

it even if you never leave the woods you live in." In a dream, He said "Say what I say, and one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of the nations." From that time we have never asked for money or sold a product. And unto this time, God has abundantly provided for us to "say what He says."

It is a dangerous thing to tell the people "God said," when God has not spoken. God said, "The prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak ...even that prophet shall die." ^{Deuteronomy 18:20} In the New Testament, the apostle Paul said, "...though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." ^{Galatians 1:9} Paul received the gospel he preached "by revelation of Jesus Christ." ^{Galatians 1:11-12} He preached what God said and nothing more, but it turned the Gentile world of that generation "upside down." ^{Acts 17:6} The entire church world has been "cursed" by another gospel than that which the apostles preached. That "other gospel" has filled the church with sinners, who in the name of "grace" actually flaunt their sin. Many today are presuming to speak in the name of the Lord to their own damnation. They assume the titles of "prophet," or "apostle," presenting themselves to be some great thing, not understanding that they could be "real with God" if they would humble themselves to believe what God has actually said in His Word.

God told Isaiah, "I have put my words in your mouth ...that I may plant the heavens and lay the foundations of the earth..." ^{Isaiah 51:16} If Isaiah would simply "say what God says," God would do the rest. It is easy to say what God says if you know and believe what He says. You don't have to be an

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apostle or a prophet; you must simply believe the scriptures. Before I understood the truth of Christ, I wrestled with I John 3:9: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God." I tried to explain it as I had heard it. We who are "born of God" do not "practice sin;" we are not "habitual sinners." The Spirit of God sharply rebuked me in the middle of my message: "Stop making excuses for what my word says." I went home, wilted under the rebuke of God. My past experience told me I was right, but the Word of God told me I was wrong. I prayed; I did some research in the scriptures. I saw that if the apostle John had intended to say we do not "practice" sin, he would have used the Greek word "prasso" for "practice." Instead, he used the word "poieo," which speaks of a "single act." I knew at that time it was impossible for me to live my life without struggling with sin, but I promised God, "I do not understand it, but I will believe it." Only then did understanding come to me. I John 3:9 is a summary of the verses above it: "And ye know that **he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...**" ^{I John 3:5-6} The wonderful secret is to "believe the gospel" and "abide in Christ." But what is the gospel we must believe?

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." ^{John 5:1}

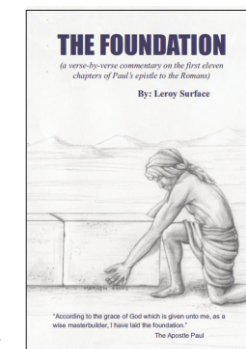
For hundreds of years before Jesus was born to Mary, the Jews were looking forward to the coming of their "Messiah," which is in the Greek language, "The Christ." The angel Gabriel brought the promise directly from God to the prophet Daniel. He gave the time frame of 490 years. At the beginning of the last seven years, one called "The Messiah the Prince" ^{Daniel 9:25} would come. His reason for coming would be "to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness." ^{Daniel 9:24} In the middle of the last seven years of the prophecy the Messiah would be "cut off, but not for Himself." ^{Daniel 9:26} Christ died for us, to "make an end of sins" in the heart and nature of those who simply believe the truth and trust in Christ to do what he promised. The knowledge of "The Christ" was great in Israel and the excitement about His appearing reached a peak in the same year that Jesus was baptized and anointed

with the Holy Ghost. ^{Luke 3:15} The high priests and the rabbis had been teaching about His coming for generations; now the time had come for Him to appear. The prophet Malachi prophesied of that very time: "...the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap." ^{Malachi 3:1-2}

The people longed for the appearing of Christ, but when Jesus came in public ministry the reviews were mixed. Some received Him with great excitement, telling everyone they met, "We have found the Christ." ^{John 1:41} Others, beginning with the high priests and elders of Israel, actually hated Jesus of Nazareth. Imagine the contradiction of "loving Christ" and "hating Jesus." This was the case of Saul of Tarsus until He met Jesus on his way to Damascus. The knowledge that "Jesus (the one he hated) is the Christ (the one he loved)" was earthshaking and life transforming for Saul. That "old wretched man" of Romans 7:24 died on that Damascus Road, and a "new man in Christ" took his place. If you know who Christ is and what He came into the world to do, and if you believe that Jesus is the Christ, then you know that He died on the cross to "make an end of sins" and "bring in everlasting righteousness" in you. Christ accomplished this work "by himself," ^{Hebrews 1:3} and he does not need the efforts and struggles of men to make it a reality in you. He is "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." ^{John 1:29} He takes it from your heart, mind, and nature. This is what Jesus meant by "ye shall be free indeed." ^{John 8:36} You find "rest for your souls," ^{Matthew 11:29} as Jesus promised, if you simply believe what God says about why Christ came and trust in him who gave his life to perform that work in you.

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A verse by verse commentary on Paul's Epistle to the Romans



The Apostle Paul laid a gospel foundation for the church in which he declared "Sin shall not have dominion over you because you ...are under grace." Either Paul knew nothing about grace, or, the church today knows very little about the GRACE that Paul preached. If you struggle with sin in your heart or thoughts, or if you want an answer for those who do, you need to read this commentary.

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