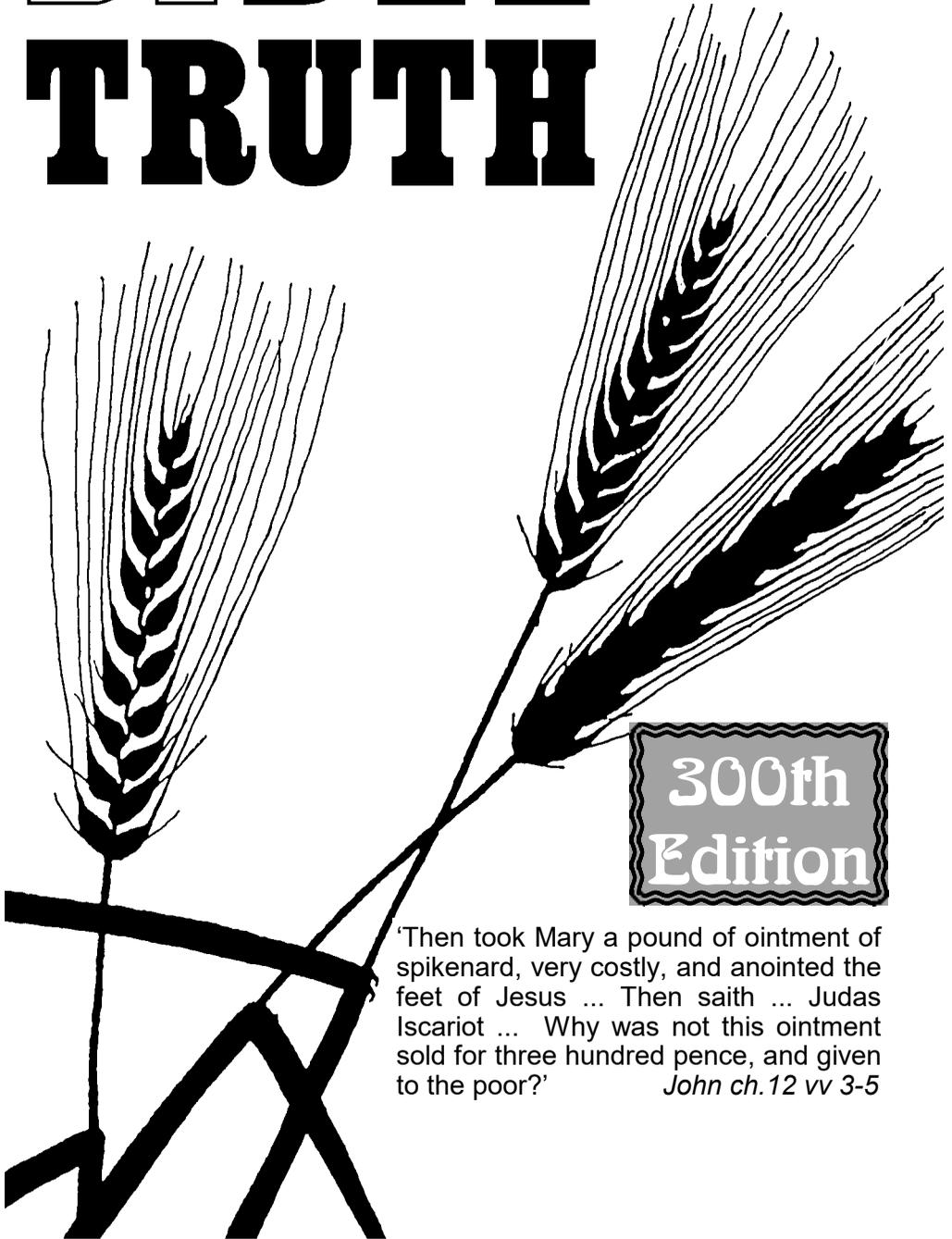


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus ... Then saith ... Judas Iscariot ... Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?'  
*John ch.12 vv 3-5*

*Pastor Pulford ministered in the United Apostolic Faith Church in Newbury, Berkshire which in later times hosted our BIBTF meetings. His wisdom served us well when he was one of the Fellowship's Trustees for a while. He was fond of emphasising text in his articles so this is largely printed as he wrote it.*

## **‘MANY SHALL DEPART ...’**

by Pastor Nigel Pulford

Concerning the materialistic state of mankind during these ‘Last Days’ which immediately precede Christ's Second Coming, He gave numerous ‘signs’. These were, in most cases, taken from man's past history and through God's JUDGMENT poured upon his civilisations, because of departure from Him and His Holy Laws and Righteousness. For example, Jesus not only confirms the historic fact of a world-wide Flood recorded in Genesis chapters seven and eight, and that Godly Noah and those in the Ark only were saved to perpetuate the human race and animal creation, but applies its lesson to today.

‘And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.’

Luke ch.17 vv 26-27

Unlike many modern Bible expositors, Jesus does not teach that the Old Testament is vague ‘allegory’, but His Father's record of HISTORIC, RELIABLE, FACT. Here He stresses that the vital keynote of the judgment by flood was BACKSLIDING from FAITH IN GOD, when even the married state was polluted, not only morally but also spiritually, in that the ‘sons of God’ (believers) made materialistic unions with Godless families, until Satan was enthroned in universal vice and violence. Thus, Christ impresses upon us here that a similar WORLD-WIDE state of bestiality would precede His Second Coming, so that a universal GOD SENT JUDGMENT upon UNREPENTANT sinners and backsliders, and their lands, would of necessity need to be unleashed to release the earth from such bondage. In Luke ch.17 vv 28-29 we note also that Christ confirmed the historical fiery destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (which archaeologists have confirmed), but that apart from Lot and his daughters, ‘... it rained fire and brimstone [pitchblende] from heaven,

and DESTROYED them **ALL**'. Thus our Lord's foreknowledge is all the more impressive as we behold daily upsurges of anarchy, disasters by finance, flood, fire, earthquake, tempest, famine, invasion by vermin, insects, drug smuggling and taking, 'wars and rumours of wars'. All these facts point out that our Lord had no delusions. He perseveringly warns all disciples UNTIL He comes, '... he that endureth to the end shall be saved' (see Matthew ch.10 v.22). It was only by ENDURING FAITH that He Himself defeated Satan in the wilderness, in the Temple, the Synagogue, Gethsemane, before the High Priest, on the Cross, and by the Resurrection. In the book of Hebrews believers are reminded again,

'For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;'

Hebrews ch.3 v.14

The Apostle Paul too had seen many people begin well in the faith, but also had seen many drawn away from Christ by Satan and made 'SHIPWRECK'. Therefore in 1 Timothy ch.4 v.1 he wrote to a promising young Apostle,

'Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;'

That this is indeed so, we note the increasing secularising of many Christian Church Fellowships, incorporating more and more 'attractions' in order to be 'with it' and fill their meetings. The result is a lowering of the standards of faith, worship, and holy living, and less and less rest and dedication of the Christian Sunday to God. Apart from 'a FORM of Godliness' or religious formality, 2 Timothy ch.3 vv 4-8 shows that many are becoming 'lovers of pleasures MORE than lovers of God', producing degeneration even to 'corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the FAITH'. Thus it is plain that to be 'with it' in worldly eyes is NOT to be so in God's sight. Indeed we are reaping the fruits of Satanic and worldly infiltration into our Nation today, both in Church and in State, as DARKNESS seeks to control.

In 2 Corinthians ch.5 vv 18-21, Paul makes three basic declarations that controlled both his spiritual life and that of the Early Church, in order to be 'with it' with God, and consequently to minister HIS DELIVERANCE to men, even as we also are called today.

1. ' ... God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, ...' v.19

This is THE FOUNDATION of the New Covenant Gospel. Paul testifies to an historical and spiritual event wrought by God for MAN'S SALVATION. The **initiative** and the **action** were God's, when by His RESOLVE and WILL alone 'according to the RICHES of His GRACE' (Ephesians chs 1 & 2 v.7), 'He gave His only begotten SON' to DIE as an OFFERING OF ATONEMENT for 'the SIN of the WORLD' and 'the TRANSGRESSION of My PEOPLE' Israel (see John chs 1 v.29, 3 v.16, and Isaiah ch.53 v.8). So Christ, in obedience to Him 'took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men' and 'through the ETERNAL SPIRIT **OFFERED HIMSELF**' to bring SALVATION FREELY to LOST and BACKSLIDDEN mankind even to this generation!! Thus He 'became obedient even unto the **DEATH OF THE CROSS**', a finished work forever binding, effectual, and unique, being 'ONCE offered' in SPIRIT and in FACT (see Philipians ch.2 vv 5-8 and Hebrews chs 9 vv 14 & 28, & 10 vv 12-14).

But today's 'existential' theology (like the first and second century Agnostics and Nicolaitans) concludes that the Cross of Christ is only a testimony to Jesus' selflessness in a love that merely unites itself to the realm of humanist senses, without working ETERNAL DELIVERANCE from SIN, GUILT, and its consequence, 'EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION'. Existentialism is 'philosophy and vain deceit', destroying the very heart and purpose of His Cross and Shed Blood. It quarrels with His Resurrection 'mythological speech', yet holds to a vague 'idea' of resurrection! What deception, since it says that Christ is NOT raised to a new TRANSFIGURED LIFE at the 'Right Hand of God', but only psychologically in the mind of the preacher and hearer, and not as a LIVING PERSON! Thus is the Bible falsified and Evangelism (seemingly) stripped of all authority!

2. 'And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;'

2 Corinthians ch.5 v.18

This declares that **GOD** has DETERMINED the GOSPEL WORD, **NOT** man. We are therefore committed to His UNCHANGING INSTRUCTIONS. The Christian preacher and personal witness, may

not announce his own religious ideas. He has no Scriptural authority to concoct clever or dull speculations, or to express some philosophy of his own or 'school' of theology, using some Bible text as a pretext. Only when the FUNDAMENTAL FACTS in Holy Scripture of Christ's Virgin Birth, His Life, His Cross, His Resurrection, His confirmation of the Spiritual and Material promises concerning the Adamic Race, the Restoration AGAIN of the Kingdom to Israel, the Gift of the Holy Spirit and the Church, are ministered as the Bible states them, can it be said what they are to mean FOR US. Positively, then, that which He wrought WITHOUT human aid, is for OUR GOOD, but modern 'theology' denies and disdains these facts, and therefore finds it IMPOSSIBLE to say what SALVATION means to modern man! But Paul, in spite of opposing the Pharisees, Sadducees. Greek and Roman philosophers and idolaters, untiringly declares this Salvation enabled by the Power of the Holy Spirit - how God's RECONCILIATION had CHANGED him and his course of life. Likewise, so must WE in order to exercise the same authority! Upon this God BUILDS.

3. '..., be ye reconciled to God.'

v.20

This is THE INVITATION to the modern UNSAVED world, and BACKSLIDDEN 'sons of God', and modern ISRAEL. The book of Romans has this universal appeal.

'... Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons who founded the Twelve Tribed Israel Nation]: And that the Gentiles [all non-Israel Nations] might glorify God for his mercy; ... .'

Romans ch.15 vv 8-9

This makes THE CHALLENGE whilst CONFRONTING Israelite and Gentile alike with the RESPONSIBILITY to make the final unavoidable DECISION! Neither Paul then, nor Christian Ministry today, persuade man to reconcile himself to God since man has NO power to do this - but to 'BE RECONCILED to God' by accepting CHRIST as his SAVIOUR. IN and BY Christ alone GOD has DONE everything necessary for our SALVATION from 'THE FIRE that NEVER shall be quenched'. Therefore 'WHOSOEVER shall CALL on the NAME of the LORD SHALL BE SAVED' (see Joel ch.2 v.32 and Acts ch.2 v.21).

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