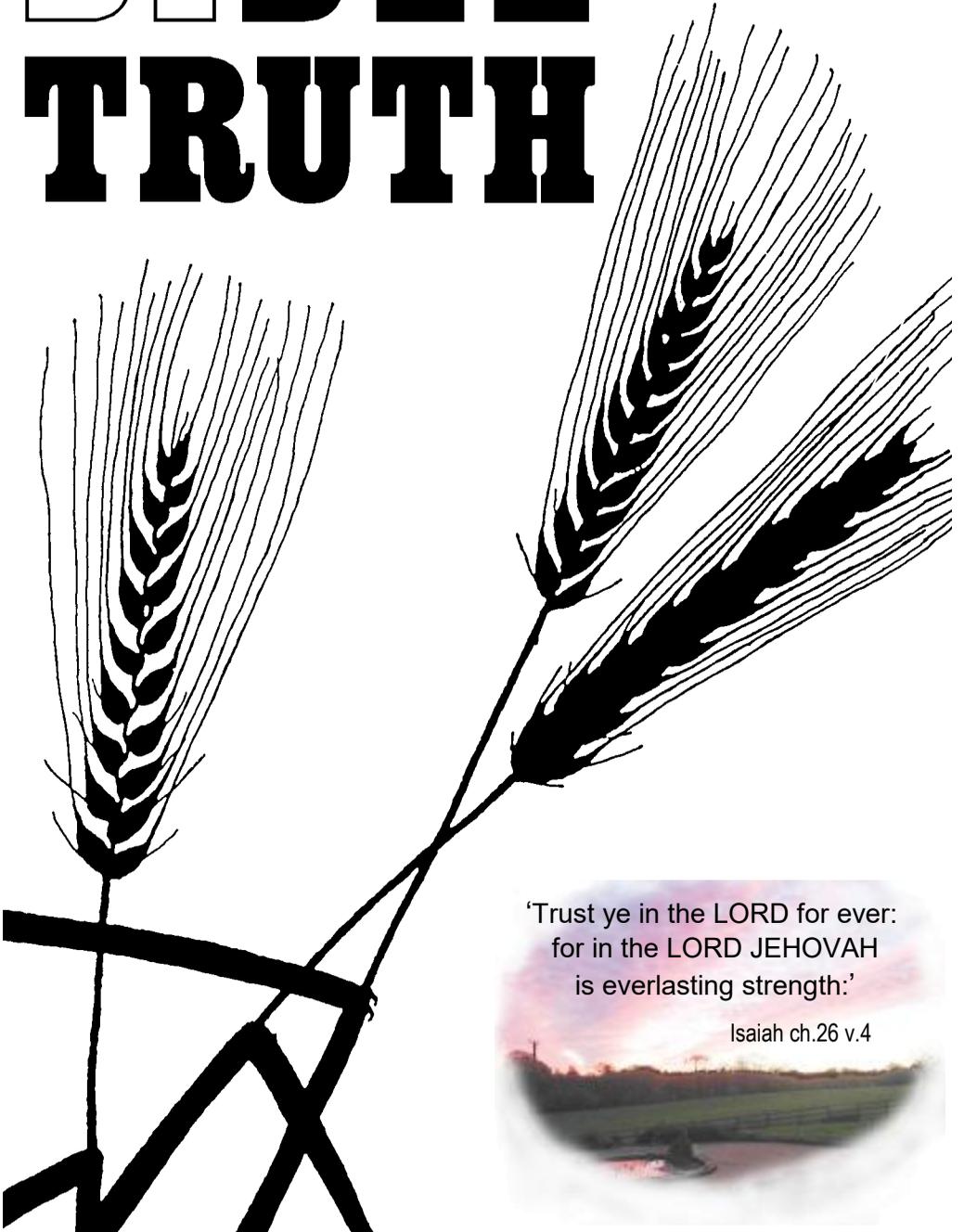


BIBLE TRUTH

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'Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
for in the LORD JEHOVAH
is everlasting strength.'

Isaiah ch.26 v.4

Pure Religion

Brief postings of interest from Arthur Eedle.

'Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: ...'
Proverbs ch.16 v.22

'Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,
To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep
himself unspotted from the world.'

James ch.1 v.27

We know how 'Light' draws people to God because they are attracted to something that resonates with their sense of 'rightness', a sort of inbuilt knowledge that even the majority of mankind possesses, unless it has been drummed out of them by evil companionship.

Today we are requested to think about other people and their needs, and be seen to care for them. This is also a form of 'Light' by which men may be drawn to God through observing human compassion. The Scriptures emphasise this important function because it is a visible expression of the Heart of God.

'Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh [your family's needs]?'
Isaiah ch.58 vv 6-7

'For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

Matthew ch.25 vv 35-40

This emphasis is profound. Perhaps it might cause a jolt to some pastors whose view of 'pure religion and undefiled' is based on their chosen denomination with its creed.

'Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.'

1 Corinthians ch.1 v.12

'For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?'

1 Corinthians ch.3 v.4

The Lord Jesus is more concerned with our daily walk than whether our theology is 'orthodox'. Nonbelievers, even atheists, are often found to be more caring of the needy than churchgoers. The State of Israel hasn't yet acknowledged Jesus as their Messiah, but whenever there is an earthquake, they always seem to be the first nation to offer help. Wounded Syrian soldiers cross the border, knowing they can receive compassionate medical aid in Israel. Examples are legion. Is our religion 'pure and undefiled'?
