

"Thoughts on Truth and Light, Life and Hope"

"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles." Psalms 43:3

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who dwells in unapproachable light;

I'd like to share some biblical truths that have been on my mind as I teach and preach here in Thailand. That is, the relationship between truth, light, life and hope as regards to effectively communicating the Gospel to the unreached and hopelessly lost, like here where we minister. Following are some of my thoughts and formulations. I trust they may be of some benefit to help solidify your thinking on the matter.

Scripturally speaking, hope, truth, light and life are what we have in Christ, whereas the opposite is true outside of Christ: despair, falsehood, darkness and death. Without truth there is but falsehood, without light there is but darkness, and without life, there is but death. *"In him was life; and that life was the light of men."* (John 1:4)

These truths are self-evident, which would be great if it were that simple when presenting the Gospel here. However, the Enemy has craftily thrown a spiritual "monkey wrench" into the works to disrupt and confuse in numerous ways. Just as tares were sown among the grain (*Matt 13:25*), the Enemy (Lucifer, Star of the Morning), is more than capable of taking on the appearance of true light. As such, he transforms himself into the so-called *Angel of light* (2 Cor 11:14).

Satan also has his false apostles, minions who mask his evil intentions through messages of false hope, false truth, false light, and false life, all shining brightly and attractively alongside the true. Untold blinded millions have grown up under various types of false light in the form of metaphysical or works-based religious ideals or systems, striving away as they practice traditional ideals, doing good-works, penance, self-denial, asceticism, or giving oneself over to dark arts.

Some have even perverted the Gospel into a system of works-based religious traditions, that I call "*Churchianity*," which has a form of godliness, but denies the Lord and the truths of His Word. Others have rejected the true light altogether, as have various entertainment industry personalities, somehow finding the false more attractive. A great many of these have become naively enamored with various forms of Buddhist thought, but have little understanding of what it represents, and even less understanding of the One True Light... all of whom are living in a world of deception and false hope (as we all once did), a wide and attractive way that seems right, but that will ultimately bring death and destruction to their souls (*Matt 7:13*).

On the other hand, Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* He also stated that *"I am the light of the world. He that walketh in me hath the light of life."* (John 8:12) This correlates with the truth of John 1:4, which states that *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."* All of these passages associate the two: light and life. Luke chapter one tells how Jesus (The Rising Day Star) came to *"give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death"* (v.79). This passage associates light as being opposite to darkness and death.

You might be saying at this juncture, *"I am not qualified or capable of preaching the Gospel to people such as this. I'm not a Bible school grad. I've never taught Sunday school or pastored a church, or I can't speak well"* If these are your thoughts, your thinking is wrongly based. For instance, how much light does it take to punch a hole in the darkness?

Amazingly, after Jesus stated that He is the Light of the world, He turned around and added that we too are the lights of the world. How can this be so? This is not a contradictory statement, because He is the *true* source of light and life, and we have been given this light and life as an eternal possession through the born-again experience; the Holy Spirit of Christ having taken up residence within our hearts and lives upon receiving Christ. So, yes, we are possessors of that true light—emitting through us, not from us.

Ever been in a deep cave when the lights get turned out to demonstrate what absolute darkness is like? You can feel the darkness pressing in around you. Strike a match and the darkness immediately flees from the presence of light. Such is what happens when we as believers live for Christ as we walk in the light, taking opportunity to *speak* the truths of the Gospel to those in the surrounding darkness. The darkness always flees in the presence of the Word of God, as it does here in spiritually-dark Thailand, where false hope, false truth, and false light abounds. What a privilege it is to be a bearer of the One True Light to these precious but spiritually lost souls.

I take encouragement in Paul's statement: *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."* (2 Cor 4:6-7)

Changing the subject: Despite unforeseen schedule setbacks, my translation assistant, Pastor Pitak, and I have been able to review (with minor editing) four of the completed Isan New Testament books, which is a mandatory process before printing. Everything was quite acceptable, with a few spots that we fine-tuned for accuracy and readability, along with coordinating a few specific Bible terms.

Moving on, the new pocket-sized edition of the "Considering Creation" booklet has been printed and is now being distributed among churches. This is the third printing, consisting of 20,000 copies. I received glowing letters from two pastors as to the value of this booklet in effectively communicating creation's Creator through intelligent design and transitioning into a clear Gospel presentation.

Finally, Pastor Pitak and I were able to pay a visit to the remote Nyaw village where Cheryl and I began our ministry. I was received like an old friend as I spoke with various former neighbors and presented each with a copy of the "Considering Creation" booklet. It became apparent that our time living and evangelizing there was not in vain as an interest remained. Uncle Gaew, our 95 year old neighbor whose wife Jume had accepted Christ years before, shared some of his hang-ups. Namely that, how could a King be born in a stable? Kings just don't do that sort of thing, he said, then humble themselves to be beaten and crucified. It was good, because we were able to address these stumbling blocks. Pray for Uncle Gaew's salvation.

Thank you again for your prayers and partnership in this vital ministry.



Love in Christ – By God's Grace and For His Glory,
Ron (& Cheryl) Myers – Missionaries to Thailand

