

Pastor's Comments

August - September, 2017

Standing Up for the Fullness of the Truth of God

“I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one”

Ezekiel 22:30

Dear Brethren,

Recently I wrote an article to be printed in the Journal (Big Sandy, Texas Newspaper published for former members of the WCG) as a witness to them.

Realizing the present and future trying times with which each member will be tested for God’s truth that we hold dear to us, I felt it would be profitable to include it in this writing to all of you.

The Ezekiel WATCHMAN

“Behold, I Will Send You Elijah the Prophet Before the Coming of the Great and Dreadful Day of the LORD!”
Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-11

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Standing Up for the Fullness of the Truth of God

Standing in the Gap— “I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one” (Ezekiel 22:20).

Standing up for the Truth— In 1962, a young man from the San Diego Church Area (approximately 25 years of age), was sworn into the military. Not needing to report to his assignment for a few days he went home.

Shortly thereafter he received literature from the Church in which he learned God's people are to have no part with the military and warfare. When the day arrived he was to report and be inducted into military service he did not go.

Some time passed and then two FBI agents came to the door of his home and arrested him. He was taken to the jail in Los Angeles.

The day his trial was to begin, I was there to see what would happen to him. He was brought in with other prisoners in chains. The prosecutor made his case against him. There was no attorney to defend him.

The judge asked him to rise for the verdict. However, before stating the verdict the judge asked him if he had anything to say.

This young man then respectfully said to the judge: "Your honor, I understand the charges against me and I am guilty, but if I had to do it over again I would still do the same." Seeing the utter sincerity and conviction in his face as well as hearing his respectful words, I saw a changed expression take place in the face of the judge.

Against the strong verbal disagreement of the prosecuting attorney, the judge gave the sentence of five years, but gave him probation instead of going to prison. He was then released and returned to his home and Church.

This young man's name was Richard Grizzard. Some years later he moved to the Gladewater, Church area and married. Some few years ago he died and was possibly buried there.

Failure to Stand Up in the Gap—Hardly anyone has the courage of conviction to take a stand for the fullness of the TRUTH that Jesus Christ revealed to His Church through His late apostle and the promised Elijah of the end-time (*Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11*).

This was demonstrated to me in 1995, when I spoke by phone to Dr. Hoeh and mentioned to him that due to the fact of his long tenure in the Church he was the logical one to lead the Church. He agreed. Then he said, "I will not stand up just to be counted!" And he didn't. Since that time all others have also failed to stand up for the fullness of the truth as taught to us by Mr. Armstrong.

I tried UCG for three years hoping they would come back to the truth as taught to us. Instead they continued going farther away from it. I then left. Then I made another wrong decision by going with David Hulme. He did the same as UCG so I left him. I will add while I was with them I continued to preach the teachings taught by Mr. Armstrong as I also did through the years of Mr. Tkach.

Mr. Meredith called me three times trying to get me to come with him with glowing promises. Though he was much closer to the fullness of the truth than all of the others I could not go with him for he had for the most part rejected Mr. Armstrong and the offices God had given him along with watering down the truths and rejecting those with which he did not agree.

I had to agree with Mr. Raymond McNair some few years ago when he asked me if I knew any of the churches that were right. I said, No." He then replied, "I don't either."

What the Prophet Isaiah wrote has come to pass in our time: "**Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for TRUTH has fallen in the street (and trampled on by the feet of those who reject it) and equity cannot enter. So TRUTH FAILS, and he who departs from evil (the churches that fail to teach it) makes himself a prey**" (*Isaiah 59:14-15*).

Further, Isaiah wrote, "**No one calls for justice, nor does anyone PLEAD FOR TRUTH. They TRUST in empty words and speak lies. They conceive trouble and bring forth iniquity**" (*Isaiah 59:4*).

As far as I now know, due to Jesus Christ blessing me, I am the only one who has stood up and remained faithful to the fullness of the teachings as revealed by Jesus Christ to His Late Apostle and the promised Elijah to come (*Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11*)

There are a few of you who read my writings and agree with them, but so far there has not been the conviction with the needed courage for you to Stand Up with the willingness to walk alone if need be. Please know, you do not have much time left and will have to face God for your unwillingness to Stand Up for Him (*II Corinthians 5:10-11*).

Consider Richard Grizzard who could have been all alone in prison for five years. And he was willing to do it for the sake of the TRUTH! How about YOU? Jesus Christ said we have to love and obey Him regardless of the cost to be His disciples (*Luke 14:25-35*). Are YOU one of His true disciples? I pray for you.

God's True Church—It should also be realized by those who know and believe the teachings of God's Holy Bible, Scripture reveals God has only ONE CHURCH (*Matthew 16:18*)! And in His Church are only those whom God has selectively called and added to it (*John 6:44; Ephesians 4:1-16*); a *little, little*, Church (*Luke 12:32; Matthew 7:13-14*) And in God's true Church the fullness of His true teachings are believed and taught by His true and faithful ministers (*Revelation 3:7-13*).

MYSTERY OF THE AGES—Study your Bible together with this last unedited book Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, *ISBN 0-396-08773-6, and please wake up!* This could save your life from these worsening troublesome times before us. Remember – Mr. Armstrong was the man Jesus Christ used to teach all of us the fullness of His true teachings (*II Timothy 3:13-14*).

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End of the Article

Awesome Eternal Blessings Ahead for the Courageous

Hopefully each of us will give serious thought to the calling and selection from Jesus Christ along with the awesome future He holds before each of us as His begotten children.

Scripture clearly teaches this precious calling is not without trial and test for God has to know if we truly love Him more than anyone or life itself (*Luke 14:25-35*).

Indeed, we are to STAND IN THE GAP – standing up – as necessary and let our light shine while being the salt of the earth (*Ezekiel 22:30; Matthew 5:13-16*).

Jesus Christ as our Savior and High Priest will be with each of us to help us whatever the test and trial (*Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalm 34:*), but we have to do our part in standing up while continuing to do the Work of God as a witness to this dying world (*Matthew 24:14*).

We should be able to see this age is coming to a close; it is dying. Within a very few years Jesus Christ will be standing on the Mount of Olives and we will be there with Him (*Zechariah 14:4, 5*) if we overcome and endure to the end (*Matthew 24:13*).

Together with Jesus Christ, as His Bride, we will have part in turning this world right side up in the new age, as kings and priests – to reign and teach under Jesus Christ. What an awesome blessing awaits each one of His chosen people from this age to live over into that new age and begin helping people as Christ is now helping each one of us.

Thank God for His Master Plan of Salvation that makes known His awesome and caring LOVE for all of mankind that began with His chosen people in this age, including you and me.

While facing the present and ominous future, we need to take heart in what God led the Apostle Paul to write to the Church in Rome:

Romans 8:35-39

vs.35-36 “Who shall separate us from the LOVE of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long (putting to death this human nature); we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

vs.37-39 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,

nor angels (fallen angels-demons) nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, or any other created thing, shall be able to separate US from the LOVE OF GOD which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Don Billingsley

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