

The Link

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Who determines what is true and what is false?

Recently, Twitter was bought by Elon Musk for 44 billion dollars. This historic transaction of a social media platform raises concern that democracy, as we know it, will be damaged or destroyed. There is panic and fear among NBC, CBS, ABC, and CNN that the “truth” will be tainted, distorted, or even falsely fabricated by Twitter users. News agencies, public forums (internet in general), the government, and some standing behind pulpits are collectively against the private acquisition of Twitter. They say that “truth” is at stake, and Twitter will spew misinformation spreading havoc in our nation and around the globe. YET, WHAT IS TRUTH, AND WHERE CAN IT BE FOUND?

Moments away from being nailed to a cross, Jesus said to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate: “...I have come into the world, that I should bear witness of the truth...(John 18:37).” Pilate’s response in **verse 38** was: “What is truth?” Unbeknownst to Pilate, Jesus is the pinnacle of truth. He is absolute “truth” in the flesh! The very first chapter of the Gospel of John states, “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus-Truth), and the Word (Jesus-Truth) was with God, and the Word (Jesus-Truth) was God (John 1:1). “And the Word (Jesus) became flesh...” (John 1:14). Jesus is the TRUTH, and the TRUTH is the written Word—the Bible.

Listen! We are at a historical crossroads where everyone is doing “what is right in their own eyes.” Though the Bible is the Christian standard, many will counter biblical truth by saying, “what may be true to you may not be true to me.” When discussing the Bible with critics, their response usually is, “that is your interpretation, but not mine,” or “that was true in biblical times but does not hold true in our present-day culture.” This thought pattern is at times rooted in satanic deception that originated back in the Garden of Eden. God gave instructions to the first two created beings, Adam and Eve, that they could glean food from ALL the trees in the garden but one. He warned them not to touch or eat from one particular tree: “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die” (Gen. 3:3). The Serpent convinced the woman that God was not being honest: “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:4b-5). Adam & Eve listened to Satan; they disobeyed God introducing sin into the human race. Satan’s biggest challenge would arrive many years later through the Virgin Mary. Jesus came to defeat the adversary through the cross.

Jesus started His ministry fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. At the end of the fast, the cunning devil put Him to the “truth test.” Three times the serpent wanted Jesus to move independently of the scriptures. (Read **Matthew 4:1-11** and **Luke 4:1-13** to capture the whole story.) Each time Jesus countered with the scriptures— “It is written!” Satan still uses the very same tactics today! He dilutes, distorts, and discredits the Word of God to promote his evil plans. Allow me to share some of the attacks on TRUTH, GOD’S WORD. Years ago, I remembered several preachers on Christian Television declaring all believers are little gods because of being made in His

image. It is the same lie told to Eve “...you will be like God,” if you eat from the tree. Never forget that God has no beginning or end. Humans have a beginning—they are created.

The followers of Mormonism are taught many lies—Jesus was a created angel (had a beginning) and the brother of Lucifer. They even have a book that supersedes the Bible called “The Book of Mormon.” Other religions like Islam, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Baha’i’, etc. have a different unbiblical Jesus.

Even the Body of Christ is at times guilty of distorting TRUTH. There are many examples of the contemporary church becoming a proponent of misinformation and twisted theology. Many seminaries/churches do not teach biblical inerrancy. They tip-toe through this horrible deception stating that the Bible “contains truth.” Hence, when reading scriptures, one must determine what is and is not truth. Yet, it gets even messier in the 21st century, where cultural norms can even override the scriptures. In fact, there have been times when believers have “stretched,” “misinterpreted,” or even “distorted” the truth. For example:

- God desires all people to be healed.
- Giving to the church will unlock heavenly riches.
- Silent or even condoning the killing of babies who have no voice
- A gross lie regarding gender fluidity (including bisexuality, transgender, homosexuality, etc.)
- The church sanctioning marriage between a believer and an unbeliever—unequally yoked.
- Not attempting to restore those who have fallen
- Legalism and Judgmentalism are counter to grace taught in the scriptures—Christ did not come to judge, but He was honest when addressing sin. “Go and sin no more” or “You have had 5 husbands and now living with one.” He did not condemn but put right (restored) those who have fallen. Mature saints are called to restore those caught in sin. Paul states, “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted” (Gal. 6:1).

Throughout the scriptures, Christ and Paul addressed those things that caused a believer to stumble. In other words, disciples of Christ pointed to the scriptures as the foundation of TRUTH. The key to eternal life and daily living is: “Know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32). Believers must first know that the Bible they hold is trustworthy/faithful. Jesus made it clear that He came to fulfill the TRUTH—the Bible. The Word of God is both a guide to salvation (Romans 1:16) and a guide on how one ought to live the Christian life. There is no other book like the Bible. It is LIVING (Heb. 4:12) and God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16-17). May every Christian revere God’s inerrant and inspired Word as faithfully presenting the truth with no mixture of error. It is THE BOOK where the Spirit of God literally speaks to our spirit and directs our path.

RICK

MLI NEWS FLASH: Mission Link is in the process of transferring Ugandan assets to our "new" Board of Directors in Uganda. The Board of Directors for the "new" Ugandan NGO (**Mission Link of Uganda**) will be Pr. James Mafabi of Mission Link Christian Church, Pr. James Abalyawo, Head Administrator for MLI Christian Study Center; Elder Thomas Kunya, MLI Financial Manager; Pr. Todd Childers, Pastor of Emmanuel Bible Church, Keysville, Va & Board member of MLI USA; Pr. Jackie Carver, Pastor of Community Fellowship Baptist Church in Rustburg, Va. & Board member of MLI USA. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mission Link International, we are pleased to announce that **Pastor Todd Childers** will join the MLI staff beginning August 1, 2022. God is at work my friends!!



Pr. Todd Childers

TEAM TRIP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3-17: Pastor Todd is working hard on the logistics for the team. Nine people will be part of the summer team. If you have questions about the trip, please contact Pr. Todd Childers: musumbatodd@gmail.com

RICK'S TRIP: I am ticketed to be back in Uganda May 17 through June 24, 2022 to prepare for the June Team and doing catchup on the following: Preparing foundation for Widow's "earth-bag home," shifting offices spaces at MLI Headquarters in Jinja, working with our transitional attorney, graduation of MLI Pastor's school, etc.

A Sampling of Mission Link Projects and Needs

- **MILLING MAIZE FOR WIDOWS:** MLI has purchased corn to mill for food last month for our widows. A donation will help us do the same in May. **ANY AMOUNT** Thank you!
- **REMODELING MLI'S HEADQUARTERS:** We continue to remodel in May constructing office spaces to be rented by the public. This will make MLI headquarters self-supporting. Your gift of **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated. ALSO—My (Rick's) room is being fixed where I will stay when in the country. **We need a laser printer and several computers.**
- **WIDOW'S HOUSE TO BE BUILT:** Rick and MLI's new board member, Pastor Jackie Carver, will begin the process of building a widow an earth-bag home (see picture below). We will need approximately **\$3000** to build our first prototype. Hopefully, this will be the first of many homes built by volunteer teams.
- **TUTION:** MLI teacher George Stanley is enrolled part-time in Seminary. He needs **\$100** for tuition and requirements to reimburse the donor.
- **MEDICAL FUND:** Thanks to donors who have given to this fund. However, much more is "always" needed. **ANY AMOUNT** will be much appreciated.
- **SCHOOL FEES:** Many Africans are stressed to raise funds for school fees. **ANY AMOUNT**
- **DEAF SCHOOL:** —**ANY AMOUNT** still needed to complete the school (plaster walls, install ceilings, wiring and road work to the school.)
- **THE GENERAL FUND APPRECIATES ANY SIZE GIFT TO MEET PRESSING NEEDS**
- **MANY NEEDS MET LAST MONTH—Sampling:** Mission Link increased the budget for the feeding of albinos; **medical support to various individuals**—Our driver had Typhoid; widow Carolyn had an asthmatic attack; Pastor needed eye care; our resident street kid's mother (albino) needed meds for Malaria; Pastor who had cancer needed a medical followup; a friend of MLI had intestinal issues needing meds; pastor's wife with Typhoid; tuition assistance for Esther's two children she cares for; Assistance with teacher salaries for Dr. Moses primary school; several staff medical needs; Pastor James needing assistance to plow 3 acres for farming; Assisted Thomas, our financial manager, with two tires; etc.



NOTICE: Again, **MAY** is a continuation of MLI's cell phone collection. Please ask your family, friends, Bible study group and church (Pastor) to donate old cell phones ("**especially**" old "**reset**" **iphones**) to Mission Link. Also needed are laptops, tablets, keyboard. Thank you for helping!

Thirty (\$30) a month brings great happiness & needed provisions for our African widows in Uganda



Name: **Norah Tibiri** was born in 1951. She gave birth to 6 children and she cares for 3 grandchildren. **Husband deceased:** He died of cancer in 2002. Her husband use to see a demon and they were calling him home. **Testimony:** Thankful to God for her life and protection. Tibiri is grateful for provisions through MLI. She is Anglican, but not born again. Esther and Irene will be working with her. **Challenges:** To meet her needs, Tibiri labors by farming in other gardens. She also lacks school fees for grandchildren to go to school.



EARTH BAG HOMES

Many African widows live in homes made of mud and sticks. Living in damp harsh conditions is depressing and unhealthy. Mission Link will be designing and developing simple houses for widows made with polyurethane feed bags filled with dirt. Pictured is a sample of an earth bag home. MLI hopes to collect **\$3000** before Rick leaves for Uganda on May 17th. Will you help us?



Mission Link Church in Jinja is Growing

Mission Link Christian Church, located on MLI Campus, is growing. Under the leadership of Pastor James Mafabi, the church is seeing many men, women and young people coming to one of the two Sunday morning services. Please be in prayer for Pastor James and the leadership. Good things are happening in the Body of Christ!