

# BULLETIN

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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## **Updates from the Director**

The ministry's presence on YouTube is expanding! Our YouTube channel, **The Word of Truth Ministry:**

([YouTube.com/@thewordoftruthministry4128](https://youtube.com/@thewordoftruthministry4128)), started out as just an opportunity to post our conference videos, but is now turning into a full ministry effort. Along with the conferences that have been video-taped (since 2017), we have started to produce videos just for online consumption. After expanding our abbreviated local 2020 conference with some online-only sessions, we decided to set about producing enough material to have weekly postings. Both your Director Nathan Johnson and Board member Candy Davis have produced videos just for YouTube.

I first produced a series on "The Why Question," examining why, with a good God, this world is often such a terrible place. Now, I am moving on to present studies of the books of the Bible that were not covered by our founder, Mr. Otis Q. Sellers, in his nearly-complete Tape Library, which was cut short after he suffered the debilitating stroke that ended his ministry. I call these new efforts the "Video Library." Currently I am working through the book of Job, considering the teaching and lessons of this interesting book, most of which covers a debate between Job and his friends as to the reason he suffered this tragedy, and whether or not God makes sure only the wicked suffer. After finishing Job, I plan to move on to considering the Minor Prophets, which Mr. Sellers was just starting at the end of his library.

Candy Davis is producing some very professional-looking videos on the topic of the Fruit of the Spirit. Though some health issues caused a long delay between the first and second installment, the second video in the series is now posted, with more in the works.

Besides video content, we are also posting some audio-only content to YouTube. Our

2013-2016 conferences, which either were not videotaped or else the videos were lost, are being released as audio-only. Beyond this, we are reaching back into our library to release some material from Otis Q. Sellers, which was not included in his audio TL library. Mr. Sellers visited the city of New York on his conference tours back in the 1970s and early 1980s, and his teaching sessions there were mostly all recorded. Mr. Sellers also recorded audios of a few of his "Seed and Bread" leaflets. Besides these audios, some of his 1970s-era radio programs are in our library and will find their way on to YouTube in the near future.

The way YouTube works, videos that receive many views and likes are promoted. If you have a chance, we ask that you not only watch our videos at The Word of Truth Ministry channel, but that you also press "Like" when you do so to help our postings get more external promotion from YouTube. We are passionate about this new ministry, and are debating ways to make our videos higher quality and friendly to those not already dedicated to the ministry. We hope you will watch and click on Like, as well as praying, to help us promote this expanding opportunity for our ministry.

During his lifetime, Mr. Sellers had developed a large following around the country and the world. Now more than thirty years after his death and thirty-five after the end of his ministry, much of his following has aged, and the number of friends of the ministry has shrunk. With our efforts, both on YouTube and the radio ministry, we hope to carry both his legacy teaching as well as the efforts of modern teachers forward to a new, younger audience of Bible students who need to know the truth about man's nature and destiny; about the coming, premillennial kingdom of God; and about the Acts 28:28 dispensational dividing line. We ask that you pray for God's help and guidance for us in this effort.

**Nathan C. Johnson**

## One Hope

By Robert Juneau

What do the overwhelming majority of decent people want for this earth and mankind upon it? While the details of their answers would vary greatly, if people could have their greatest hope for mankind realized, it would no doubt center on things like love, justice, health, peace, and happiness for all people upon the earth.

How to reach this lofty state has been debated for centuries among scientists, philosophers, poets, and politicians. Sadly, theologians are missing from this conversation as they have mostly abandoned any hope for this earth and the system upon it, in exchange for a misplaced heavenly hope. The Bible says otherwise. "For God so loved the world" (Gk.-kosmos) "that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16, NKJV used throughout unless noted). God loved the kosmos (order or system) that fell with Adam. Along with mankind, the kosmos was saved at the cross. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world" (Gk.-kosmos), "but that the world" (Gk.-kosmos) "through Him might be saved" (John 3:17). God loves the earth. For "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness" (1 Cor. 10:26). The promise of our one hope hinges on these words being true.

While I'm a pessimist concerning the efforts of mankind, my hope for a beautiful, benevolent, peaceful world will come true because of the promise of what God will do through Christ. "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother'" (Zech. 7:9-10). "I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans..." (Mal. 3:5).

Again, because of the long-held traditional belief in Christendom that heaven is our hope, most believers have given up on the world and the earth. This is a tragedy! The very thing the secular world longs for is found in the promises of God. Sadly, most believers have nothing to offer those who dare to dream but a few vague ideas about an ethereal existence in heaven. The Bible is replete with hope for this world and the earth.

The Psalms proclaim loudly that our hope is to inherit the earth. *The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men* (Ps. 115:16). *For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth*

*(Ps. 37:9). But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace* (Ps. 37:11). *For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off* (Ps. 37:22). *But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth* (Isa. 11:4). *Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah* (Psalm 67:4).

God will restore the world and the earth to its former paradise like it was in the Garden of Eden. *For the seed shall be prosperous, The vine shall give its fruit, The ground shall give her increase, And the heavens shall give their dew* (Zech. 8:12). *Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD* (Ezek. 34:27).

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed" (Amos 9:13). The animal world will live in peace among themselves and among man. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox" (Isa. 11:6-7). How wonderful it will be when this day comes! "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9 quoting Isa. 64:4).

Did our hope change from what was promised in the Old Testament to what is promised in the New Testament? No, and this is why it is so important to understand that much of the New Testament is the record of God's promise of our one hope becoming a reality, as the kingdom of God was becoming a reality on the earth. In the gospel period, the kingdom was near. *So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near* (Luke 21:31). In the passage commonly called The Beatitudes, the Lord repeats the Old Testament promise. "Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). As the Acts period was beginning His disciples asked, "will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). After the Acts period the apostle Paul reiterates the promise that the earth is our hope, "...that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:3).

God gave the apostle John a vision of the future where he saw the promise of our one hope becoming a reality. When the traditional theologian attempts to describe heaven and what we can expect there, the book of Revelation is often referenced. It is true that this book contains much activity occurring in heaven, but it is all related to the work God is accomplishing on earth. "...*And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth*" (Rev. 5:9-10).

Beyond the kingdom and the one-thousand-year reign of Christ is the new heaven and the new earth. *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away* (Rev. 21:1). The new Jerusalem comes down from heaven. *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband* (Rev. 21:2). Even though this is the new earth, it is still a fact that God is not bringing people up to heaven to be with him; He comes to earth to dwell with man! *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God"* (Rev. 21:3). The next verse is often used to describe the paradise of heaven, but these conditions are the result of the previous verse when God is on earth. *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new"* (Rev. 21:4). Nations and kings of the earth are still inhabiting the earth during this glorious time on earth. *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it* (Rev. 21:24). From the context, the "it" in this passage is the new Jerusalem having come to earth.

The apostle Paul extols our one hope, ...*that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints* (Eph. 1:18). *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling* (Eph. 4:4). What is the one hope of our calling? To understand this, we must understand what is meant by "calling." This is the Greek word *klesis*, from *kaleo*. While *kaleo* can mean to bid or to summons, in two-thirds of the occurrences it means to designate or to position. Since *Klesis* is the noun derived from the verb *kaleo*, it must have the same basic

meaning. The word "calling" would better be translated "position," as Mr. Sellers does in his translation of Ephesians 4:4. *One body and one Spirit, even as you were placed also in one expectation of your position* (Eph. 4:4, Resultant version). In Mr. Sellers' notes on Ephesians 4:4, he explains what the one hope (expectation) is for the believer. He says, "The one common hope held out to all men at all times by the Word is that they can be alive and upon the earth in the day when God governs. There is no other hope." He then refers to Psalm 37:22 which is quoted above.

I'm so grateful for Mr. Sellers' translation and understanding of Ephesians. The phrase within the context of the passage in Ephesians 4, "one expectation of your position," is one of the most powerful, meaningful, and important statements in the New Testament. It is up to the Bible student to discover what the expectation of our position is, and where we will be when it becomes a reality. An honest and thorough examination of Scripture reveals *what* our expectation is: to live in God's kingdom and beyond. *Where* this will take place is on the earth.

Believers today should be looking forward to God's next move, that of enlightening mankind. The thing most sorely missing in the minds of men is the knowledge of who and what Jesus Christ is in reality. But, one day, that will all change. *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.* (Isa. 11:9). The earth is where we can expect this flood of the knowledge of the LORD to occur. Paul urges us to look for that day. *Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing (Gk.-epiphaneia) of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ* (Titus 2:13). It is this *epiphaneia*, this enlightenment, this blazing forth of knowledge, righteousness, and truth about which Isaiah prophesied. This is what will bring about the kind of world of which people dream.

The secular world continues to insist that mankind will one day make good on the dream of a society that flows with love, peace, and harmony. We have something much more than dreams or mere wishful thinking; we have a promise from God. *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise* (2 Pet. 3:9). We can trust that the Creator and Lord of heaven and earth (Acts 17:24) will do what He said He will do. He is more than able to restore this world and this earth to their proper state. *Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things"* (Matt. 17:11). Take hold of God's promise of our one hope, the hope that will transpire right here on earth.

## The Lord's Brainwashing

By Andrew Brown

*The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood* (Rev. 12:15, NASB1995 unless noted). This Scripture vision reveals Satan's malicious attack flooding and sweeping away God's people and creation into wickedness. Ephesians 2:2 tells of the "course (Gk.-aion) of this world." Satan's influence is like a current that pulls at the activities within the world. Many are carried along riding this wave of evil, which tries to pull everything and everyone along with it. While we do not aim to trace every drop of the evil flow, we must be aware of the reality and stand firm.

The last of our Lord's words to be penned chronologically in Scripture are: *"The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you"* (2 Tim. 4:22). This is a fitting verse to be left with. Spirit (Gk.-pneuma) is linked to the mind. People's minds and thought processes are often attacked. In the midst of an endless supply of information that boldly declares its supreme importance, the believer needs the Lord's help and equipping to obtain a sound mind (spirit). Because of the flow of evil and untruth, the believer needs to stay vigilant with an attentive mind. *"Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (1 Pet. 1:13). Our thoughts and desires can be aligned with Christ. Thus, it is most important to find rest and strength in what He has taught.

Wrong ideas can be easily absorbed or practiced, as stated in Proverbs 14:12; *There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.* We want rather to take hold of the ideas and ways of a wonderful and kind Savior. Yes, in opposition to a flow of wickedness, we could request that the Lord would supply a most-refreshing "brain-washing." *The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You* (Isa. 26:3).

Asaph's Psalm 73 portrays such a change in perspective that refreshes the mind and heart. The psalmist begins with an explanation and confession of his state: *But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling... For I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked* (Ps. 73:2-3). The seemingly-good fortune and the carefree nature of the wicked had frustrated Asaph and nearly caused him to pursue their way. It was when he "came into the sanctuary of God" and "perceived their end" (Ps. 73:17) that he was transformed. When Asaph connected to the Divine God he saw clearly and was strengthened in the right way! We too look to the Savior and set our minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth (Col. 3:2).

The believer needs to get God's perspective; to see as He sees. *When the attendant of the man of God had...gone out, behold, an army...was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"* (2 Kings 6:15). What was Elisha's divine response to this deadly situation? *He answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them"* (2 Kings 6:16). Elisha had an accurate view. He knew the God he served and could even see the unseen world. As God's mediator, he also helped his servant to see *the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha* (2 Kings 6:17). There was no reason to fear. We need to know the Lord to understand with clarity and have his mind. In this day of grace His written Word remains the *lamp to our feet and a light to our path* (Ps. 119:105). Here is our aid to see "with eyes that see."

Paul's letters are constantly combating untruth and providing clarity so that the people he cared for would have minds and lives aligned with the truth. When his writing is opened to us, we also are equipped for a battle of the mind. *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect* (Rom. 12:2).

As we look to the Lord and His word, we will find answers to guide our paths and direct our minds. Dark foes masquerading as angels of light may stir currents to carry us away from our first love, or creep into households and take captive the tolerant. What starts as a trickle eventually bursts through with larger floodwater to even challenge advanced swimmers. Scripture tells us the devil is always "seeking someone to devour," and instruction follows this warning: **"But resist him."** (1 Pet. 5:8-9, emphasis mine). We will fight against Satan's flow and advance. The armor of God which is linked to the Word of God will protect us as we face the onslaught. We can be equipped and ready for all challenges.

One aspect of the onset of the Kingdom is foretold: *When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him* (Isa. 59:19 KJV). This passage reveals how the Spirit conquers Satan in that future time, but I believe that there is application for us as well. When the water gets deeper and the current stronger and some give in, even then we don't lose heart. When Satan floods the airways with his drivel and we seek the Lord, His Spirit will set up "a standard" in our hearts and minds. He can transform our minds and wash our brains, giving us clearer sight of Him and His good ways. He provides the eternal perspective and strength needed to stand and make progress upstream.