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## **INTRODUCTION**

### A BRIEF BIO, AND BACKGROUND

Deb and I celebrated our 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Yay!). For six years prior to that we lived in a common law relationship which started during our time at the University of Western Ontario. Thus, in total we've been together for almost 44 years. Despite the morally rocky start I believe God had chosen us to be together and that is why I tell folks it was a marriage made in Heaven. My university career actually began at the University of Guelph where I was enrolled in Honours Zoology. Unfortunately, I drank and partied my way out of that program and subsequently enrolled at Western after meeting Debra at a friend's party in London. Needless to say, I got my bride along with a degree in Economics and Deb graduated from Teacher's College. Before we became "born again" Christians and entered into Youth Ministry, Deb was teaching and I worked in Banking and Insurance. In 1984 we started working with homeless youth in our home and in 1987 I became the Youth Pastor at Calvary Pentecostal Church in Woodstock. After a season at People's Church in Hamilton as Youth Director and Minister of Evangelism we joined Pastor Joseph and Betty Ann Grubb in Toronto in 1990 as part of Hosanna Church. Ultimately after a season that involved secular work, foreign mission work and spiritual refining ... God brought us back into youth ministry as Youth Directors at Hosanna in 2006. Today our primary focus is still Youth Ministry at Hosanna along with our Oasis of Answers Club at York University. For this life message we want to thank our loving Heavenly Father and precious Lord for the grace throughout the journey and our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Joseph Grubb for all he has invested and imparted into our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### A TRIBUTE TO OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

We would also like to thank Pastor Gerald and Irene Morgan for their love and willingness to entrust us to pastor the youth of Calvary Church. Your confidence in God's grace upon our lives to give us our first pastoral opportunity in ministry will always be deeply appreciated. Also, we're grateful to you for inviting us to join your staff at People's Church in Hamilton to oversee the Church's evangelistic ministry and young adults. Although it was a challenging time it began a process of refining and seeking that would bring us forward in our destiny. Thank you, Pastor Morgan and Irene, for your important investment in our lives and for believing in us. We love and appreciate you both very much.

We also want to thank the precious young people of Calvary for bearing with us in our spiritual learning experience during that season. We have a lot of fond memories of our time with you and we're very thankful that many of you have faithfully gone on in your spiritual journey with the Lord. We want to especially express our love and sincere appreciation to two very special spiritual daughters from this youth group who graciously accompanied and supported us in Hamilton and Toronto. Mary and Louise, may God richly bless you for your love and for being such a significant blessing in our lives. We also thank God for our youth and young adults here in Toronto who have persevered through the storms and remained faithful to the Lord. Most especially Kwame and Odinga who have been like a son and daughter to us even though they've moved on to other ministries. You will always have a special place in our hearts ... we love you. Finally, we want to express our deep love and gratitude for our other very special son who is a youth in the making. Michael Jr. you have been a constant ray of sonshine and joy in our lives and we will always cherish your love and that you are a part of our family. We want to dedicate this book first and foremost to our loving Heavenly Father, our precious Lord and Saviour and the blessed Holy Spirit, but also to our beloved young people and our families both natural and spiritual.

This work is the culmination of 38 years of transformative relationship, supernatural miracles, sweat, tears and learning to humbly serve and sacrifice as the One Who captured our hearts. We hope and pray that what God has given us to share with you in this book will challenge and greatly encourage you in your pursuit of truth, reality and eternal destiny. Initially you may not agree with everything we share in this work. However, if you love and desire truth there is much here that will kindle a passion within to dig deeper. To discover for yourself what is truth, where you are going and what will be your ultimate destiny. We especially pray for the many we care dearly for who are searching and for those who are drifting as prodigals in an ever-darkening world. May this work help you to find the true Light in this darkness that can never be extinguished. God richly bless all who have earnestly embarked on the search for truth. As you begin this phase of your search in reading this book we urge you to please pray that God will open the eyes of your heart. Even if you don't believe in Him as yet. Our love and prayers for God's speed on your journey.



# **CHAPTER 1**

### Priceless Truth vs. Strong Delusion

#### A HOPE FOR NEW BEGINNINGS AND PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORMS

At the outset, Deb and I want to convey our love and kind regards to all our family. (natural and spiritual), neighbours, friends and new friends who receive this book. We hope and pray that it will encourage and help you to more fully understand the extreme peril of misinformation, false narratives and deception in our generation. Also, that it will help you to prepare and prevail over the rising tide of spiritual darkness and evil flooding our nation and the entire world. We know that many of you are wondering; "What in the world is going on?!" As you observe the everincreasing levels of epidemics, civil violence, terrorism, nuclear tension, natural disasters, as well as the social and moral collapse due to the social reengineering of our society via the LGBTQ agenda and the gender theory craze, etc. We don't blame you for wondering. "What is all this leading toward and is there hope in the midst of it all?" Deb and I want to assure you that there is great hope for all and any who will open their hearts to God's loving call to come to Him in the midst of all the lies, fear, emptiness, immorality, perversion, corruption, confusion, hatred and violence. Perhaps you are among those who are disillusioned and have joined the growing ranks of those who doubt or don't believe in God's existence. All we ask is that you have an open heart to hear our story and judge for yourself the validity of our experience with this ultimate source of genuine love, joy, peace and truth. Deb and my prayer for you beloved is that God would give you the grace to discern His love and truth. That it may liberate you into the new beginning He has for your life and give you new hope and peace now and in the midst of the coming storms.

#### A JOURNEY TO DISCOVER TRUTH AND FULFILLMENT

I will be 66 on my next birthday and Deb will be 64 on hers. We have learned and discovered much during our journey regarding what is truth and reality and what is deception and mere illusion. For many years we lived for ourselves seeking to find fulfillment in this world's pleasures, entertainment and its pursuits for significance and success. Our life involved good jobs, good health, good friends, seasonal family gatherings, watching and playing sports (tennis, golf, etc.), drinking and partying, buying a beautiful home, travel, movies, spending time at the cottage etc., etc... Throughout this season of self indulgence and the pursuit of pleasure, security and fulfillment in this world's offerings we came up empty and longing for something more. However, as we began to sincerely cry out in our hearts to the One, we knew

must be the causation and Author of this beautiful but seemingly empty world ... things changed. Our loving and merciful Creator began to reveal Himself through caring individuals and powerful sources of truth that began to give us renewed hope for something better. In this book we will endeavour to share what we've discovered in our journey with the sincere expectation that it will stir in you a concrete hope for something better that will ultimately bring you true lasting joy and fulfillment, even in the midst of unprecedented turmoil and fear.

#### TRUTH'S IMPORTANCE IN OUR DESTINY AND DISCOVERY OF GOD

Deb and I want to let you know that we truly care about you as a person and we only desire the very best for you. Not only now in this life, but in the existence beyond this life, whether you believe in an afterlife or not. You are a free will agent and have the freedom to believe whatever you want. Deb and I respect your right to believe what you desire. However, we all need to realize that what we believe has extremely significant consequences. There are many different beliefs in the world today, but they cannot all be true. Our sincere desire is to share with you what we have discovered to be absolute truth. Truth that has been verified by outstanding miracles in our family and in the personal miracle of transformation in our own lives as well as in the lives of multitudes worldwide. Along with all this, it has been confirmed to us by undeniable supernatural encounters with God that we will be sharing with you. It also has been verified to us through cutting edge science that demonstrates that there must be an unlimited intellectual agent that authored life on this planet. And finally, it has been verified through hundreds of very detailed predictions of the future found in the Bible. These multitudes of prophecies have been fulfilled through historically verified events of the past as well as by seeing them today unfold before our very eyes. We will endeavour to share with you from all these realms throughout this book to examine for yourself and decide.

#### THE UNSPEAKABLE JOY AND PEACE OF KNOWING YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

The bottom-line is that what you believe will determine where you spend eternity whether you believe it or not. As we begin let us ask you a question that we all need to seriously ponder regarding the afterlife (even those who don't believe yet). God forbid, but if you were to die today, do you know for certain where you would spend your eternity? The Holy Bible clearly reveals that there are only two destinations ... Heaven or Hell. It also reveals the *Good News* that we can know for certain that we have eternal life and that Heaven will be our ultimate eternal destination.

Jesus said; <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone which sees the Son, and believes on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the

last day" ... <sup>47</sup> "Verily, verily, I say to you, He that believes on Me has everlasting life" (John 6:40 and 47 KJVER).

<sup>11</sup> "And this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life. <sup>13</sup> These things have I written to you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:11-13 KJVER).

The truth of God's Word reveals how we can come to an unshakeable faith where you know for certain you have eternal life. Do you realize what a tremendous joy it is and the unspeakable peace it brings to have no fear of death or what lies beyond the grave? It is truly priceless to have the assurance that you are going to a place so beautiful that it is beyond your imagination ... to enjoy forever.

<sup>9</sup> "But as it is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Corinthians 2:9 KJV).

By God's grace Deb and I have experienced this reality and a little later I'll share a powerful glimpse God gave me of what awaits those who love Him. Your eternal, timeless well being is at stake. Consequently, it is vitally important that we all discover, What is TRUTH? What we share with you in this message we believe is truth confirmed to us beyond any shadow of doubt. We present it to you in love for your examination and discovery that you may personally experience this assurance of eternal life for yourself. Again, we want to repeat we respect your right to believe what you want, but is it the truth? Also, please understand that we're not picking on anyone's belief whether you're Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, Jewish, Mormon, JW, Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, Atheist, Agnostic or whatever, we love you all. All we're endeavouring to do by God's grace is to share the Biblical truth that we've personally experienced and know is real and has transformed us forever and will do the same for you ... if you let it.

#### WHAT IS TRUTH? ... AND THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF DISCOVERING TRUTH

Jesus Christ made some foundational truth claims about Himself and about God the Father which we need to keep in mind as we embark on this journey to discern, *What is truth?* That question is the very one that the Roman governor Pontius Pilate asked Jesus after Jesus revealed to him in their conversation that He was *the King* of the entire realm of truth, <sup>37</sup> "Pilate therefore said to Him, Art you a king then? **Jesus** 

answered, You say that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears My voice" (John 18:37 KJVER). Jesus made a similar proclamation to doubting Thomas recorded in John chapter 14 6 "Jesus says to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6 KJVER). In verse 37 above Jesus essentially declared to governor Pilate that all who desire truth would hear His voice. We will discuss these very revealing claims by Jesus a little later, but for now we just want to illustrate how truth was an integral part of Who Jesus is. Also, that truth and worshipping God in truth is extremely important to God the Father as revealed in John chapter 4: <sup>23</sup> "Jesus said: But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24 KJVER). If we are to worship God in truth as He commands it is imperative that we find it and implement it in our daily lives. Another vitally important aspect of truth is revealed by Jesus in the following scripture. 14 "Jesus said "I have given them (His disciples) Your Word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world ... <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them through Your truth: Your word is truth (John 17:14 & 17). Many believe that there is no such thing as absolute truth, but is that true? In our 60 plus years of experience on this planet we have discovered that there truly is absolute truth revealed through the sources mentioned above. Also, that there is a source of absolute lies and deception that seeks to distort and denigrate absolute truth. This being and the eternal agents that work with him are the authors of these lies and deception. Sadly, most of the world has been duped into believing their false narratives of reality. Thus, begins our discovery of the unseen cosmic battle of the ages that has raged for thousands of years behind the scenes. Which side's influence we surrender to will determine our eternal destiny. We pray that this work will help you to discern this battle and choose the way of truth.

#### POLAR OPPOSITES & THE PERIL OF IGNORING OR REJECTING TRUTH



We are amazed as we watch or listen to media presentations from those on the *Left* and *Right* side of society's cultural, moral and political worldviews. At times it's like they're coming from two different worlds. We wonder or perhaps you wonder, *How can they have such polar opposite views and interpretations of the same topic or event?* 

We believe the Bible gives insight and understanding to this dilemma and it is part

of the cosmic battle of the ages which we will be discussing just ahead. It is not just as simple as thinking Well that's your truth, but I have my own perspective and truth. There is a deeper and far more sinister reality to the reason for these great differences as you are about to discover. Also, the Bible reveals that we will place ourselves in great existential peril if we do not diligently seek to find what is genuine truth and reality and live by it. We share the following scripture to help each of us at the outset to understand that the stakes in this regard are very high. Also, that we would not fall prey to being among those who succumb to the dread release of "strong delusion" now coming upon the earth. There are ultimately only two camps or kingdoms in this cosmic battle of the ages. One is supremely right and good and one is supremely wrong and evil. Both camps have human leaders who have supernatural elements to their being and that have and will impact the entire world. One is soon coming while the other is soon returning. However, the one revealed in this following passage is sadly the one that most people will follow. You don't have to be one of them. Our prayer Beloved is that the scriptural truth herein, if embraced and applied will enable you to be an overcomer of the gross deception blinding the vast majority of our world's population. That you will not become a victim but a victor and not a casualty but a conqueror by God's grace over evil.

<sup>8</sup> "And then shall that Wicked (one) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (what is false) <sup>12</sup> That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 KJVER).

This is a very sobering reality of what has begun, but please read on and learn what it takes to overcome and avert this reality.

#### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COSMIC BATTLE OF THE SPIRIT REALM

One of the first truths we would like you to discover is that the metaphysical or supernatural realm of the spirit is absolutely real. Along with this reality we hope to help you find that there is truly a loving God Who only desires good for us and that we would be a part of His eternal family. At the same time, there are evil spiritual beings whose ultimate purpose is to rob us of this opportunity and to take us with them to a hellish eternity. Many people are oblivious to the reality of this spiritual battle for our eternal souls. We hope and pray that the revelation in this presentation will awaken many to the eternal consequences involved for each and every one of

us and enable you to become an overcomer through *Truth* and receive the gift of eternal life. Please note from the following scriptures the reality of the satanic powers that influence and hold deceptive sway over the current world system as well as the keys to defeating them. These keys will be explained more fully a bit later.

... "and the whole world (system) lies under the sway of the wicked one (Satan)" (I John 5:19 NKJV).

<sup>9</sup> "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him ... <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives to the death" (Revelation 12:9, 11 KJVER). We will return to our investigation of this dark side of the spirit realm later. First of all, we want to focus on the beautiful, loving and radiant side of the eternal.

