

Review:

1. Abide, endure in God's Word
2. The vaccine is not the Mark but it is a precursor to it, a forerunner, a picture of how it will be distributed
3. Romans 8:18-- For Christians, the best is always yet to come

Real Faith (39-41)

What does it mean, "our father Abraham", or "we do the works of Abraham"?

John 8:39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,

There's only one way to find out... Genesis 12-22

- What did Abraham do?

He walked by faith (oh snap)

He left his homeland (12:4-5)

He was very kind to his nephew Lot (13:8-10)

He even rescues Lot from trouble (14:16)

By the way.... Have you ever wondered why Lot was called "righteous" in 2 Peter?

What did he do that was righteous? He seemed to be in the middle of trouble most of the time...

2 Peter 2:6-9 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he **rescued righteous Lot**, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment

Lot was a modern day Billionaire

He had so much stuff the land couldn't hold him

Genesis 13:5-6 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together,

Not only did he have a ton of stuff, then he got the best piece of property

Genesis 13:10-11 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.

Lot was righteous because he turned away from all that the world had to offer and he never looked back!

WOW!

Unlike his wife who looked back and became a pillar of salt

Genesis 19:26 But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

.....
(Back to Abraham)....

He gave a 10th of all that he had to Melchizedek, Priest of God (14:20)

And most importantly—

He believed God and his faith was counted as righteousness (Gen 15:6)

Genesis 15:1-6 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to

him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

But remember:

Abraham was also human—he made some poor decisions...

Genesis 16 listening to Sarai and bearing a child with Hagar, Ishmael, the wild donkey of a man (12)

But in the end, he was a man who was so faithful that he would offer up his only son of the promise to be sacrificed

Genesis 22:1-14

So, if you were Abraham's children you would be:

- Humble
- Listening to God's call
- Walking by faith
- Fearing God
- Depending on God for your needs

Real Truth (41-47)

John 8:43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

- Since the Virus came into existence, not only has it effected people's health, it has affected people's truth!!!

It seems that truth is even harder to come by these days

---Who do you trust? Do I trust my doctor or your doctor? Do I trust this article or that article?

---Who is being transparent?

---Who doesn't have a politically driven agenda?
---Who has my best interests in mind?

So now, we live in a world where truth is scarce and lies are plentiful

We live in a world where people are so confused that they don't know who or what to believe

And to make matters worse:

- We have created a culture of ***US vs THEM***

Think about it...

1. Republican vs. Democrat
2. Fox vs CNN
3. Conservative vs. Liberal
4. Rays vs the Red Sox Umpires

But the most prevalent one now is obviously:

Vaxxed vs Unvaxxed

- Here's the gospel truth---

Jesus Christ came to save the vaccinated and the unvaccinated!

And when you receive His salvation,
When you endure in His word,
you will know the truth and the truth will set you free!!

What is the truth?

The truth is that in Christ, there is no division!!!!

Galatians 3:26-29 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

There is no longer Jew or Gentile

Ephesians 2:11-16 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

And if you are in Christ, the victory is ours!

1 John 5:4-5 “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

*Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever
He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood
He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due him
He plunged me, to victory, beneath the cleansing flood!!*

This is why the world hates us?

“Hang on Pastor, what are you talking about”

- The world hates us because it is of its father the devil!!!

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, **because there is no truth in him**. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- He is a liar from the beginning

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

So now that sin has entered the world and everything is tainted, Satan is blinding the minds of unbelievers

2 Corinthians 4:4⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Do you know him today?