

“The Truth As We Know It”

1/4/15

Introduction

1. Good afternoon, This is our first broadcast on this station and I feel the need to tell you a little about myself and who I am. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's great testimony, how he always told how he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the believers there, but Jesus met him and his life was forever changed.

Now my story is not nearly so dramatic, but I do have a story to tell.

I grew up as an Old Order Amish boy in northern Indiana. I am number 11 in a family of twelve. My parents lived out their lives as Old Order Amish. Most of my living family are still Amish. I was very religious, but not saved.

When I turned 16, I met the girl that was to become my wife and the mother of my children. She was a member of the Mennonite church and older and a wonderful Christian girl, so when I wanted to go to places I should not have been going, she stopped our relationship because I was not yet a Christian. She said, "I am falling in love with you and I can not let that happen because you are not a Christian." Here was a girl who loved Jesus more than she loved me! I am forever grateful for her stand, because I had thought because we went to church and kept all the rules we were Christian. But the moment she said it I knew she was right. I had a relationship with the church, but not with Jesus.

She lived in Virginia and I in Indiana. I mean she packed her bags and left. I stood at the train depot and watched her ride off into the morning light!

I didn't get saved immediately, but the seed was sown in my heart. I was one miserable boy for about two weeks as I wrestled with my decision. Finally I surrendered and decided I was going to be a true Christian. We corresponded by letter and I asked her to come back and she did.

She explained to me what I needed to do get saved. So one Friday evening in June of 1958 in a normal church service we all knelt at the close of service just as I had many thousands of times before. But this time was different! I asked Jesus into my heart! I confessed my many sins to Him and asked Him to forgive me! Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

I thanked Him for saving me and when I did, glory filled my soul and I knew He had heard my prayer. There had been no Alter Call! No one to counsel me and pray with me. But everything had changed! Even the trees looked different.

That was 56 years ago and it is still very real to me this afternoon!

I was very excited about my new relationship with Jesus and I thought everyone else would want to know Him too. I wanted everyone to find Him. I was hungry for God and wanted to

know more about Him. I had read the basic Bible stories as a child, so I was not unfamiliar with it.

I moved to Virginia to be with her and to get married. Shortly after we were married, I was invited to be a part of a Jail ministry to minister to the prisoners in the local Jail. I found it very exciting and rewarding to share the Gospel with those who needed it so very badly. Also, I started to go to downtown Norfolk, VA, to the poor section of town on Sunday afternoon to give out Gospel tracts. I would ask my fellow Mennonite friends to go with me but they said it was unsafe. This was in the 1960s during all the race issues. God touched my heart in a powerful way during that time in my life! The people would welcome me. I remember reaching into a car window with several tracts in my hand and seeing only hands reaching out to receive them. People would open their second and third story windows and let down bags on a string for me to put what I had into them. They would ask me to come pray for sick family members. It was exciting! I had gotten a taste of the joy of sharing the Gospel.

God was convicting my heart in a big way! The call of God was in my heart very strong! I remember being in a deer stand hunting one day and God saying, "What are you doing out here? People are lost and you know how to help them find Jesus!" I stopped hunting for some time after that. Now there is nothing wrong with hunting, but God was calling me into His service.

One Friday afternoon as I was doing business in Downtown Norfolk, VA, I saw the many hundreds of people Christmas shopping and wondered how many of them really knew Christ. My heart broke for them! I knew that I could help them to find Him if perhaps I had the opportunity. So I determined to return that evening with a good supply of Gospel tracts. Once again I asked some of the brethren to join me, but they declined.

I took my spot at a very busy corner and proceeded to hand out my literature to those that passed by. Presently a Gentlemen stopped and asked me how long I had been saved. I told him a little over a year. He then asked me if I had received the Holy Ghost. I told him that I had, because I had been taught that you received it all at conversion. I immediately knew this was a Pentecostal man and I had been warned about them! He then asked me if I had spoken in tongues. I had not. I soon saw by his testimony that here was a man that had made great sacrifices to serve God.

Just as I had come there to reach those without Christ, He had come to talk to someone who already knew him. He said as he was praying in his car before we met, and he had a great hunger to minister to a believer. He walked back about a block and found me there. This was indeed a divine appointment for me. I know in my heart that God sent him to me that night. I wish I had kept up with him, but I only saw him one other time and have long since lost his name. but eternity will hopefully let us meet again. I am sure he never knew the impact he had on my life.

We talked for several hours and he wrote three scriptural references, Acts 2:39, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 19:2, on the back of his business card and asked me to read them when I got home and see

if I had what they were talking about. I had studied my Bible all my life and knew I did not have that experience!

I went home that night and read those verses. Act 2:39 "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call." Act 19:2 "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" I knew it was for me too! That night as I knelt by my bed to pray, I asked God to Baptizes me in the Holy Ghost. It was not until several years later that I actually received it in a revival meeting at The Church of God, but it was a major turning point in my life. I knew that what I had received was very real! But my fellow Mennonite brethren did not understand what God was doing in my life.

Soon my family and I joined The Church of God and I was ordained into the Ministry in June of 1963. I was 22 years old. I have ministered under their license as a Bishop & Pastor for 51 years now, and my time of this earth is not as long as it has been.

Some years ago I felt the need to develop a radio ministry so that I could continue to minister on into my waning years. This is our effort to bring that about. "The Truth as we know it." is meant to be a teaching ministry to give me an opportunity to share what I have learned from many years of sincere study. I do not intend to shy away from controversial topics, but will do my best to explain them to the best of my ability. We in no way believe we have all the answers, but we are hungry to continue to grow in Christ reaching out to what we have not yet apprehended.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. There is no other name on whom we can call. Atheism is a temporary condition for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

I do hope you tune in each week at this same time. If at any time you have subjects you want me to address, please send your correspondence to "The Truth as we know it." 750 Oil Mill Rd. Piedmont, SC 29673. or email me at truthradioministry@gmail.com. Until next week, God Bless you all.