



Innovative Truth

Bringing Scripture to Life

September 2023

Dear Friend,

As we shared in past letters, in November 2022 we formed a ministry group on Discord, a relatively new communication platform where we learned many from the Alpha and Z generations congregate. We use the platform to share the gospel and uplifting messages regularly. There are currently over 20 people in the Innovative Truth Discord group. Most have no previous knowledge of Jesus. I wanted to share a recent bold message Tonya shared with the group as well as an encouraging response received from a young member.

Tonya~ “Christians are being persecuted. Anyone doubting that, is not paying attention. Our faith in holy scripture is attacked daily. The world tries to normalize that which God calls sinful. When we speak against sin, we are censored, vilified, attacked, cancelled, banned from social media, called names, told we are hateful and hated, investigated by a two tier judicial system, arrested, jailed and some even murdered. All so they can normalize sin and shut down anyone teaching otherwise. It's not easy to stand against persecution. It takes courage that can only come from God. Take strength from knowing you're not alone, and many great people were persecuted before us. This has been going on for thousands of years. St Paul the Apostle wrote about it in the Book of Romans. I encourage you to read all of Romans for yourself. I want to share a small part of scripture we stand on as Christians. This may ruffle some feathers. But I will be unashamed of the Gospel. And if I am persecuted for speaking truth, so be it. It isn't the first time, and it won't be the last. Remember, we do not hate the sinner. We only despise the sin. We are all sinful. We must each remove sin from our lives, whatever it may be. When Jesus preached about meekness, love, compassion, mercy, and turning away from sin, they nailed Him to the cross. Living a life faithful to the gospel means accepting that we won't fit into a secular world. The qualities Jesus calls us to will go against the type of person the world will tell you is successful or to be

admired. The question is simple: Do you want short term admiration from the secular world, or eternity in paradise with Jesus? You are not alone when you stand with Christ. We will stand with you!”

Romans 1:18-32

"18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19** since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. **20** For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse **21** For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. **24** Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **25** They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. **26** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. **27** In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. **28** Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. **29** They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful;

they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

Discord Member response~ "Its very difficult to go against the grain of 'normal'"these days. Do so and you will be seen as a SERIOUS outcast. Social media likes to use words like "normalize" [insert whatever word they just learned and are using a million times to gaslight] even if they aren't using the word in the correct definition. People are putting their mindset into victimhood even if they aren't victims of anything, whether that be projection of something they are processing from their life or trying to fit in the crowd of the current cool victim of something. We as humans are very easily influenced. This message from Tonya really resonated with me about that

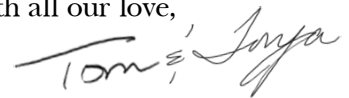
applauding each other for being a victim. They don't know the truth will set them free. We need to be honest with ourselves, and even though it can be a very hard pill to swallow, being authentic with yourself and recognizing that, 'hey we're not perfect, but God's got my back and will help guide me.' Through Him we can reach authenticity and be able to swallow that hard pill. I'm glad you encouraged reading this scripture. Romans is amazing!!

I think this adds to another point when Tonya took us down the road of the Beatitudes and understanding everything leading up to Easter. I love being able to read through these and ask questions here. I heard from a friend that was trying to re-engage with his faith say something along the lines of, 'How do I know if all that's happening in the Bible is really the word of God? I would ask my family and say that I have questions about faith, like how do I know it is God's word and why can't I ask questions?' Here in this group, questions are encouraged! We've learned, the whole walk with God should be a relationship with Him, and really digesting the Word will bring you closer to Him! And it's amazing to be able to read Tonya's break downs like this because I felt like I was able to walk with God and have amazing explanations to answer my questions!"

Tom~ It's been a very difficult few years for all of us. And then we receive a message from a young believer surrendering her life to Jesus Christ and we know **YOUR MINISTRY** is making a real impact. Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial partnership with Innovative Truth!

Let's keep making the most important thing most important.

With all our love,



because at this time people are