



Into the Light

All things are possible with God
September – October 2021

The Truth Will Set You Free

Revisited (2001)
By Bob Van Domelen

Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (John 8.32)

Set you free. I often think that most of us have spent a great part of our lives wanting to be set free from something, but perhaps our understanding of those words is making the process more difficult rather than easier.

We want freedom with a capital “F.” We simply want some things gone and no longer existing in our lives. Not many of those things we wish gone would be good things in and of themselves. We desire our lives to have a foundation of goodness and of good things, so anything we see getting in the way of that foundation is, by definition, not good and should be set aside.

I am beginning this article from a home not far from the offices of Tot Heil des Volks in Amsterdam, where I was privileged to have the opportunity to speak at *Hope or Fear*, a conference on the topic of pedophilia. The language barrier was overcome with the help of an excellent interpreter.

I was told by the conference organizers that this was the first time someone with my background would be sharing so publicly on the topic and while I tried to seem calm, inside I was a little more than anxious.

My talk had been carefully written in short paragraphs weeks in advance. While it was clear and informative, as soon as I started to speak, I knew it was a talk ‘on paper.’ God provided moments, however, when I stopped following what was on the paper and shared something I had not written ahead of time. It was in *those* moments I was truly connecting with the audience.

Amsterdam is a liberal city in a liberal country, The Netherlands recently made assisted suicide legal and at the time of this writing approved same sex marriages. Pornography is legal, and the taxes from prostitution provide much of the income needed to run the city. In other words, anyone living in this country is free to marry someone of the same gender, purchase and possess pornography, pay for, and receive sexual gratification, and assist someone in ending life. The laws of the land say they are free to do all these things.

Most of the people at this Christian conference saw and understood what I believe is a lie behind this kind of freedom. Some already understood from personal experience the pain such liberal thinking produces and, as I looked into their faces, I couldn’t help but see the frustration they felt living in a land of so many freedoms.

Jesus had said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.” I don’t think it was any easier for the people in the time of Jesus to hold to his teaching than it is for us today. When pastors teach, they try to offer the best or most correct way to do something. They share mistakes people make as examples to avoid those mistakes, or they share them as a means to understand why they are wrong.

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.” As Christians, we know that there is a difference between the laws of the state and the laws of God. Jesus said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s (Matthew 22:21).” Jesus never said to ignore Caesar.

Pedophiles who act out on their desires are not seen as any better in the Netherlands than they are in the United States of America. Prison and public disgrace are the cost of being arrested. Ironic, isn’t it, that this society (or any society for that matter) offering so many freedoms should recoil over an adult-child relationship that becomes sexual. Could it be that at least in this, society sees the truth?

“Then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.” What truth is that? Is it the truth that says pornography, prostitution, and homosexuality are freedoms, or is it the truth that says the purity of childhood must be protected? If a child’s purity is not something of value, why arrest an adult who has a sexual relationship with a child? On its own, an arrest based merely on the age difference between the adult and the child is not an adequate reason for an arrest.

I believe the answer does lie in the purity of childhood as well as the right of all children not to be placed in behavioral situations they do not understand. In this, the state does have it right, and no organization or individual seeking to legitimize adult-child sexual relationships can alter that truth. Any such attempt to do so cannot be seen as a means of enlightening society, for the attempt is founded on the desire to serve personal needs at the expense of children.

I do believe the truth sets us free. Those of us who have offended against children must face the truth that our behavior did harm our victims. Truth can be and is a healthy boundary we can place around our lives so that relapse and the harming of another child will not occur.

Truth can open windows in the dark rooms of our childhood memories, those places where many of us keep our secrets. Dealing with the truth of having been abused as a child will cause incredible pain, but it is a pain which will lay open an infected wound that needs fresh air to heal.

If the future holds nothing but fear for you, ask God for eyes that will allow you to see your life from his perspective, not through the lens of the world's distorted vision. God's vision for us is one of hope, and that is the truth that *will* set you free.

2021 – Some thoughts

The truth can be a difficult thing. For some, it will bring about feelings of shame. For others, it will give birth to fear if the truth exposes a crime that has never come to light. And yet others find that sharing truth doesn't mean others will believe it.

My presentence investigation, for example, listed an act that never took place. When questioned why it was there, the answer was that all child molesters pretty much offend in the same way, so he decided I was only lying when I said I was innocent of what was written. I knew the truth, but I also knew the charge wouldn't be removed from his report.

I have gotten letters from individuals who challenge their presentence report and are told they would be denied access to the treatment program because of their denial. In some states, the decision to fight such a report might open the door to civil commitment. On the surface of things, the truth in some cases doesn't bring freedom.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)

I know that I often fall short in my spiritual walk because most days I could have made better choices, been more charitable to others, and kept my thoughts more focused on God's presence. At the same time, fitting in with the way the world thinks and does things is no longer my goal. I have already been down some of the darker paths available to me and have no desire to repeat those choices.

God's love and mercy are with me daily; Jesus died for my sins so that I might have eternal joy; and the Holy Spirit reminds me minute by minute of the truth that does indeed set me free. I pray that the same truth will be yours.

Our Prayer Corner



Prayer is an incredible gift we can give one another, for there is no better thing than to lift our lives, hopes, and dreams to the altar of the Lord.

Let us pray . . .

- First and foremost, for our victims, that each day for them is a new day, a day without fear, and a day of healing.
- For those seeking the truth, that they pursue God in everything they do, say, and think.
- For those in challenging situations, that the truth will always be what defines them, that it will never be sacrificed.
- For those who struggle with issues of trust, that they can always count on the presence of God in their lives and know they will never be abandoned.
- For families and friends of registrants, that they look for the transforming power truth has on their loved ones.

- For chaplains, that they never fail to point those they serve toward the love God has for them.
- For churches/pastors, that they begin to speak more convincingly of the truth found in God's Word.
- For Bob's health, that the ministry God has for him will continue to be an encouragement and hope for others.
- For this ministry, that Broken Yoke Ministries continues to be blessed with the financial support needed to meet basic expenses like this newsletter.
- (As Always) For those who are still abusing, that they will come to understand the devastation they bring on their victims and that they seek help for themselves.

Bits & Pieces

The following are taken from letters I have received since the last issue of this newsletter. Some are meant to offer hope and encouragement while others call out for us to be in prayer.

"O Lord, what have I to live for but you! Your love is better than life." Truly, my prayer life of devotion is the only thing I have to live for – eternity in Christ. (a lifer)

Getting through a day without the Lord is impossible if you truly trust in him and plan on growing in the Lord. I see God walking with me on this path of life heading home to heaven, and when I fall, he is there to help me up, dust me off, and continue.

I am changing for the better. I am a new creature, but it does scare me as I am getting closer to the streets. Staying in prison is not the answer. The world has so much to offer and once I adapt to it, I will do just fine.

On July 4th, I was given a piece of watermelon and it was the highlight of the day! If I am content in these small things, then I know my Lord will trust me with larger things!

I am so grateful for your friendship and kinship, prayers, challenges in the faith, and fellowship rich in Jesus. [me, too]

We often overcome one level of struggle and instead of seeing it as a new step we have accomplished that encourages us to overcome the next level of struggle, we get puffed up with pride and see no need to overcome that next level.

I struggle sometimes with my flesh, which I know wars against my spirit, and even with my mind in how it wanders into forbidden places. I view God's Word as medicine for the sin that so easily besets me.

All things are possible with God!

Can I Tell You Something?

Words of Hope and Encouragement
For the Modern-Day Leper
An Update

Last month, Covenant Books sent me an edited version of the book and it was a humbling experience. It seemed every page had an ample amount of red (delete this), blue (add this), and editor requests for clarification on something that was not clear. But as I went page to page, I did understand that the changes were meant to make the book better.

A few days ago, I was notified that the changes recommended (and some I requested) had been completed. This time my assignment was to look at any remaining red or blue editing marks, consider changes (if any), or agree to the edit. This time, it was much easier to get through the whole book and before the end of the day I had clicked on the "Approve Edit" button. There are still several things to do before the book is made available, but the end is closer. Please continue to pray for this project.



Prayer as Truth

Your mercy.

Your love.

Your compassion.

They are my hope.

They draw me out of hiding.

They call me to a place of transparency.

I come out of hiding with all my weaknesses and fears.

My 'inmost places' are not accustomed to the light of your Love.

Teach me to practice truth in my inmost being.

Teach me the wisdom of honesty where it matters the most.

Heal me.

Transform me.

May I be a person who no longer has a need to hide.

Make me a person whose insides are full of truth and wisdom.

Juanita Ryan

The Wounded Healer

Nobody escapes being wounded. We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The main question is not "How can we hide our wounds?" so we don't have to be embarrassed, but "How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?" When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.

Jesus is God's wounded healer: through his wounds we are healed. Jesus' suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus, we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others.

Henri Nouwen

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A Little Humor

I was recently told that I needed to come up with a joke for the company banquet. This made me nervous because I have always been one of those people who messes up the punchline. I shared my fear with a coworker, and he told me if that were the case, I should probably be as prepared as I could be.



After work, I went to a bookshop and found a good joke book, thinking I could get some inspiration, or maybe just steal a joke to use.

When I got home, I realized I'd accidentally bought a thesaurus. As you can understand, I was pretty crushed... upset... disappointed... vexed... disconcerted.