

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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 WELLSBURG  
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## THE WRITING ON THE WALL

*"Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel... 'Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.' Then Daniel answered and said before the king, 'Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him,'"* (Daniel 5:13,16-17). When Daniel was summoned to interpret the message written opposite the lamp stand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace (Dan. 5:5), it is refreshing to see his integrity as he makes it well known to Belshazzar that he cannot be coerced with the

promises of wealth and power to give the king a favorable interpretation of the message. In many ways, the offer from Belshazzar was a bit superfluous in that Daniel was already adorned with something of much greater value and supreme worth around his neck and head – the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the LORD. *"Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; indeed, **they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck,**"* (Prov. 1:8-9). *"How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her,"* (Prov. 3:13-15). *"Take my instruction*

*and not silver, and knowledge rather than choicest gold. For wisdom is better than jewels; and all desirable things cannot compare with her," (Prov. 8:10-11).* Daniel was walking proof of the precious value of the wisdom gained by seeking the LORD in that his special ability to interpret visions and dreams was a gift from God as a reward for keeping His virtues. After refusing to defile himself with the king's choice food or the wine that he drank, God blesses Daniel with a unique gift. *"As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams," (Dan. 1:17).* To use this precious gift from God as a means to gain earthly wealth and power would have merely cheapened the great value of this awesome talent which was a reflection of the vast supreme greatness of holy virtue above anything else. After rejecting the king's offer of wealth and power, Daniel proceeds to explain the reason for the message itself before actually interpreting its meaning. Daniel explains that Belshazzar was given a great opportunity to learn from the mistakes and consequences of king Nebuchadnezzar, who

refused to acknowledge and serve the Most High God who allowed him to reach the exalted position he enjoyed. As a result of Nebuchadnezzar's ungrateful arrogant narcissism, God took the throne away from him and drove him into the wild to live as a beast. *"He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes," (Dan. 5:21).* God was truly honored and recognized as the source of Nebuchadnezzar's greatness when after repenting and finally honoring the God of Heaven, all of his honor and greatness was restored (*Dan. 4:34-37*). Belshazzar knew all of this, and stubbornly refused to honor the LORD himself. *"Yet, you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven..." (Dan. 5:22-23).* Belshazzar chose rather to acknowledge the various false gods representing all forms of material wealth, rather than his Creator. *"...you*

*have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified," (Dan. 5:23).*

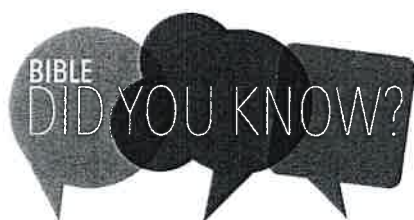
It was for this very reason that God wrote His message on the king's wall, which Daniel then interprets.

*"'MENE' - God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. 'TEKEL' - you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. 'PERES' - your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians. '...That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain," (Dan. 5:26-28,30).*

Have you been blessed lately? Have you achieved a position in life which grants you privileges and even more abundant blessings? Are you enjoying the fruit of success in some area of your life? Use these blessings as an opportunity to praise, thank and honor your Creator as you not only acknowledge Him as the provider of these blessings, but honor Him with the acceptable offering of an obedient life of holiness and virtue. In truth, Belshazzar had already seen the "writing on the wall" before the mysterious frightening hand wrote a message right in front

of him: the evidence of the presence of God was all around him in every aspect of his life. Don't wait for the hand of God to administer His judgment and spell it out for you. Read His writing on the walls all around you right now and honor and serve your Creator.

– Daniel Ruegg



***Greed is not only sinful and destructive but a sign of one who lacks wisdom. "When you sit down to dine with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are a man of great appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for it is deceptive food. Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens. Do not eat the bread of a selfish man, or desire his delicacies; for as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, 'Eat and drink!' but his heart is not with you," Prov. 23:1-7***



# MONTHLY CHALLENGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

## 1) Watering The Seed Challenge

*1 Cor. 3:6 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."*

The seed of God's word is truly an amazing force when planted in the mind of someone who needs the Truth. All it takes is but one time to get them thinking about its message and it will immediately begin doing the amazing work of seeking to form roots in their heart. While the hearts of men and women can be very stubborn and seek to resist this from happening, we can seek to water what has been planted and help soften up the resistance some have begun to build up. Let's focus this month on reaching out to those we know who were once faithfully following the Lord but have hardened their hearts to the Truth and have fallen away. Let's also reach out to those who visited services here a while back but never returned. Planting is a necessary work in bringing the lost to the Lord and so is watering. Let's water the seed with texts, calls and visits.

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

### *Acts 13:23-33*

"From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm..."