



# THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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## THE SIMPLE TRUTH

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16

It really doesn't get any simpler than that.

The Word of God is the most complex book ever written...and the simplest. The single theme of the book: God's great love demonstrated toward mankind. The Spirit of God came upon a virgin to conceive a child, took on this form of human flesh, divested himself of the glory of His power, modeled the life of a humble servant, sacrificially offered Himself for the sins of the earth, triumphed over the power of death, and arose again to ascend into heaven from whence He came.

The gift of everlasting life is granted to all who believe upon Him. He has promised to return and receive us unto Himself that where He is, we may be also. The remainder of biblical prophecy is to be accomplished at this time and “all things fulfilled” that were written of Messiah. To some this all sounds foolish but, according to 1 Corinthians 1:18, to those who believe it is the power of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:27 the Bible states that God chooses foolish things to confound the wise.

It is easy for the world to dismiss the gospel message as too simplistic, as escapism, as the childish beliefs of the unsophisticated. I encourage any that seek to deny the gospel to study it and discover the beauty of God's plan. Reading the Gospel of John is a great place to start as he outlines God's great love and emphasizes who this Jesus of Nazareth really is. For the Jewish believer, the Gospel of Matthew details the fulfillment of ancient messianic prophecies in Christ. The Gospel of Luke, written to a gentile, provides great detail about the life of Jesus from an investigative documentary standpoint. The Gospel of Mark records his corresponding impressions. All four were divinely inspired to be written from these perspectives; each consistent in theme and a treasury of scriptural wisdom.

I sometimes find myself caught up in the wonders of biblical scholarship and the complexities that abound within the Word of God. 1 Corinthians 13:2 always serves to refocus my efforts: *“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”*

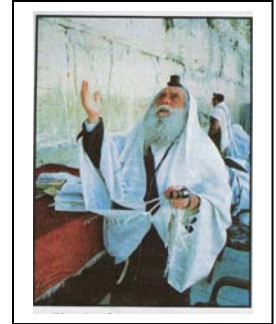
Jesus Christ set an everlasting example of love and charity. To follow this example is the greatest of all things in the kingdom of heaven. Nothing else really matters but to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy might... and to love thy neighbor as thyself.

Quite simply: LOVE. On this hang all the law and prophets...



שְׁאֵלוֹ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lī'im ←--- Shalomí ←--- Sha·alū



## ERETZ YISRAEL

In speaking of the land of Israel, Psalm 102:14 tells us: *“For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.”* Although many secular Jews, weary of conflict, are willing to withdraw and/or give up portions of the Promised Land to appease Palestinian demands, for the faithful, there is no place holier than the actual stones and dust of the land itself.

I wept as I watched the Israeli pull-out from Gaza last fall and felt the heartache of those who refused to abandon their homes and livelihoods for yet another futile attempt at peace. Despite the many years of warfare and terrorism that have ravished that land, they still cherished the stones and dust thereof.

Someday, and I believe soon, the world will see the error in opposing the written Word of God. God not only gave the Jewish people the land of Israel, but he commanded them to possess it. This entails a willingness to oppose every obstacle, nation, group, or power that seeks to separate the Jewish people from their beloved land. This will require political stamina and strong leadership from within Jerusalem.

God has a perfect will. His will is opposed by that of Satan. We see in the book of Isaiah, Chapter 14, that Satan repeatedly expressed his will in belligerent and arrogant opposition to God Almighty.

God’s express written will is that this land (and more) belongs to the Jewish people. This promise is repeated over and over throughout the Word of God. The very word testament, used to describe the two main divisions of the Christian Holy Bible literally means will; as in, “last will and testament.”

Anyone who opposes the rightful Jewish claim to the land of Israel is clearly expressing a will that runs directly counter to the will of the Lord God. Christians that advocate “peace” by the withdrawal of the Jewish people from their covenant land have allowed themselves to become unwitting tools of the Adversary and have helped to further his will in direct opposition to God’s.

Yes, these are strong and controversial words.

Man’s intellect cannot create peace in the Middle East by doing what seems “reasonable” or “fair.” The Bible states in Proverbs 16:25 that there is a way that seems “right” to man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. God has set the choice of life or death, blessing or cursing, before us all. The Jewish people aren’t perfect, and yes, they make mistakes too. Yet, ultimately, there are only two sides to the conflict over land in the Middle East: God’s side or Satan’s.

I know where I stand. How about you?



1 Peter 1:8

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

**JOY UNSPEAKABLE**

How is your level of JOY!!

In today’s world, anyone expressing joy is automatically looked upon with suspicion. How can you be so joyful? Can’t you see all the problems in the world?

I spend a tremendous amount of time tracking information that is both frightful and depressing if looked upon in and of itself. Nevertheless, because I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I am filled with a joy that permeates my soul and being.

For the faithful Christian, joy is a natural by product of being in fellowship with God. The Bible declares in Psalms 16:11 that in God’s presence there is fullness of JOY! As a Christian, God takes up residence within your body filling it with the presence of His Holy Spirit.

The result? JOY!

But not just joy, there’s also love, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, meekness, self-control, faith....and it is all full of glory.

Wouldn’t you like to have the same in your life? Just ask Jesus into your heart today!

**Rick Wagon** is a born-again, Spirit-filled, firm believer in Christ who was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus. His father is a former Baptist minister who became Spirit-filled and received ordination from Rhema Bible Church bringing Rick up with a solid foundation of faith and knowledge of God’s Word. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the LORD. Rick currently serves as the Bioterrorism Training and Education Coordinator for the State of Oklahoma and operates as the Intelligence Officer and Security Liaison in emergency capacities after a life-long commitment to public service in law enforcement and protective security. Rick is available for special services within your church or fellowship and loves to worship the LORD.

