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# TRUTH *A flame*



A Publication of Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc

## From GLOOM to GLORY

By Ev. Joel R McGarvey

Often when one considers life, especially that of himself, his primary concern is for the present, and more particularly, the current moment of his existence. This may be a natural, emotionally driven process, but the truth is the moment is most often dictated by the past. Even more importantly, while one's past may have great impact upon one's present, it equally has a great impact upon one's future. A very simple example of this may be seen in the cultural impact of one's life. If an individual is born into an impoverished situation, and all things remain constant, with little or no changes, the chances of improvement are very slim. What his condition was at birth will probably be his condition at mid-life; and will continue on as such through to his death.

With this in mind let us take a quick look at the history of mankind, beginning at the beginning. ***"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them"*** (Gen. 1:27). ***"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of Adam's ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from the man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man"*** (Gen. 2:21, 22). (It is this writer's view that the creative acts of Genesis 2 actually overlay the creating work being done in the first chapter. There were not two periods of creation. Chapter 2 merely fills in additional details to chapter 1.) So God created man and woman and placed them in a garden (Gen. 2:8-25). He gave a single commandment, ***"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"*** (Gen 2:16-17). One commandment, one rule, "Don't eat of that tree." And one punishment, "Thou shalt surely die."

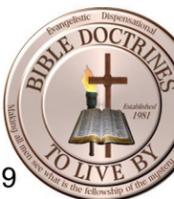
But, if you have ever been to Sunday School, you

know what happened. At some point following the giving of the command, (we're not told of the lapse in time), Satan had an encounter with the Woman (not Eve yet, she was called Woman because she was taken from the man (Gen. 2:23). (Interestingly, the same Hebrew word used here for woman is also translated *wife, one married, and female.*) In this encounter he tempts her to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree (Gen. 3:1-5). (Interestingly, he uses the same three things that brought him down, and the same three things he will use against Jesus in the wilderness: the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.) Well, to make a long account short, the woman ate the fruit, offered it to her husband; he ate and, at that moment, he died; no, not physically, but rather he died spiritually. The Lord did tell him that he would die physically (Gen. 3:19).

Sin had entered into the creation, into the world, into mankind. The Apostle Paul would write, ***"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that ALL have sinned"*** (Rom. 5:12). Add to this Romans 3:23, ***"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;"*** and you have a brief but excellent picture of the past, your past, mankind's past. What is the hope of mankind? Man's only hope is misery and death; eternal separation from God in the lake of fire.

But from the depths of despair, God's rich Grace would reign supreme. At the same time the Lord spoke of man's impending death, He also spoke of a coming Redeemer, Who would pay the ultimate price; He would crush the head of Satan, thus destroying his power and He would pay the price of man's sin once and for all.

Today, the righteousness of God apart from the law has been given to us through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.



To make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery. Ephesians 3:9

### Christ Died for your sins

The Need:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a)  
 "...there is none that doeth good, no not one." (Romans 3:12b)

The Result:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

God's Response

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (Ephesians 1:7)

Man's Response

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...For I delivered unto you that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried according to the Scriptures, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

**Believe it. Have Eternal Life**

*“Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and upon all them that believe...” (Rom. 3:22a).* Listen to these beautiful words of love and grace, *“And that He died for all...And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again.” “And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ...” “To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them...” (2 Cor. 5: 14b, 15:a, 18a, 19a).*

Before we go any further it must be pointed out that Reconciliation and Salvation **ARE NOT** synonymous. Reconciliation **IS NOT** Salvation, but one cannot be saved if they have not first been reconciled. What does reconciliation mean? Basically the root word “reconcile” carries the meaning of “a change in standing or status.” In the case of mankind it would change man from being lost in sin and **unsavable** to being forgiven and **savable**. Without Christ’s death on Calvary, mankind is hopelessly lost; there is nothing he can do for himself to merit salvation. This is the very premise of Paul’s words, *“...not of works...” (Eph. 2:9).* (See also Rom. 4:4-5; Titus 3:5).

The price of our salvation could **only** be paid by the righteous, spotless Son of God. And through His completed work of the cross, His death, the shedding of blood for sin, His burial, the removal of sin, and His resurrection, man’s justification, God is able to offer to all who believe, the free gift of eternal life. (See **Rom. 3:22-2,; 4:4-5, 24-5:12; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9.**) You see, my friend, Christ has done all of the work, all of the work for mankind, now it is up to mankind to **reconcile** himself to God ( 2 Cor. 5:20). Yes, Christ died for **all**, but that was simply the act whereby He was making it **possible** for all **to be saved, NOT saved**. It is each individual’s responsibility to make that decision to trust Christ and His finished work, the Gospel of His grace, His death, burial and resurrection. Until each individual makes the decision to believe, they remain lost and on their way to the Lake of Fire.

This is the most important decision anyone will ever make and that is why it is so important to understand the message of Salvation as set forth in the writings of the Apostle Paul. You will find that the Gospel of your salvation, the pure message of God’s rich love, grace and mercy in His offer of salvation is found **only** in the writings of Paul. It is not seeking forgiveness of sin. It is not repenting of sin. All of these negate the cross of Christ and

Truth Aflame is published by Bible Doctrines to Live By, Inc., and is an independent Bible study and evangelistic journal. We are a fundamental, evangelistic and dispensational ministry endeavoring to teach the whole Word of God from a mid-Acts Pauline perspective. We believe and proclaim that Christ died for all and that the offer of Salvation is extended to all and received by simple faith in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Truth Aflame is published at least three times a year (Winter, Spring/Summer, and Fall) and is sent free of charge to all who desire to know and grow in their knowledge of the Word of God.

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## Ministry Opportunity Available

Bible Doctrines To Live By is looking for an individual seeking fulltime ministry opportunities. Ministries would include Family Bible Schools, Bible Conferences as well as other preaching and teaching opportunities. Office work will include assisting in the development and production of Bible Study materials.

This could ideally fit a married couple, though the travel schedule may prove difficult for any with young children. Should a married couple join the staff ministry opportunities would be available for both, in and out of the office.

BDTLB is a Fundamental, Evangelistic, Mid-Acts Dispensational ministry working with the local church in the areas of evangelism and Biblical education. To carry out that purpose we are a preaching/teaching and publishing ministry. Familiarity with desktop publishing is good, but not required for consideration. Additionally, there must be a willingness to travel.

Interested parties need to have a solid foundation in Mid-Acts dispensationalism and have a heart to reach lost souls for Christ.

BDTLB is a Missionary endeavor and operates in a Faith-based manner. By this is meant that each staff member is responsible to raise their own personal support.

Please pray about your involvement and if interested call, **616-785-3618** or send an email to: [jrmcgarvey@gmail.com](mailto:jrmcgarvey@gmail.com) or [staff@bibledoctrines.org](mailto:staff@bibledoctrines.org).

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

but anyone who desires to be an approved minister of God needs to be diligent to know the Scriptures and to dig deep in God's inspired truth.

### I. Different types of Bible Study

- A. Topical. This method follows and tracks the Bible's teaching on a certain subject. What does the Bible say about love? Sacrifice? Angels? Diet? The family?
- B. Doctrinal. Similar to topical, this type traces what the Bible states on doctrinal issues. What does the Bible state about worship? Christian life? Sin? End times? The comings of our Lord?
- C. Book study. Spending time in a certain book of the Bible to break it down and analyze it, recognizing the flow and context.
  - 1. As you are going through a book:
    - a. a. Recognize literary form (i.e. poeticals, history, letters, parables, etc.)
    - b. b. Remember the purpose of writing. (It is advised before doing an in-depth study to read through a book at least once, preferably more, depending upon the length.)
    - c. c. Historical context (minor prophets were written during specific periods of Israel's history. It adds depth when you understand the background.)
    - d. d. Determining what God intended to communicate. (It doesn't matter what the verses say to you but, rather, what did God convey in the verses.)
    - e. e. Making proper applications. (Not all Bible is written directly to us, but all the Scriptures hold something for us to learn – for example, who God is, redemption.)
    - f. f. Dispensational context. (What was God's program at the time.)
- D. Dispensational study. This study focuses on rightly dividing the Word of Truth. For example, what are the contrasts between the current dispensation and the others?

Also, what are the similarities? What is the gospel today? What are the eternal destinations in each program? Who were God's called-out group?

### II. A few reminders.

- A. Bible study is not an end. We do not study the Scriptures to get a degree or check off a box. We shouldn't be spending time in the Scriptures to better debate the guy at the church down the street or to become puffed up by how well-read we are in the Word. We study the Scriptures to have a greater understanding of our God and Savior and how to serve Him.
- B. Interpret the Bible correctly. Many use eisegesis to understand the Bible, but this form of study interprets the text by reading one's own ideas into it. We must always use exegesis (to draw out) since we desire to know what the Bible says and not what we would like it to say. Unless we are literary majors, none of us pick up a novel to reinterpret the author's motives and characters. We read it the way the author intended. We should give God's Book the same courtesy.
- C. Do not read into the text. Neither your opinion or your church leader have the ability to add to the Scriptures. The Bible is completed information. Those things that we do not know; we should state that we were not given that information. We have no right to twist the Scriptures to our agenda. We want to know what the Word says, not what we want the Word to say (e.g., Jer. 14:13-15).

In summary, we need to spend time reading God's Word, putting in the effort to memorize the Scripture, and investing in studying the Bible. We do so to learn about our marvelous Savior and His desire for our lives.

His finished work. It is believing that He died for me; He paid the price of my sin; He forgave sin, and placing one's faith, trust and belief in Him and His finished work on his behalf. No sacraments, no ceremonies, no water, just belief, trust, and faith. This is how the Apostle Paul could write, **"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,..." (Gal. 6:14a).**

And when one has taken that simple step of faith in the finished work of Christ, he is then baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit, (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3) and then is sealed in Christ, safe and secure for all eternity (Eph. 1:13; 4:30). Since the believer is sealed by the Spirit, and not his feelings and good deeds, nothing can break that seal, thus his eternity is secured.

But the work of the Spirit is not over; not only is He our continuing seal, He also inhabits the believer, **"...if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you."** **"But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you... by His Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:9a, 11).** And, **"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18).** In this last verse the word "filled" speaks of the Spirit's enablement, or His active participation in one's life. The Spirit is not simply dwelling within each believer, He is to have the control, to be actively guiding, directing the believer's daily walk in Christ.

In Christ we now have been made the

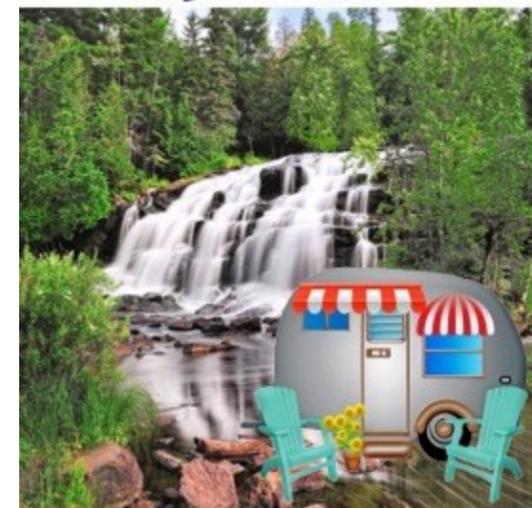
**"righteousness of God"** (2 Cor. 5:21). Stop and think about that for a moment. When the Father sees you today He doesn't see your past sin, or your present shortcomings. No, He only sees His righteousness through His Son. Friends, in Christ the believer has been made as good as God is good.

And finally, a great day is coming, whether in life or in death that we will fully, experientially realize all that is ours in Christ. **"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord... We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:6, 8).** And, **"For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18).** What a day that will be!

Space does not permit a lengthy treatise on all that is ours today in Christ; suffice it to say, **we are greatly blessed.** Lifted from a dismal past of sin, disgrace, and doom, but a loving and gracious Heavenly Father, Who in the person of His Son, and His death, burial and resurrection, brought forgiveness and the free offer of life. Yes, there can be no doubt, **we are blessed!**

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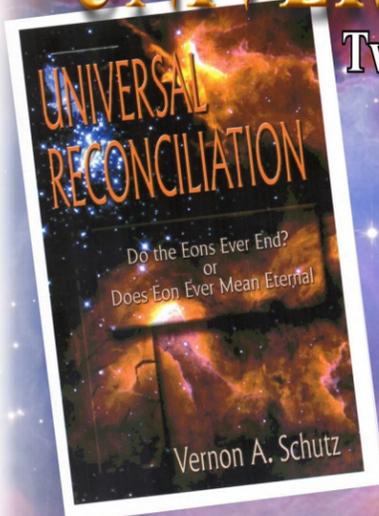
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July 10-13	Croton Community Church, Croton, MI	FBS
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July 24-28	Lincoln Hills Bible Church, Sioux Falls, SD	FBS
Jul 31 -Aug 5	Friendship Bible Church, Friendship, WI	FBS
August 8-12	Grace Bible Church, Oshkosh, WI	FBS
August 15-19	Douglas Bible Church, Endeavor, WI	FBS
September 11-17	Camping Bible Conference	

FBS = Family Bible School      BC = Bible Conference

# UNIVERSAL RECONCILIATION

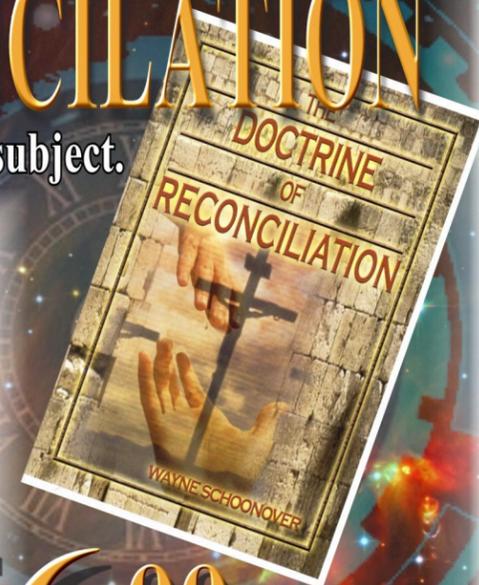
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# Introduction to Study

By: Pastor Matthew Ritchey

day had schools for prophets. Jesus' day had the teaching scribes. Paul, before the Bible was completed and the sign gifts faded, told the Corinthians to desire the gift of prophecy – the deliverance of word from God. We live in an advantaged time in that everyone can have access to a Bible. We need to take the opportunity given to us to familiarize ourselves with God's Word by reading it.

## 2. Memorize ( Psalm 119:11).

Psalm 119:11 (and verse 105) is a verse that many of have known since childhood. When it comes to using the Bible, it has to be more than just having access to it and reading it. We need to internalize it, store it up, and mediate upon it. We need to commit it to memory, so that the Holy Spirit can recall appropriate Scriptures in our times of need to comfort, to convict, to correct, to approve, to shed peace.

Our Apostle Paul quotes Old Testament verses quite a bit. He did not have a scroll he carried around with him in his back pocket. He memorized God's Word. Making an effort to memorize God's Word allows us to be equipped effectively for the Lord's service, both toward others and our personal growth in Christ.

The older you get, the harder it seems to retain information. Furthermore, some individuals seem to have a natural ability to memorize things with little effort. Yet, each of us needs to be willing to expend the effort needed to memorize the precious Word of God.

## 3. Study (2 Tim. 2:15a).

Paul is writing to a preacher in Timothy,

How do we treat something that we deem important? If food, shelter, or clothing is important to us, we work to be able to supply such things. When family is important, we spend time with them and stay connected. If church is important to us then we attend, support, and are involved. If our health is important, we exercise, eat well, and abstain from harmful things. When something is important in your life, you will give your time, energy, and resources to such things. In the last issue of Truth Aflame, you read about the importance of God's Word. God's Word is crucial, decisive, vital, essential! It is life. It is eternal! Since the "Word of Life" (Jer. 15:16) is so important, make the time for it.

Here are three ways to spend time in God's Word.

## 1. Read (Josh. 8:34-35; 1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Tim. 4:13).

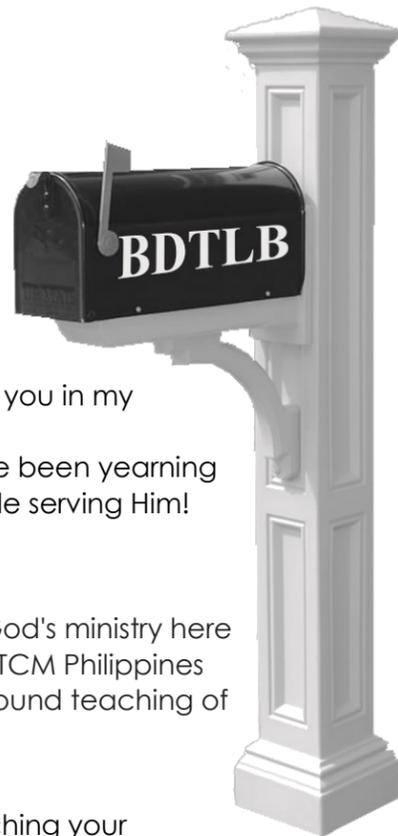
The three passages above do not give a charge to analyze the Scripture, or break it apart word-for-word at these particular moments. The readers were encouraged to read the Holy Word.

There is something to be said for familiarity. Do not discount the Holy Spirit's ability to teach you, correct your understanding, reinforce your beliefs, or convict your motives and actions as you spend time reading God's Word.

There are many helpful and free Bible reading schedules available to you, including one from BDTLB ([www.bible doctrines.org/sdm\\_downloads/read-through-the-bible-schedule](http://www.bible doctrines.org/sdm_downloads/read-through-the-bible-schedule)). The challenge is before you: spend time in God's Word.

What if you've already read through the Bible countless times? We will never come to a point where we have read the Scripture enough. Moses in Deuteronomy repeats a lot of the Law because the people needed to hear it again and again and again. Samuel's

# From the Mailbag



These first two notes are from the Philippines and Myanmar thanking BDTLB for the gift set of Curriculum sent to them. Your financial support of BDTLB allows us to help make resources available at no charge to foreign missions.

Thank you so much brother Matt! This material would reach hundreds of children's souls on plains and mountains. Praise be to God! I am keeping you in my prayers.

This is great, thank you so much! Oh, wonderful! I almost cry for joy! I have been yearning to have rightly divided lessons! Praise be to God as I keep looking up while serving Him!

Thank you brother!

Philippines

Thank you so much! This is an answer to my prayers. It is a great help to God's ministry here in Myanmar. I just finished teaching some lessons that I brought from the TCM Philippines Christian Education department. God Bless Your Ministry of producing sound teaching of the precious Word of God.

Amy Rosero Banac

We just wanted to send a quick note to let you know that we enjoy watching your "Morning Coffee with a Bite of Scripture." We usually watch it about an hour later so we don't get to sign in that we are watching. It is a nice way to start the day as we are eating breakfast.

Thank you—the Lord bless,  
CO

My son received a little unexpected money and asked if I would send you this check to let you know how much he appreciates you and being there for the incarcerated.

WA

Our NC Bible study is going well. Another neighbor called with interest. PTL! Thanks for your continued prayers and encouragement during the morning coffee time.

In His Love,  
NC

I pray that you are all doing well and I thank you for all you do. Please continue to serve our wonderful Lord and Savior. I pray the Lord will use the gift to edify the Body of Christ. Hope the summer plans are coming together and the bible camps and VBS will go on schedule. Our Savior alone is worthy of all praise. The Lord bless all of you

OH

Love listening in the mornings.

MO

Thanks go all of you at BDTLB. The broadcast with online Bible studies, Morning Coffee with a Bite of Scripture (thank you Matt and Joel) and the Bible Conference. Very good on evangelism with the different speakers. These all take work and dedication and we appreciate all of you and your part in this ministry.

Thank you so much and God bless,

PA

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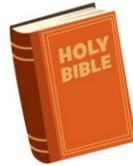
**Peter: Kingdom Apostle**  
Ages 9-12

**NEW**



# SCARY CAMP STORIES

By Dave Green  
Director of Northern Grace Youth Camp



**GOD'S WORD SAYS:** "...nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith."  
1 Timothy 1:4.



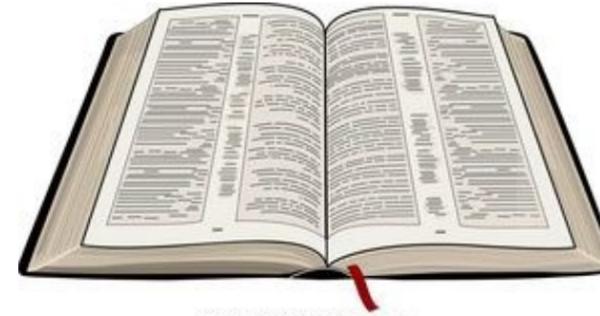
I sometimes hear campers discussing camp stories that are fables. Fables and myths are fake stories. There are lots of camp myths and some of them are scary or about unexplained happenings. While it may be fun to talk about the friendly Berry Lake monster,

we want to be careful to distinguish between the stuff of legends and the truths in God's Word. For some campers the scary stories may even seem more real than the Word of God.

Such fables are nothing new. Paul warns *"nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith."* We like to think we have outgrown such superstitions but most people today continue to believe in luck or karma as much they do the living God. It would be a sad thing if campers went home more excited about fanciful stories they heard at



**GOD'S WORD SAYS:** "not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth."  
Titus 1:14



What is the latest urban or camp myth you have heard? Did you believe it? Even if you didn't believe it, did it cause a little fear or anxiety the next time you were in that situation? **Try memorizing God's word instead to dispel such fears. We need to let the truth of God guard our hearts and tell us what is true.**

The answer to fear and fables is always the truth of the Bible. Here are some verses to remind you that we can trust in the Lord in scary times.

Psalm 56:3 "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

Romans 3:4 "Let God be true, and every man a liar"

John 14:27 "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Philippians 4:6b-7 "Let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God...shall keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."