

"Christianity's Shifting Baseline: The Green is Gone..."

In the day we live, we can choose our commentary on society between many sources. If one news story or political forecast seems a little bleak we can turn the page or channel and find a more positive outlook. I am often criticized for having a darker view of the world than perhaps I should as a Christian. *"After all," I am told, "read the back of the book...We win!"*

That makes a nice sentiment and a witty one, but would be little comfort to the families of Christians in China watching their children die tortuous deaths, or to the confused and lonely masses of people searching for truth and stability in our churches and meetinghouses. People who are given a steady diet of mind candy, empty and foundationless promises, and Scriptural lessons by men who seldom even read their Bibles are lost. *The back of the book I read prophesies the very things I see around me today. The world is in trouble. The Church is in trouble. Anyone who thinks otherwise is misinformed, deceived, or selling something.*

We the Church of Jesus Christ are unholy and unclean.

We accept and even teach the breaking of Commandments. We flirt with the world's offerings and we coax our children to seek what it has to offer. We are sitting in a paper room with gossamer curtains while playing with matches. We have confidence in our doctrines and traditions to help us and our children in the time of need and know not that they are fabrications and empty as exhausted fire extinguishers. You may be one who resents those who tests your ideas, questions your doctrine, and shows them to be false. For it is in these traditions and ideas that you have the ability to hold to God with one hand and to mammon with the other.

Am I being bleak? Am I being negative? Jesus walked through a world that was

different from ours. Depending on who you ask, the world was better or worse then. I don't pretend to know if living in Christ's day was better or if people were better or not. *I do know that Jesus was despised for no good reason. He was rejected as Savior, as Messiah, as a Rabbi, as a Jew, as an Israelite, as an innocent man, and finally, was killed cruelly for a crime He did not commit.* Just as He had been released from carrying His load of the cross, He turned His bloody face from which His beard had been pulled by wicked hands - He turned His face swollen with marks of violent blows landed by religious men - as He turned that lovely face toward the women who watched and wept for Him He said,

"Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?"

(Luke 23:28-31)

What did Jesus mean by this statement?

He could only mean that things are going to get worse as time goes on. The time of the green tree was during His time among us in bodily form. During His life, the body of Christ (the Church) was alive like a green and fresh tree, a new tree, a sapling. The strength and vitality of this tree was greater in its future than in its past. But there was coming a time when it would be older and although it will be bigger - it will be drier. This great tree representing the Church will not have the resilience of youth or the health and strength of a tree with its whole life ahead of it. It was a tree that, as far as time goes, was far, far away from the acorn that gave it birth.

As time goes by men get worse, not better. 2 Timothy 3:12-13 says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." If you think that Constantine stopped the persecution of Christians, you may know your history but your Bible does not agree.

Today, in the United States of America, we are free from persecution for one reason, not because we are more "civilized," not because we have laws to protect us from persecution, not because of our "first world" mentality of "live and let live," but because we no longer live a godly life in Christ Jesus.

The alleviation of persecution in Constantine's day came because the paganized version of Christianity was accepted and adopted by the Christians of that day.

Even under the hand of Constantine, true Christians were persecuted for worshipping on Sabbath and not as "Christians" (on the declared "venerable day of the Sun" that he instituted).

Compromise, not Constantine, was the deliverer; just the same as it is today.

Our world is getting worse, the Church in getting worse. As we go down together the Church compromises and the world takes more privilege. Now the world hates with a vengeance those who preach or teach righteousness, and if someone dares to live a life of faith and righteousness today, they would crucify him as well.

The Transplanted Kingdom

In the northwest there are trees that will not be found in the southeast. They simply cannot survive there. Many have tried to transplant a pretty tree from one unique geographical location to another with no success. After a while the mineral content of the soil or the length of days, heat, cold, wetness of soil, will finally take its toll and soon the signs of death begin to appear:

brownness, dryness, and finally weakness and death. The olive tree planted in the earth into which we were grafted is a transplant from another world. *The young "green tree" was a life that was free from accusation, condemnation, fault, blame, sin, and free from any reproach by anyone. It was a new and strong shoot to start this*

transplant off right. As time went by it grew and flourished. Adding branches and expanding its root system, it began to take hold.

We are all of this same tree, we have the same root. We are all branches of the same vine but the greenness and tenderness and strength began to wane as we took our nourishment from the strange soil earth. The longer we are planted here the more we will take in minerals and water of a world that does us no good - a corrupt world. The slow poison of the soil, the seasons we never can get used to, and the rain that comes at strange and inopportune times, all begin to take their toll.

We, the body of Christ, are not what who we used to be. We know the ravages of time. We cry out for adoption and salvation. We are in "the dry" that Jesus spoke of in His warning. We have great need to filter our nourishment, reserve our water, keep our face to the sun and place our faith in the Husbandman to redeem us and take us back to our far away home.

Persecution will come when you dedicate to Christ.

Will you be healthy enough to make it through? Deception is coming, false Christs, false teachers, false prophets, and His Church is dry and diseased and unhealthy. Be cautious of the nourishment you get from the world and look to Christ and let come what may. Be ready to live for Him, ready to die for Him, as ready as you can be.

Jesus said, "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves... For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?"

From Don's Desk...

Think Red Ink Spring Conference April 7, 8, & 9



This do in remembrance of me...

A Passover Conference! It's a new idea, a pre-Passover meeting to instruct, equip and demonstrate the progression of Passover Remembrance. Will you join me this year in Albuquerque?

Think Red Ink Ministries wants to welcome new KAZQ Channel 32 & 36 ThINKers by opening the conference with a session on *"Keeping a Christian Passover"* at 7:00 pm

MST on April 7th, 2017. On Sabbath, April 8th, we are planning morning and afternoon sessions, "*Think Red Ink: "What did Jesus know & When did He know it?"* On Sunday, April 9th, we are planning to have a discussion session in the morning on the Spring Feasts for those who can attend!

Part of my purpose in scheduling this weekend conference is to make the meeting available not only to locals, but also to those who live outside the New Mexico area. *Will you come?* It would be so good to see those of you who have not been able to join us for several years. Who knows when or if the opportunity for an in-person conference will be available again? It's important to me!

RSVP: Think Red Ink Passover Conference.

We need (I need) this time of fellowship. The venue and schedule of the conference is still in development. I'm waiting to hear from you. *Every reservation counts!*

It was great to catch up with Nehemia Gordon recently in Socorro, NM. His book, "Shattering the Conspiracy of Silence," was the focus of his teaching. It was exciting! I hope that Nehemia will forgive me for taking encouragement from the fact that the Jews are no more interested in his work, than the Christian Church is in the work of Think Red Ink Ministries. Nevertheless, Nehemia's perseverance is a great encouragement to me. TRI looks



forward to working with Nehemia in the future, as schedules allow.

On a personal note, thanks to all of you for your calls, email, letters of support and your fine testimonies! The suggestions, complaints, replies and questions from ThINKers continue to be uplifting. I am glad to hear of your exploits, your victories, your struggles and how in spite of them - you are doing well. You report to be keeping the faith, in spite of the difficult circumstances which we all endure from time to time. The studio rework is still ongoing... Please follow Think Red Ink Ministries on Facebook and Twitter for notice of LIVE updates, radio shows and events. (Social media icon links below.)



I am striving to modify the outreach ministry of Think Red Ink to accommodate current resource and personal limitations, while continuing to minister to the body of Christ..

A new teaching series is in development, "Think Red Ink: What did Jesus know & When did He know it?" A portion of this study will be presented at the Passover Conference. This series offers new insight on the revelation of God's Plan to "Get His man back."

Think Red Ink is planning to use this series as a foundation for development of a speaking tour. I feel I must focus on contributing to events, rather than hosting events. I simply cannot do all the work required to be "host and preacher" at present. I hope you understand and that you will help me by hosting events or by letting others know I am available to speak at meetings or conferences. My greatest need at this point is to have an audience ... to find people who want to know. I am willing to peach to thousands, to find one.

The studio is working, though it is not complete, this work continues as I am able. I am still in recovery from my eye surgery and though my vision continues to improve, it remains limited from the stroke I had 2+ years ago. It is not easy to accept the limitations that have been thrust upon me. I know many of you have also suffered as well. My mom keeps telling me the maxim, "getting old is not for sissies."

I am also reminded of Jesus' statement to Peter in the Scriptures, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not."



I hope to see you soon.

Friendly,

An [. 7]

ThINKers' Thoughts!

I am having fun finding my way around TRI from my phone!... I appreciate your preaching & I don't think you're mean! Friendly,

~ ThINKer from SA

This is like the 2nd or 3rd time I've caught your show and I like it. I like the beard too - got that whole Moses thing goin' on. ;-) Really though, I think you've got a solid program and it doesn't fail to educate - and that's what it's all about. So I read your scrawl about what station I'm seeing this on, and if what I say counts as a vote, then I wholeheartedly endorse the station keeping and featuring this program. Though I saw it on 36.1, that seems to be a repeater of KAZQ, 32.1. Keep it up, Thanks and God Bless.

~ ThINKer from NM

... I was impressed seeing your programming. Then I discovered you're programming out of Pie Town. Now I'm in awe. I'm sure it don't mean diddly to most folks, but I think the San Augustin Plains and surrounding environs feature a certain receptivity, probably accentuated by its extreme desolation and altitude, that probably makes meditations on and revelations from our Father's Word so much the better. You done good. It's good talking to you Don. Again, thank you and God Bless,

~ ThINKer from NM

We will keep promoting the TRI program on all our stations. We have run your program on Channel 36 that is also our station and we do run programs from 32 on that station. Channel 36 does not have that big of a footprint but it is viewed by many. TRI is a great informative program ...I have seen it and it is a great fit to our station. I hope this has been helpful. You have a satisfied viewer here (me).

~ ThINKer from KAZQ NM

Hi. Well, I wanted to tell you that the program on Channel 32 is great! And I really like the commercial and the announcer is great! Love the accent. Take care!

~ ThINKer from NM

COMMENT FROM TRI RADIO FEATURED PODCAST: Excellent! You helped by taking "my blinkers off" & let me "see incidents" - Yahusha 's encounters with the Pharisees clearly! I will now read the Scriptures with this "new" insight! It's much more flavoursome! Thanks! Bless you.

~ ThINKer from TRI Radio Featured Podcast Comment

Sorry I missed the LIVE show!!!!! I hadn't turned my PC on until just now.... been in California for almost 3 weeks..... Hope everyone is doing well!

~ ThINKer from NM

Well, this is just perfectly, the way I relate these days. It's all about me. I take TRI for granted, month after month and then, when I "feel the need", I try to connect, and I cannot. I am so glad that your surgery went well. I don't know how or when the chat room will be open again, but, gosh darn it, I miss you. I read my "*Questions of Jesus*" everyday, (almost) I hear your voice as I do so. I am so sorry for not being a truer friend. You were, are, will always be so pivotal in my life and I'd like to think that we could be in touch again. Knowing that I am far down the list... Hope to continue to get E-zine and the occasional email. YHVH keep you.

~ ThINKer from OR

It has been awhile! ...Thank you for the DVD and all your the other teachings you have sent to me in the past years. It is almost three years since I registered with your ministry and I just wanted you to know that I have grown so much in these past few years than in all my Christian years! I thoroughly enjoy the Scriptures now and I do believe The Spirit of YHWH is leading and guiding me into ALL Truth on a daily basis. I cannot imagine my life without communion with Him every day! Through your excellent preaching my life has changed so much so that I am no longer welcomed by Messianic gatherings or Christian ones for that matter!

Needless to say I have lost possessions, peace and family along the way - I had to choose between my faith and my family! Have not yet lost my life... I guess that is in the future. Nonetheless I am at peace and experience so much joy on a daily basis. I have discovered that folks no longer want preaching! Everyone is teaching and more of the "Jewish stuff" that is going around! Hope you are well and doing just fine! Abundant Blessing and much love in our Messiah.

~ ThINKer from SA

You are greatly missed! It has been some time since I sent you a message. When the evenings still had some light, I would listen to your archived messages while I walked. Now, for the past 8 weeks, Eastern Washington has been very cold, dark, icy, and a lot of snow... The path on our property on which I usually do my trek is too dangerous to walk so I have not been taking you for a walk with me. I miss your messages very much. Too, the call-in line is still not up and running so I'm out of luck there too. I hope all things get back to normal for you - for your sake and the sake of all of us who love to listen and be blessed as well.

I did not know you had eye surgery until the last TRI message came. ...The older we get, the more challenges we face which at times don't seem to have remedies that come quickly, but I depend so heavily on the kindness, mercies, and love of God to get us through - no matter what arises.

Martin Luther said - Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace ...so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times. I have made notes so many times about things I hear you say and they mean much to me. One time, while walking you talked about patience - I think in regard to the verse "keeping the word of my patience." I don't know what date that you spoke about that, but I sure wish I could remember what it was you said - the one time I didn't make notes...of course....

I know times can be discouraging but I try to remember that if I were dead, I could not be discouraged and if I am surrendered completely to Him, and He truly is alive in me - then all things come about just how he orders them. Hard part? Yeah - whole hearted surrender. But it is happening - I do experience it. Without Him - I AM NOTHING. LIFE WOULD HAVE NO JOY, NO PURPOSE, NOTHING. I turned 73 last October, and I am a young 73 but still days go by quickly and if the 2nd coming doesn't happen in my life time, the next thing I will know... is eternal life.

...Take good care of yourself, Don. I hope to be listening again soon. Spring and daylight in the evening will be very welcome. I am praying for your total healing and for your comfort. FONDLY AND FRIENDLY - since 2007.

~ ThINKer from WA

I received the DVD "Eh! You talking ta me"? Thanks a lot for your generosity and kindness in providing us the truth. I pray our Almighty Father continue to heal you and

bless you.

~ ThINKer from CA

I know you are dealing with eye surgery and possibly recovery time, but I must let you know how I miss the daily shows, TRI radio and TRI TV, and how much I appreciate all you do to make the "bread of life" available. ...Please be encouraged that your life and ministry makes a difference in this world. I fear darkness would prevail without the light you stream.

~ ThINKer from NM

I saw this online - Immediately I thought of you. "Original Schwinn Stingray - Lemon Peeler - c. 1969 - RARE!"

~ ThINKer from FL

Note from Don: This was my childhood bike. Thanks for the trip down memory lane.



Thank you brother for your time today. It was a Blessing for me. I learned and much was confirmed. I am always encouraged and edified when GOD allows me to absorb more of HIS Truth. I dedicate my life and my all to expressing HIS Truth in Love to all that I come in contact with...

~ ThINKer from MA

Thanks for the newsletter. DON, hang in there, we are not are our own. We have been bought with a price. Later.

 \sim ThINKer from NM

...Hey Don. . .

I received the CD you sent me and am looking forward to reading it, but I don't have a drive on my computer. I think I can get my daughter to use her computer to transfer it to a thumb drive I can then read. But I wanted to let you know I got it and take this opportunity to thank you. I read the crawl on Episode 8 and obeyed the words - I wrote KAZQ and told them what a unique and important program you have and they should continue with it...

I read your article on Pastorbation. Very amusing and enlightening way to word it. Regarding churches, Sabbath, red letters, etc., I've always felt like a lone and heretical voice. Seeing TRI has validated so many of those things I've felt were Truth. Thanks for that too. But, remembering what a lonely journey it's been for me, (save with the aid and company of my Heavenly Father), I can easily imagine what a frustrating experience it must be for you at times. I have NEVER written to anybody concerning their ministries, but I gladly take this opportunity to write you and encourage you because I realize the weight of the resistance you have to overcome.

The Truth you represent and teach is so simple, yet is made almost incomprehensible by liberal application of traditional doctrine. A perfect example is the lengths religion will go to to deny the Sabbath. Christ said, "NOT one jot or tittle will be changed. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

I'm a pretty astute historian, and I've not noticed Heaven AND earth passing away and I'm pretty sure nobody else has either. But somehow, we're to believe the Word has somehow passed away, or made of none effect by it being nailed to the Cross. How did that happen? When did that happen? (It didn't, I know.) But you have carved out quite the job for yourself, haven't you? I pray you find fulfillment and reward in this endeavor because it is important.

~ ThINKer from NM

REPLY FROM DON: Thanks for your comments and recognition of this task - it is difficult and often not appreciated. More than one "Christian media broadcaster" has "kicked off" TRI programming from their lineup. The broadcasters stand and objection to the message combined with the constraint of keeping money out of the ministry make it difficult to find venues.

YHVH specifically told me, "Don't sell anything and don't ask for money." This ministry growth and performance relies on the gifts and tithes of those led and obedient to supporting the ministry. It is a joint effort and responsibility. You may not have heard me say it yet, but it is on record, that I am willing to do something else as soon as the funds for the ministry are no longer available.

You're right, everybody in the modern Church says the Commandments have been nailed to the cross... Although your question is obviously rhetorical, I can tell you exactly where they get it. It is the Scripture Col. 2:14-22, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." Verse 16 shows us exactly what those ordinances were - they were nothing more or less than the "takanot and maasim" (oral and written Jewish laws - Jesus called them "burdens grievous to be born") of the Pharisees. Exactly what these ordinances were is made obvious by such words as "meat and drink," "respect of a holy day," "new moon and days declared to be kept as Sabbath day," and in verse 22, specifically named as "the commandments and doctrines of men".

The Commandments given on Sinai are still in stone and still intact. Good for you for recognizing that. I would give you the same advice given by the Apostle Paul, "...let no man judge you..."

Thanks for your letter. It is uplifting to hear of your understanding.

Every time I listen to [your] teaching (like I did today), I always have the feeling that

Church Authority will fight back. But, I don't care. Really I don't. As far as I am constantly told to LISTEN to the Spirit of God, I can face anyone and say: I PREFER TO LISTEN TO GOD.

Even though I know I am not there yet, I strive each day to stand and speak IT at every opportunity I get. God bless you Mr. Don Harris!

~ ThINKer from Nigeria

REPLY FROM DON: It is much like when Caleb and Joshua were condemned for their report and the whole nation of Israel waited too long to implement their plan ... the whole of the middle east (and the world) suffers to this day. All we can do is tell the truth, "those who have ears to hear, let them hear..."

KEEP YOUR CARDS, LETTER, COMMENTS, & QUESTIONS COMING! Many ThINKers have the same questions you do ... think of it as your ministry!

FEATURED: <u>"The Creator's Calendar"</u>

This Special DVD Presentation reveals the vestigial reminders of the months and days as named in the Scriptures. *"When shall these things be...?"*

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