

# The Word of Truth Ministry

## BULLETIN

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder

March 2024

### **Updates from the Director**

When I agreed to become the Word of Truth Ministry Director back in 2020, my goals for the ministry were twofold. First of all, I wanted to see the ministry move forward. Secondly, I wanted to continue to maintain the library of excellent Bible study material created by our founder, Mr. Otis Q. Sellers. Mr. Sellers was and remains one of my most beloved teachers, and I would not know God's Word nearly as well if it were not for the help his written and audio ministry afforded me. I wanted to see to it that future generations could find the same help from Mr. Sellers' work as I had. I saw that the ministry was aging, and knew that unless someone younger stepped in, there was a risk that this excellent material would be lost to time with no one to maintain it.

In 2018, I was discussing Romans 11 with the late Mr. Milton Hammond, and he asked me if I had ever read Mr. Sellers' pamphlet on the topic. I replied with surprise that I had not, and that I had never even heard there was such a pamphlet. It was not included on the list of Mr. Sellers' material available for purchase when I first started following the ministry twenty years before, nor was it among those pamphlets currently included in digital form on the website. He told me that he would send me a copy of his, which he later did. I was excited to receive it, and later put it into digital form myself and released it as one of the books available on Amazon through their Kindle publishing program. It was only after his death about a year later that I began wondering what other material Milt might have had in his Sellers collection that ought to be available but isn't? Alas, it was too late to ask.

I later brought the topic up with my Bible study group, and Mr. Robert English mentioned to me that he had some old Sellers material. I later received a packet from him that included pamphlets such as *The Will of God, Dealing With God, Jesus Only* (a prequel to *The Churches* rereleased by the ministry

about 15 years ago), half of the II Thessalonians Resultant Version (yes, alas, only half), part of an Ephesians Resultant Version between that published in *The Word of Truth Magazine* and that published in *Seed and Bread*, a copy of an old letter Mr. Sellers wrote defending his pamphlet on *What Is the Soul*, and other material. I hope to release some of these works back into circulation soon.

But this discovery made me think. Among all the friends of the ministry, might there not be even more of Mr. Sellers' material currently out of circulation that ought to be restored for others to enjoy? Therefore, I am using this opportunity to make an appeal, especially to you "old-timers" out there. **Might you have anything in your collection that is not currently available on the website** (or one of those I've already received mentioned above)? Would you be willing to write to us and send us a copy? I would love to be able to reintroduce any of Mr. Sellers' old, excellent work to the public from any source from which I can obtain it.

Finally, there are a few other things I would like to reintroduce if anyone has them. Some years ago we posted videos of our 2015 conference. Anyone could have right-clicked on those videos and downloaded them at the time. Sadly, I did not, nor did anyone I've talked to, and they have since been lost. Mr. Sellers had a 25-minute video that was at one time posted on the website. Currently I only have this video in chunks, and they only add up to about 15 minutes, meaning I've lost 10. Did anyone download any of these videos back when they were available? If so, would you be willing to send them to me? I would love to receive them, and would be very grateful for your help. You can send these materials to The Word of Truth Ministry at P. O. Box 1609, Canyon Country, CA 91386, or scan them or send them as attachments to the e-mail addresses [seedandbread1935@gmail.com](mailto:seedandbread1935@gmail.com), or [rustywoft@aol.com](mailto:rustywoft@aol.com). Thank you!

**Nathan C. Johnson**

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## Your Kingdom

### By Rusty Hancock

The theme of the Bible is the Kingdom of God. But what does your kingdom look like? Yes, I said **YOUR** kingdom. We have some insight into the characteristics of God's kingdom from the holy scriptures. In Seed & Bread #70 (God's Earth) and Seed & Bread #71 (Earth's Glorious Future) my grandpa, Otis Q. Sellers, conveyed that the Bible says, "Jesus Christ would immediately be unveiled to the world," and that "The whole earth would be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." Israel will be restored and become a miraculous reality. The process of death will stop, and life will work in mankind. "Under God's government, the curse that now rests upon the physical earth will be removed." "The earth will become an ideal place for men to live and work. Every acre of it will become habitable and fruitful." "It will be an ideal place for family life. All marital unions will be the result of God joining two people together, an ideal situation for rearing children." And through resurrection, "Old friendships will be renewed, and fellowships that were broken in death can be restored."

The characteristics of God's kingdom are well versed in the Bible. But I sometimes like to fantasize about my vision of the kingdom. I remember having a conversation with my grandpa in which he spoke of having a youthful and healthy body in the kingdom. A huge baseball fan, my grandpa joked about the two of us playing baseball together and whether he could strike me out. This brings two prospects to light. First, my fond and loving memories of my grandpa are of an elderly, heavy set, bald man. It would be strange to have a "grandpa" that is youthful and physically perfect, just like me, his grandson. And second, will there be baseball in the kingdom?

And this idea starts a large inventory of things to dream about for the future. Will there be sports, games, and leisure activities? I often played games with my grandparents, our favorite being Yahtzee. And what of earth being a paradise? I was born and raised in the Mojave Desert of the southwest United States. I adore the desert. I find the red rock canyons, mesas, and arid life wonderful. But my youngest son lives in Hawaii. Most people would say

that Hawaii is paradise. And I know others who prefer a snow-capped mountain or a dense forest.

This discussion is not new to me. I had several conversations with Dave Hetteema (former Director of the Word of Truth Ministry) about the future. He envisioned an agrarian society, fertile farmland, and fields, with no modern technology (computers, cars, planes, television, etc.). Whereas my mother reveled in technology, the present technology and what future inventions would become a reality. She used to say that if she were living in Southern California during God's kingdom, and wanted to visit Jerusalem, she would not want to take an extended and tiresome trip of walking and sailing there. She would want to get on a plane and be there in a matter of hours.

I also fantasize about what my new occupation will be in the Kingdom of God. There will be several professions that will not be necessary in the kingdom. My occupation as a Police Officer during the Dispensation of Grace simply will not be required in the Kingdom of God. In the kingdom, I would like to be a sailor or ship's captain. Will I have a choice, or will God provide me with a purpose?

Resurrection, I believe, will be the most amazing part of the kingdom. I cannot imagine being in the state of death and having my next "waking moment" be in the kingdom. (I pray for the kingdom daily. Truthfully, I want to experience it in real time.) How will someone who has been dead for several hundred years adapt to modern technology? Or how will someone accustomed to modern technology adapt to an agrarian society?

We all have loved ones in the state of death, "waiting for the kingdom." In the past three years, my mother (Jane) and two of my brothers (Randy and Bob) have all passed away. I eagerly await the day I can hold my mother's hand and kiss her forehead. And I fantasize about all my brothers getting together for a "brother" hug. I'm sure you all have the same dream.

We can rest assured; God will have a method of dealing with these issues. However until then, "Thy kingdom come....."



## The Secret of Godliness

By Andrew Brown

Learning how to conduct ourselves in various situations is vital to thrive in life. One needs to learn the appropriate way to act during various times and seasons. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees related to this topic. *"When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?"* (Matt. 16:2-3, NASB 1995 unless noted). They should have seen the signs of Messiah on Earth and organized their lives accordingly. Conversely, consider *the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do* (1 Chron. 12:32). These men were praised for knowing the times they lived in. Many Christians are not aware they are living in the dispensation of grace, which Sir Robert Anderson called "the silence of God." Christians would be advised to strengthen themselves through learning how God is working today.

Just like during the times of Messiah, one can live in opposition to the current work of God. For instance, one could pray for the manifestation of miracles, and be out of step with God working only in secret. One could take Paul's advice to the Corinthians in Acts: *"Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy"* (1 Cor. 14:1). The same theme is found in almost every verse in chapter 14. Seeking gifts today would put your pursuit outside of God's current work. How much better to recognize what lines up with God's gracious and secret work and walk in step with that? Instead of pining for things God has ceased providing, our prayers and recognition of the Lord's hand could align with His present truth. In 1 Timothy 3:16, Paul reveals an important secret of godliness: *"And beyond all argument the secret of true worship is great: which was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, witnessed by messengers, heralded unto the nations, believed on in the world, received in glory"* (Resultant Version).

This secret is obscured by a textual dispute. I believe this passage should follow the pre-Vulgate Latin and Syriac versions which unanimously read "which" and are older than the earliest Greek manuscripts which introduce the debate between "God," "he who" and "which." The original Greek text seemed to read "which" (Gk. *ὅ*), then altered to

"he who" (Gk. *ὅς*), and finally to God (Gk. *Θς* an abbreviation for *Theos*). Only in Greek, where the words are so similar, could this alteration occur. Very likely, the changes were due to heated debates among church fathers about the (correct) idea that Jesus was God. But these "church fathers" were ignorant of the secret dispensation of grace. My assumption is they altered this passage to correspond with what they knew. The old Latin and Syriac reveal what the original passage most likely read: "which."

Paul was in Rome when he spoke the proclamation of Acts 28:28, but believers everywhere would have felt the miraculous cease. When the power was cut off, it "was revealed in the flesh." Although they all felt this immediately, they were unaware of what had happened. The imminent pivot of God setting aside His open, justice-related work and beginning to establish a record acting only in grace was not revealed to Paul alone, but was *"revealed to His holy apostles and prophets"* (Eph. 3:5). God confirmed this new work through all the prophets and apostles before His total silence. This secret was further vindicated by the Spirit through Paul's new letters. This truth is found in Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Each epistle contains valuable information regarding how His people should live and think under the new work He is doing today.

This new work was "perceived by messengers" (or seen by angels). The genius of God's new work is on display to the celestial beings mentioned in Ephesians 3:10. However, these could be human messengers who read the words about what happened and perceived God's new work. After Acts 28:28, the gospel was taken out of the hands of the God-inspired apostles and written down for the "salvation-bringing message" to be "proclaimed on in the world." These new messengers were necessary as the gospel itself had now been sent to the nations and they will hear it (Acts 28:28). They went out and "heralded the message to the nations," which was believed by millions. It was also "taken up in glory" as the millions accepted it, and esteemed it without the experience of miraculous signs. These believers will also be glorified: *"Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed"* (John 20:29). This spread of the message post-Acts impacted the course of history.



This passage would contain numerous inconsistencies if talking about Jesus. First, it is out of context with Paul instructing Timothy how to live in the dispensation of grace and 1 Timothy chapter 4's denying new truths for today (the secret fits perfectly). If about Jesus, this passage is out of order. Jesus was not proclaimed to the nations and believed on in the world before He was taken up in glory (ascension). Also, why does Jesus need to be justified in the Spirit? What is the significance of His being seen by angels? This would reveal almost nothing regarding the secret of godliness and true worship.

The appearance of God's working completely in grace changed worship immediately for believers

## WE GET LETTERS

"I ... listen to ... KGMS radio out of Tucson. The program (today) involved visiting the grave (of Jesus) and the different number of women visiting and the time of day when they visited. It was also the first time I heard that Jesus rose on the holiday of First Fruits. Thank you so much.

"Here is my question. Is it possible, even a one in a million chance, that the women who went back a second time took the burial shroud? And could this be the origin of the shroud of Turin? I am neither a believer nor disbeliever in the authenticity of the shroud. But one aspect of all the research is that the pollen found on some of the fibers comes from only the Holy Land. Just a question on your thoughts."

### Reply from Nathan C. Johnson:

*A lot of people have examined the evidence, and it seems that the most we can say is that there is evidence it could have authentically come from that time.*

*My conclusion about the shroud of Turin is that it is probably not genuine. The reason is the prophecy in Isaiah 50:6. "I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting." An examination of this passage would reveal that the One being spoken of is God's Servant, and I believe it to be a prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ. The New Testament never mentions that they plucked out the Lord's beard, and yet it seems very likely that this is something the rough soldiers of Pilate might well have done*

living at the time and was incredibly important for them to stay in relationship with the Lord (Consider the Philippians' struggle). While the intricate start to the dispensation of grace may not have such profound implications for us, knowing God is accomplishing a different work today will drastically help us worship God "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). God's shift to working in secret answers why God's powerful acts disappeared and why today is so profoundly different from much of the recorded Bible. It solidifies the Word as a firm foundation, and we should be thankful for what God is doing, rather than question why He is not working in ways we think He should. The truth strengthens our faith and sets us up for greater closeness to our amazing Lord.

*before leading Him off to crucifixion. This would also help explain Isaiah 52:14. **Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; If His beard was plucked out by the roots, this would explain partially the marring of His visage, for this would terribly disfigure the face.***

*The point is that this would show the shroud to NOT belong to Jesus Christ, since the figure found on the shroud still has his beard. Therefore, I would conclude this was not the shroud that belonged to Christ.*

"Your Bible studies are so well done I have not once failed to learn something of importance that others were not able to explain (or cared to examine so deeply as you do, it's your trademark!)

"I listen to you whenever I can on 1000 AM – Albuquerque, Sundays (5:00 PM). ... There are many programs on this station and mostly excellent but yours stands out by its depth. Listening to you is very much like attending seminary class without the dogma attached.

"... I was able to download many of your prior years' studies ... they are wonderfully detailed and easy to learn. It is hard to describe how listening to you makes me feel but it is great! My Bible IQ has gone way up. I thank God there are people like you out there to teach about Him exclusively. Only God can instill this talent and the desire to do it. Preaching is easy, clear exegesis is hard. The depth you put into it is so fun and eye opening."