

Dennis J. Nelson - Testimony

During high school, I thought I had achieved it all and won life's lottery. I was successful in sports, friends, and academics. My next steps were onto college, have a prosperous career, get married, and have my one point five (1.5) kids. This was my "American Dream".

As I began university studies, I kept asking myself what is the true meaning to life. I was hoping my college professors would know truth and became disappointed when I discovered they only had passionately held opinions. This was not the TRUTH I sought nor what my soul desired! Then one day I realized that all I had accomplished and my current pursuit to happiness was for nothing. I did not know TRUTH. All I knew was to eat, drink, and be merry through my sexual and lascivious living. I was living like the Prodigal son and I did not know it. (Luke 15:11-32) Was all this worth living for? Was this worth dying for? At that moment I would have given up all my past honors and accomplishments to know TRUTH. I even contemplated suicide but realized I did not have the stomach for that.

I met a man on campus who said Jesus was not dead and that he had just talked to Him that morning. I did not know what he met. Because, Jesus had died over 2000 years ago, and I did not understand how he could talk to a dead man. At that time, I considered myself a Christian and wore a cross around my neck as a symbol of belief. He pointed to the cross and asked if the cross of Jesus was in my heart. This shocked me. Because, I knew I did not. I did not know this Jesus, he spoke about in a personal way and at that moment and I knew I was not a Christian.

The next day I went to hear him speak about God and about having a true relationship with Jesus. He explained the Gospel of Jesus, as I had never heard it before. He was one talking with authority and TRUTH. He asked me to consider the love of Jesus who died for my sins. He asked, would I ask Jesus into my life, into my heart by repenting, and forsaking my sins? I heard a knocking inside on the door of my heart. This Christian man was asking me to cry out for the tender loving mercies of God through the washing of my sins in the blood of Christ's cross!

At that moment, I recognized the meaning to life was not money, power, or fame. The TRUTH was Jesus, to know Jesus, and to live for Him. On March 24th, 1982, I asked Jesus Christ to be the Lord of my Salvation. I declared the tender loving mercies of God that are only found in the TRUTH of Jesus the Messiah! The living cross of Christ's salvation was now in my heart!

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He, who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Rev. 3:19-22 ESV) "With eternal love I have loved you that is why I have attracted you with mercy." (Jer. 31:3)