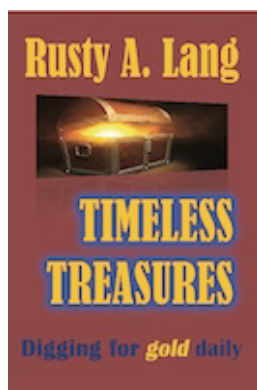


# Rusty A. Lang



## TIMELESS TREASURES

**Digging for *gold* daily**



*Christianity worldwide is on the brink of massive change.*

*Bold and challenging, even controversial at times, Timeless Treasures: Digging for Gold Daily by Rusty A Lang uncovers and exposes a variety of doctrinal myths and faith issues while bringing the truth of the scriptures into focus.*

*It takes the reader through a compilation of 366 Dailies incorporating ageless anecdotes, reliable quotes, personal illustrations, dreams, and visions, supernatural encounters with the Lord, journal jottings and biblical exploration gleaned over the author's 40 years of worldwide service to the Lord.*

*Current, relevant and thought provoking, covering topical subjects: abuse, bullying, depression, gambling, healing, martial arts, persecution, prophecy and spiritual realities. Interspersed with encouraging Dailies and dealing with current doctrinal issues: Israel and end times, Jesus of today and the Holy Spirit's role in*

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# **Timeless Treasures**

**Digging for *Gold* Daily**

**Rusty A Lang**

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ISBN: 978-1-63491-463-5

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2016

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## No.17 - Barnyard Shuffle: Final Judgement

‘The Final judgement by God of the people in every nation resulting in the glorification of some and the eternal casting away of others is illustrated by Jesus through parables.’<sup>50</sup>

In Matthew 13: 24-43, the tares among wheat. The poisonous weeds, darnel, were sown in the field by the devil while the workers were sleeping. This is a cunning move because darnel, before it comes into ear, is very similar in appearance to wheat. Jesus explains the tares represent sons of the evil one, the unrighteous and wheat represents the righteous. Jesus waits until the harvest before gathering both, giving ample time for people to mend their ways and be obedient to his Word. Then he deals with the fruit of the enemy first, *‘and will cast them into the furnace of fire’* (v42).

In Matthew 25:31-33, sheep are likened to the righteous; not conscious of their good works and deeds of kindness (John 10:7, 14-16, 27-28; Psalm 23:1-6). The goats represent the unrighteous, the wicked; conscious of their good deeds, performance oriented, justifying actions or non-actions. Sheep go to the place of honour, the right (Ecclesiastes 10:2; Ephesians 1:20; Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:25, 33), as goats go to place of dishonour, the left (Ecclesiastes 10:2).

In Matthew 13:47- 50, is the parable of the dragnet which is cast into the sea and gathers every kind of sea creature. When full it is brought ashore. The good and usable product is saved and the bad unusable thrown away. *‘So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will cast them into the furnace of fire.’*

Our lives will not be judged according to what we say we believe but by how we have lived and acted according to our profession of faith.

Life is short and death is certain. God is looking for good fish, obedient sheep not goats, wheat not tares: those who are true followers, filled with the Holy Spirit, producing fruit for his Kingdom.

Matthew 25:13: *‘Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour,’* in which the Son of Man is coming.

## **No.92 - Fact or Fiction: Myths**

**S**ometimes fiction can seem more plausible than fact but when it comes to the truth of the Word, there should be no deviation. Here are some Christianese myths that need careful examination.

Once saved always saved - Word does not indicate this to be true (Hebrews 10:26-27, Romans 11:17-21 and Revelation 22:19).

All family saved. In Acts 16:31-33, Paul speaks to the jailer and he and his whole household believed and were saved. This does not mean our families will automatically be saved. Only those who believe.

First thought is the Holy Spirit. In Acts 17:11, we read Paul and friends are sharing the gospel and the listeners were checking the scriptures. It would be wise to do likewise.

All we need is the bible. While it is true every word of God is inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17), it is the Holy Spirit who illuminates the Word for application in our daily walk (John 16:13-16). Also see Ephesians 4:11-13.

New level new devil - we will have opposition but that is not the same meaning (1 Corinthians 16:9; John 16:33; Hebrews 12:3).

Christians can cast demons into hell. Matthew 10:1 declares we have authority to cast demons out of people but nowhere are we authorised to send them to hell, even Jesus didn't (Matthew 8:28-34).

Only thing we can take to heaven is what we give away. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says the only thing we take with us is love.

We can only minister out of what we have experienced. Jesus ministered in the name of the Father who knows all. We also minister with God's love, not our experience.

Two steps forward one back. God always moves in forward motion. See Jeremiah 7:23-24, it is one way or the other for us.

One door closes another opens. God does open doors no one can shut (Revelations 3:8) but this does not promise what this statement implies.

To use a responsible comment to illustrate a point is one thing but when we make it a doctrinal principle we are violating the spirit of the Word, and creating a myth.

## No.133 - Green Eyed Monster<sup>345</sup>: Jealousy

**O**ne of the strongest emotions we try to hide is jealousy.

Sometimes it isn't an obvious reason, sometimes it is because someone has something we don't have, or a relationship, an ability, even a spiritual gift, so it is easier to justify judging that person. The green light of envy takes over and we have an excuse to raid the biscuit tin of jealousy to the max without anyone even suspecting.

Sometimes jealousy is coated in chocolate that tastes so good. We know it is because we simply don't understand something about a person but it is still easier to voice an opinion clothed in judgement than admit our inability to accept the other person.

When we use our position in the home, work, play or church to satiate our souls with this insidious habit of harbouring jealousy behind opinions that can be made to sound so right, we begin to gather others to our thinking and pollute them as well.

Jealousy then becomes hidden behind skirts and pants of judgement as imagination fuelled by its' voice leads to suspicion and becomes dangerous. Eventually the person targeted has a reputation for something they know nothing about and their situation becomes precarious. Still we justify our opinions until the person's integrity is based on our assumption or judgement and we become so deceived we believe it to be true. We need to remind ourselves judgement is showing no mercy and God's judgement will respond in kind (James 2:13; Matthew 7:1-2).

The green eyed monster of jealousy is rooted in pride, vanity and selfishness. It is such a strong force, it needs deep repentance, and ministry of the Word of God to break its power.

James 3: *'But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing'* (v14-16)

Is there an antidote for jealousy? (V17-18) *'But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy and the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.'*

## **No.137 - Handling Stallions<sup>352</sup>: Discipleship**

To have a healthy relationship with a horse the handler has to pay close attention to the horse. That's why heeding is the best plan of action for working with a stallion. But when training a stallion as a disciple of Jesus Christ, remember it is a spiritual game played in a physical medium. Do not be intimidated or insecure around a stallion as this will hinder the relationship before it starts. It is not about mental or physical strength.

As a mentor or coach you need to be a positive presence in the life of a stallion, constantly keeping his or her attention on what they need to be doing. Keep a short lead rope in the beginning and slowly extend it as the stallion responds positively.

If you have a stallion that bites, you don't slap them down or beat with words. Meeting aggression with aggression never works. Interrupt the biting before it gets started. Stallions tend to react by attacking when they are scared or unsure and pout when they lose or are corrected. The pouting may last a while.

Stallions are not necessarily good leaders as they are more prone to protect and defend the herd from predators. However, with proper training and management, stallions are effective Christian disciples at the highest levels of many disciplines and may in time become effective leaders.

Colts or young stallions usually form small, all-male, bachelor bands in the wild. Living in a group gives these stallions the social and protective benefits of living in a herd.

Stallions have an inborn tendency to attempt to dominate other people and authority. They must be trained to behave with respect toward others at all times or their natural aggressiveness may pose an ongoing problem. Even well-trained stallions require firm and consistent handling by experienced individuals.

Confinement of stallions will cause unhealthy responses as they need exercising often. Expect a stallion to misbehave and test boundaries. Be alert as regular gentle but firm correction may be needed. 'Remind them that failure to climb higher is partly due to personal unwillingness to accept the full conditions of discipleship.'<sup>353</sup>



## No.289 - Spiritual Vagabonds<sup>717</sup>: Offence

**W**hen have you ever noticed life going along well then we let Satan wriggle in an offence?

Then we are faced with the reality of Proverbs 18:19, *'A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a citadel.'* Satan's tool of offence causes cat fights, quarrelling and strife if we let it.

There are people who are actually treated unjustly and then there are those who believe they have been treated unjustly. The subtle snare that evil thrives on. This happens when we draw conclusions from inaccurate information and deception takes hold.

We begin to make bad decisions and incorrect assumptions based on unrealistic expectations. We rely on how we perceive things to be or hearsay and dwell on our hurts and disappointments.

But it gets worse, if we let it. Protective bars go up, which lead to isolation, we become consumed by the offence, inward focused and self-pitying. Finally it saps our energy, affects our emotional stability and peace of mind.

An offence is like a worm that is working its way out from the middle of an apple, eating us from the inside out, causing bitterness, anger and even physical disease. People who refuse to let go of an offence, become spiritual vagabonds. Ecclesiastes 7:21: *'Do not take seriously all words which are spoken, lest you hear your servant cursing you. For you also have realised that you likewise have many times cursed others.'* Offended or cursed, both have the same affect.

'A couple married for fifteen years began having more than a few disagreements. They wanted to make their marriage work and agreed on an idea. For one month they planned to drop slips into fault boxes for each. The wife was diligent in her efforts and approach: leaving the top off the vegemite jar, wet towels on the bathroom floor, dirty socks not in laundry basket, leaving the toilet seat up.

At the end of the month, they exchanged boxes. The husband reflected on what he had been doing wrong according to his wife. Then the wife opened her box and began reading. They were all the same. The message on each slip read, 'I love you.'<sup>718</sup> Yes, love and forgiveness takes the sting out of offence.

## **No.307 – The Beginning and End<sup>757</sup>:**

### **Genesis and Revelation**

**S**atan hates it when we read Genesis and Revelation. Why? His doom is prophesied in Genesis 3:14, and his doom is realised, actually comes about, is sealed in Revelation 20:10. He first appears in Genesis but his last appearance on earth is recorded in Revelation.

In Genesis 1:1 we see the creation of heaven and earth. In Revelation we see the creation of the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21:1). The first Adam reigns on earth in Genesis 2:7-8 but in Revelation we see Jesus, the last Adam, reigning in glory (Revelation 19-22).

The earthly bride was brought to the first Adam in Genesis 2:22 but the heavenly bride is brought to Jesus Christ, the last Adam, in Revelation 19:7-10. Genesis 3 unfolds the beginning of death and the curse. In Revelation 21:4 there is no more death and no more curse. Man is driven from God's face in sin in Genesis 3:24 then in Revelation 19:11-16 believers see God's face in glory.

God is not sitting in heaven wringing his hands and wondering what he will do next. The holy threesome never meet in emergency session. They are in complete union at all times and God the Father knows exactly what is coming and when. The devil does know he is destined for hell and his future is certain (Revelation 12:12; 20:10), because he has proven he knows according to scripture (Matthew 4:1-11). Yet he is still acting like a foolish false angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

We as believers and all those who will bow their knee to Jesus can not only have assurance of where we will be after death, our future is secured (Revelation 22:17). So we can concentrate on the present and lead people to a personal relationship with Jesus, and help them enjoy a victorious Christian life. As the world begins to wind down towards the end, even as it hots up, we must not look for what will happen, though we are told to be aware of the sign of the times. We need to be looking for the SOMEONE who is to come. Revelation 1:8: *'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'*

## **No.365 - World Changers: Pioneers**

**P**ioneers are world changers, risk takers, people with ideas who face and overcome obstacles, battling opposition to achieve their dream; forerunners in their field of expertise. 'Great spirits always find opposition from mediocre minds.'<sup>886</sup>

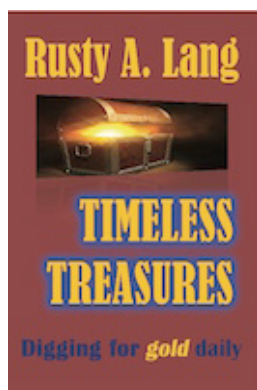
An example of this pioneering spirit is seen in Hunan province in China. Innovators have built a glass bottomed sky walk off the side of Tianmen Mountain over 4000 feet up. The builders had to find a way around many roadblocks. 'Climbing was not the only way forward, as the engineers had to go sideways looking for a better way many times.'<sup>887</sup>

'Spiritual trendsetters re-define what average is.'<sup>888</sup> So never grade yourself on your own average curve. We need to cleanse ourselves from nominal Christianity. There is no need to be ashamed of being a person with ideas. We are all either pioneers or settlers and why be satisfied with a lily pad when a throne awaits your call.

'It takes effort to follow the fire of God (1 Corinthians 11:31-32) but it is better to risk and fail than count yourself unworthy to risk at all.'<sup>889</sup> 'You can build risk into your life based on the Word of God. And if you ever reach a point where you don't know what to do, the best risk is to keep going forward.'<sup>890</sup> 'Not even the turtle makes progress unless he sticks his neck out.'<sup>891</sup>

John the baptiser was forerunner for the coming of Jesus and his life was definitely not of the norm variety. In Matthew 3:1-6 we read he came with the message to repent and be baptised. He wore a camel's hair garment with a leather belt, ate locusts and wild honey. Yet Jesus said of him that there was no one greater born of woman (Luke 7:28). Peter in Matthew 14:28-29, came walking on the water towards Jesus. A radical risk taker. In John 20:1-2, Mary goes to the tomb and is first to see Jesus alive (v11-19); first to share in the resurrection life.

'In these days deep within the nations there is a stirring in the hearts of men and women pioneers. There is an arising of the remnant warriors. They are hidden for this time and season, but soon shall leap into the winds of adversity and fly with grace and mercy.'<sup>892</sup> A new breed is being called forth.



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