

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION[®]

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Cover Story

Women are all over the pages of the gospels, standing tall alongside their male counterparts, prominent in their own right—not hidden behind veils or closed doors. But, as many women have experienced and many still experience, religious institutions (even those named for Christ) often neglect to honor women as Jesus did.

COVER IMAGE BY ISTOCKPHOTO AND
MARV WEGNER—PTM

Canada Post Publications Mail
Sales Agreement No. 40029726
The address of our lettershop in Canada can
be used for the Canadian return address.
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to
Plain Truth
7496 Bath Road Unit 2
Mississauga, ON L4T 1L2

About This Issue

The role that religion has played in women's lives is a story that needs to be told. We often hear sensational reports of pathetic, extreme cases of the repression and abuse of women—within and without what we know as the world of Christendom. But the real story is the repression that takes place “under the radar,” and who better and more qualified to tell this story than our award-winning columnist, Ruth Tucker? We don't have nearly enough pages to do justice to this topic—so if, after reading “God's Glass Ceiling? Religion's Role in the Repression of Women” you want to know more, we highly recommend Ruth's book, *Daughters of the Church*.

If you're hungry for an authentic relationship with God, this issue is a spiritual feast. Albert Schmidt's article about the transformation Jesus gives to the lives of all women is a wonderful complement to Ruth Tucker's article. Glen Moyer will cause you to think about the *real* Abraham Lincoln, not the co-opted one that we so often hear about. You'll be inspired by the words of Bill Vossler, who returns to our pages with “The Water Always Wins.”

Wayne Jacobsen has contributed many articles to the *PT* in recent years. Wayne is a dear friend and, among other things, a primary mover and shaker behind the publishing of the best-selling book, *The Shack*. Be sure to read Wayne's thought-provoking article, “The Joy of Being Free of You.”

We also have our outstanding columnists—Steve Brown, Susan Reedy, Jim Fowler and Ruth Tucker. Issue after issue they turn out great stuff!

All of us here at PTM deeply appreciate serving you. As we turn the pages of our calendars to a new year, thank you for making us a part of your life—part of your walk with the Lord. May God bless each and every one of you.

—Greg Albrecht, Editor-in-chief

MISSION STATEMENT

Plain Truth Ministries proclaims authentic Christianity without the religion. Our work is Christ-centered, based on God's amazing grace, giving hope to those burned out by legalistic religion.

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For an introductory one-year subscription in the U.S.A. or Canada, call toll free 1-800-309-4466, or visit www.ptm.org. Single copies or back issues: U.S. \$4.

Initial, one-year subscriptions outside of the U.S.A. and Canada are U.S. \$29.95 a year; credit card orders only.

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You Mean I'm Not Nuts?

I always enjoy reading the *Plain Truth*. Wayne Jacobsen's article, "You Mean I'm Not Nuts?" in the November 2008 issue really hit home with me. I've struggled for years to understand the Father's philosophy. Suddenly, I do! Mankind is not inclined to love God. Nevertheless, God loves unloving mankind. God asks his followers to do like Him: Love those who aren't able to love you. That's what God does. Am I nuts? I don't think so!

Ontario, Canada



Conform or Else!

After reading Glen Moyer's article in the November 08 *Plain Truth*, I was determined to write you to express my sadness with your view that Jesus' sacrifice saves us from nothing. How did truth get such a bad name, and why the negative view of biblical inerrancy? I see most churches declaring hyper-grace, not fundamentalism (both do not match up with the Bible I read). Where is the balance?

The core doctrines found in the Bible should not be taken lightly, nor should we determine not to believe them because we found a new way to interpret Scripture (or we chose to take part of the Bible out of the whole). Love is sharing grace and truth (God does discipline those he loves, and saves us while we are yet in sin, not by our works).

My question to you is why would God send Jesus if there is no Hell? So, is there a Heaven? Saved from what?

I will take what Jesus says about Hell and believe it over your thoughts on it. I am dismayed a "Christian" magazine would allow such a basic tenet to be dismissed.

Email

- For PTM's position on hell, see the November 2007 Plain Truth cover story "Eternal Torture—Divine or Human Vengeance?"



How Would Jesus Vote...?

I have enjoyed your magazine for many years. You have given me reason for much thought about Christianity and about local churches. I agree with many of your articles on keeping the church secondary to your individual relationship with Jesus.

But I must comment on your article in the September/October issue, "How Would Jesus Vote...or Would He Even Bother?" This year's election was possibly the most important one that anyone will have an opportunity to participate in. When you say that Jesus would not vote, it adds to the complacency in our nation and may cause your readers not to vote.

Alabama

- We invite you to re-read, carefully, what we said and did not say.

Because of what I am about to write, I have to tell you that I am in complete support of PTM. I just think there are not too many people who really understand politics. I have worked with and around politicians for 37 years, although my job was not political in nature.

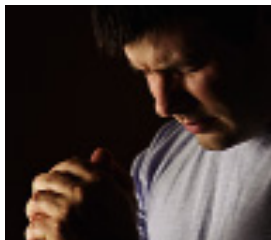
Most people suffer from serious misconceptions about politics. They say things like, "I vote for the person, not the party..." But it is the rarest of individuals who will vote outside the party line, no matter how bad the people are inside their party.

The truth is, if you are an independent, your vote for a person does not count, regardless of how much you like what they say. The politician belongs to a party. When you vote for him or her, you are not voting for them as an individual, but for the political party's agenda. The politician is the "front man" in that district for their party, and they are committed to the party agenda. Politicians normally have no power except to vote for their party's agenda.

Politics far transcends government. It is in every business, group, organization, family, etc. Everyone uses politics, lies, deceives, manipulates, etc. to get power of some sort over someone else.

I realize this is too strong for most people to believe. They dismiss it as pure cynicism. But “truth is not cynicism except to those who don’t know the truth.”

California



Hooked on Religion... How to Kick the Habit

Please cancel my subscription to your magazine. I am grieved at how you and your writers poke fun at the churches. Who takes care of the widows and the elderly and the sick? It was my church who helped me, comforted me and prayed with me these twenty-five years since my husband died.

I used to like your articles, but this one by Ron Benson [July/August 2008] is so hurtful to faithful churchgoers. I’m 77 years old and the church still stands—it will until Jesus returns!

Missouri



Christianity Without the Religion

I cannot thank you enough! I so enjoy your ministry, magazine, website and *Christianity Without the Religion* sermons—everything! Your teaching is invaluable about the healing ministry of Jesus, about our personal relationship with God, about what God’s grace really means, and conversely, how religious ideas are the root cause of so many of our problems.

If you would have seen me six months ago, I just wanted to die—depression took over. After 50 years of being beaten up by religion, and after God’s subsequent intervention in my life, I shouldn’t really even consider the negativity that still comes from some of my “Christian friends.”

But their criticisms and condemnations still get me down. PTM is helping so many of us poor souls out here that are suffering and struggling just to get through the day. Thanks a trillion!

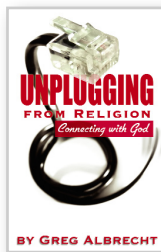
Email

Thanks for praying for me. You have explained a lot of things to me. Thanks for the *Christianity Without the Religion* CDs, booklets, magazines and books you send me. They are a blessing in my Christian life and keep me closer to God. Thanks to all of you and keep up the good work you are doing in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Puerto Rico

Your ministry has been so encouraging in helping me free myself from legalism—from my 20-year association with Jehovah’s Witnesses. I read your magazine through and through, and I read all your email articles. May the Lord continue to lead you to new disciples who are yearning for a way out of legalistic affiliation to the grace of God!

Ohio



Unplugging From Religion... Connecting With God

I thank you SO much for *Unplugging From Religion...Connecting With God*. Reading it absolutely made my day. It is such a breath of fresh air. I will share it with my friends.

Pennsylvania

I am only a few years this side of my 90th birthday, and I want you to know that I have never read a book that is so compelling, so relevant, so absolutely necessary as *Unplugging From Religion...Connecting With God*. I am ordering 15 more copies as gifts.

California

I heard you interviewed on the radio about your new book, *Unplugging From Religion...Connecting With God*. I read it the next week & I’m not disappointed. Great book!

Michigan

- See the back page of this issue to order your copy of *Unplugging From Religion...Connecting With God*.

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