

An upside-down city skyline at night, with numerous illuminated skyscrapers and buildings against a dark blue and purple sky. The lights from the buildings create a bokeh effect in the foreground.

LIVING UPRIGHT

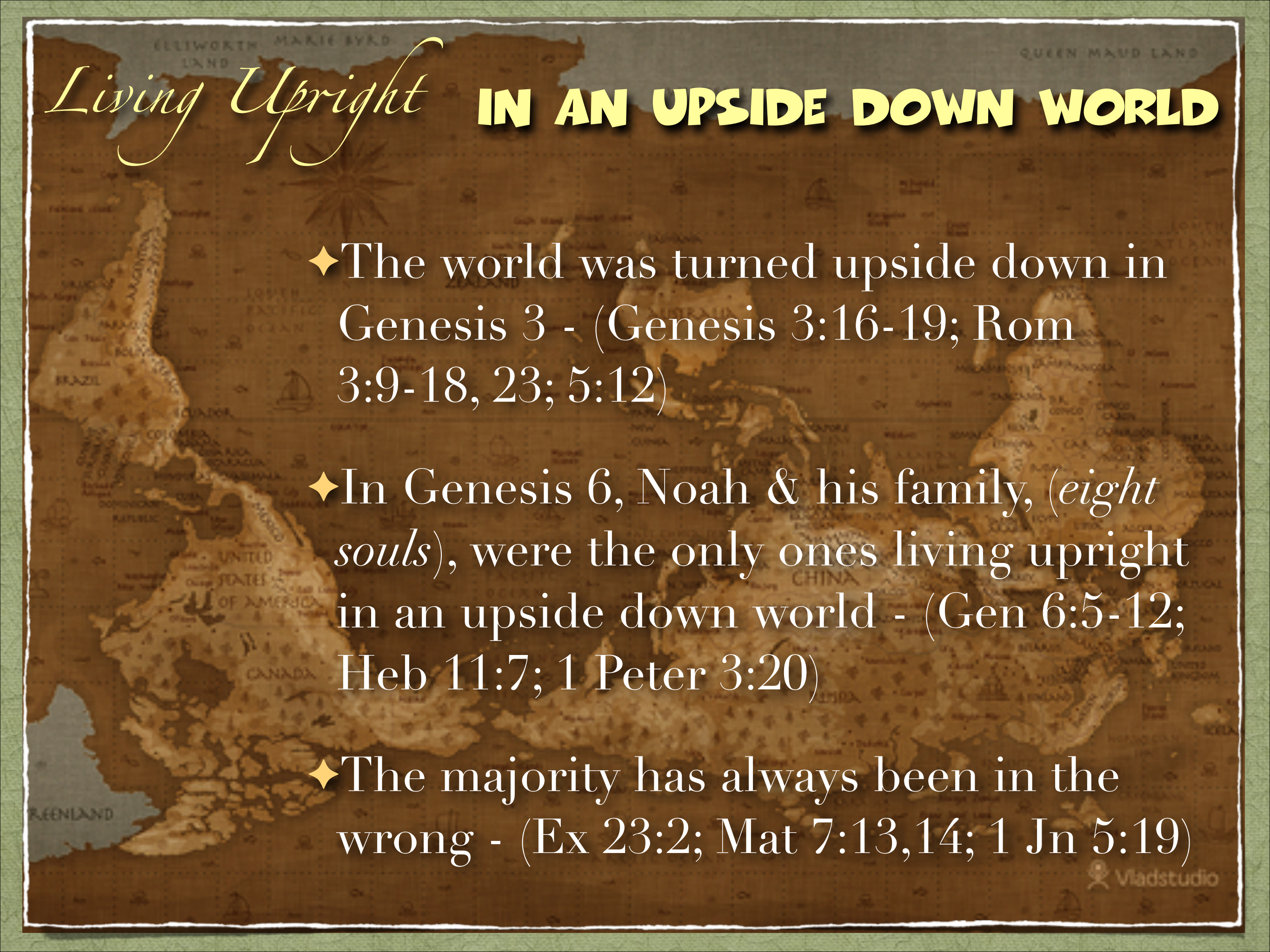
IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

Acts 17:1-7

Isaiah 5:20-24

Luke 16:15





Living Upright

IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

- ♦ The world was turned upside down in Genesis 3 - (Genesis 3:16-19; Rom 3:9-18, 23; 5:12)
- ♦ In Genesis 6, Noah & his family, (*eight souls*), were the only ones living upright in an upside down world - (Gen 6:5-12; Heb 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20)
- ♦ The majority has always been in the wrong - (Ex 23:2; Mat 7:13,14; 1 Jn 5:19)

Living Upright **IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD**

1 John 5:18–21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. ¹⁹ **We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.** ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Living Upright

IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

Acts 17:1-7 (NKJV)

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

The *WORLDLY* View God's Way & His People As Being Upside Down!



Living Upright

IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

Acts 17:1-7 (NKJV)

⁵ But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. ⁷ Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus."

The *WORLDLY* View God's Way & His People As Being Upside Down!



Living Upright

IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

Isaiah 5:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! ²² Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, ²³ Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! ²⁴ Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Living Upright **IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD**

Isaiah 29:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?



Living Upright **IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD**

LUKE 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.



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IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

Psalm 7:10,11 (NKJV)

**¹⁰ My defense *is* of God, Who
saves the upright in heart. ¹¹ God
is a just judge, And God is angry
with the wicked every day.**

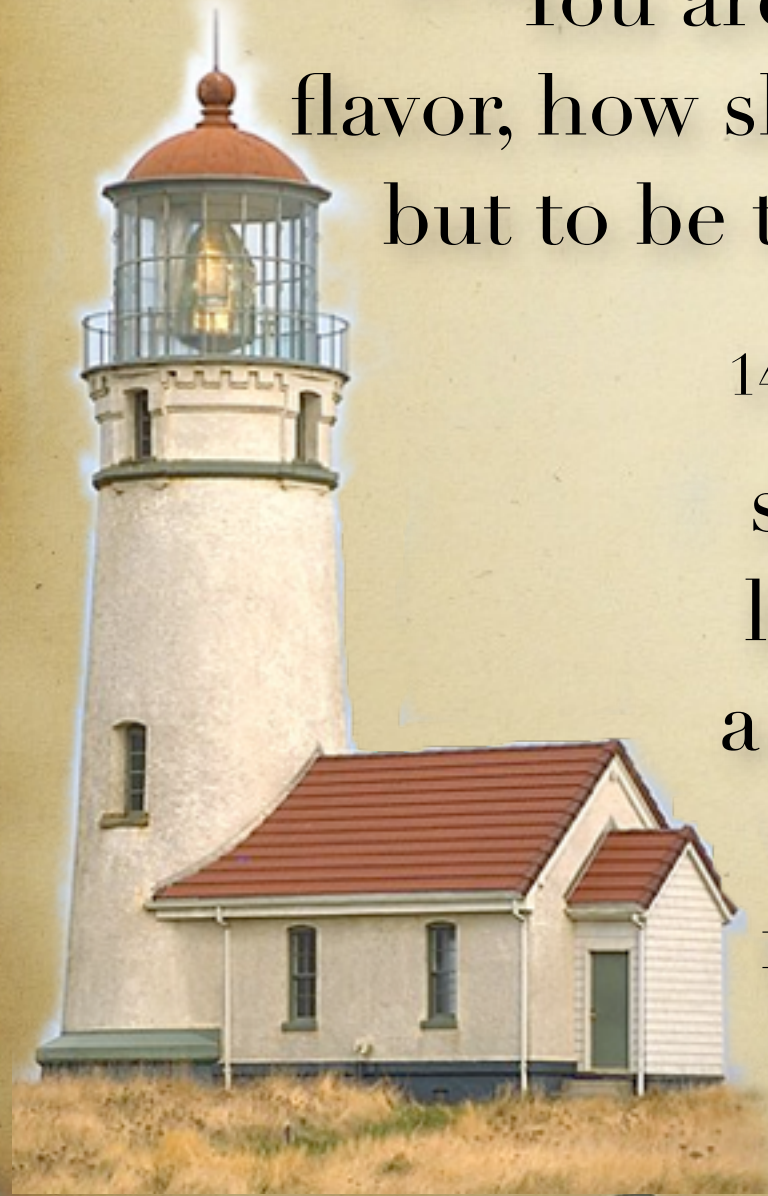


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Salt & Light of the World - Mat 5:13-16

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



Living Upright **IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD**

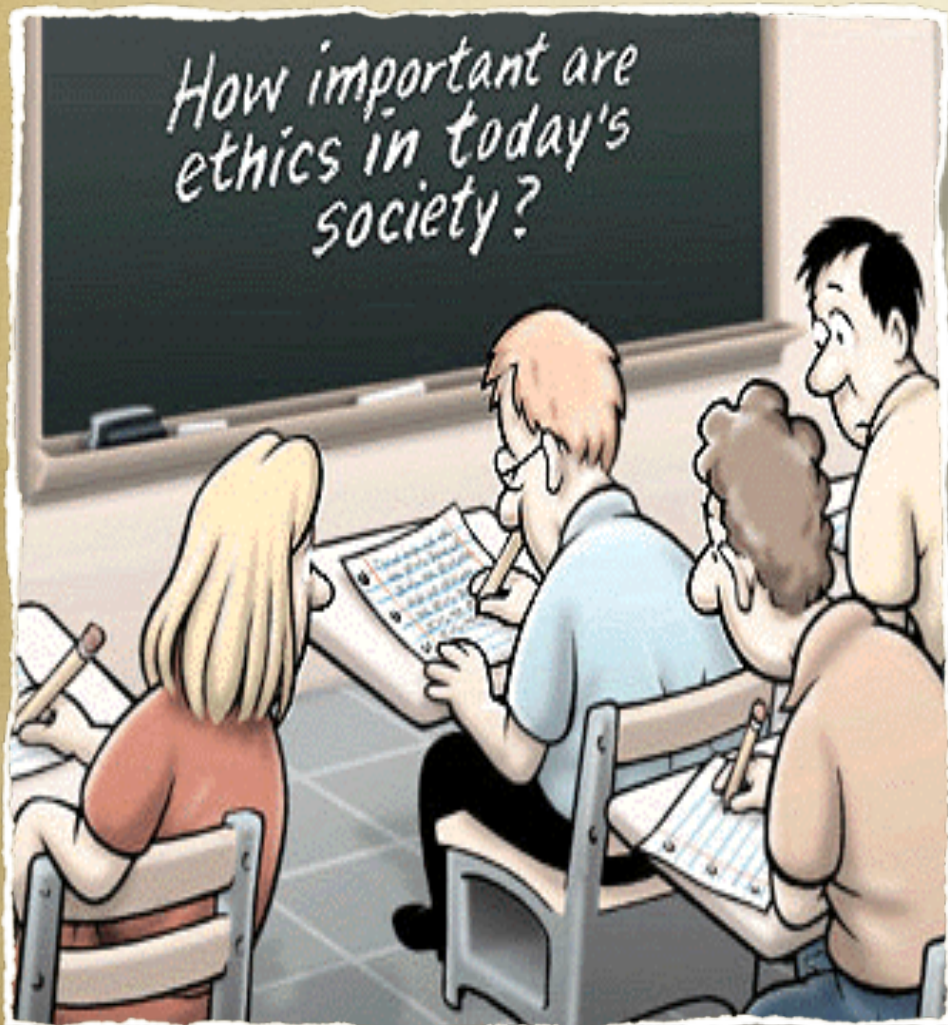
Salt & Light of the World - Mat 5:13-16

- We will not please God OR be a positive influence on the world if we are like the world
- Come out & be separate - 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
- Shine in a crooked world holding forth the word of life - Phil 2:14-16;
- Share faith by letting Jesus be seen in you - Philemon 1:6
- Believing & understanding the truth changes our perspective - Eph 5:17; Col. 1:9; 1 Pet 1:14



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Our Moral Values



- We are to be morally pure
– (Eph 5:3; 1 Cor 6:9-11;
Gal 5:19-21; 1 Pet 1:13-16)
- “⁷ Do not be partakers
with them . . . ¹¹ have no
fellowship . . . expose
them” - (Eph 5:3-18)

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Our Language



Pure – Truthful - Loving
– Helpful –Instructive -

- Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, . . . – (Eph 5:4)
- Sound speech that cannot be condemned, . . . – (Titus 2:8)
- Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. - (Col 4:6)

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Our Clothing -



- Modest clothing Professing godliness – (1 Tim 2:9,10; 1 Peter 3:3)
- Not revealing -
- Not caught up in worldly fashions –
- Not false humility -

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Our Entertainment?

- We are to think on things that are good and wholesome - (Phili 4:8)
- What about the TV programs and movies we watch? The music we listen to? The places we go? The books we read?
- Our mind is easily contaminated by garbage!



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Our Attitude?

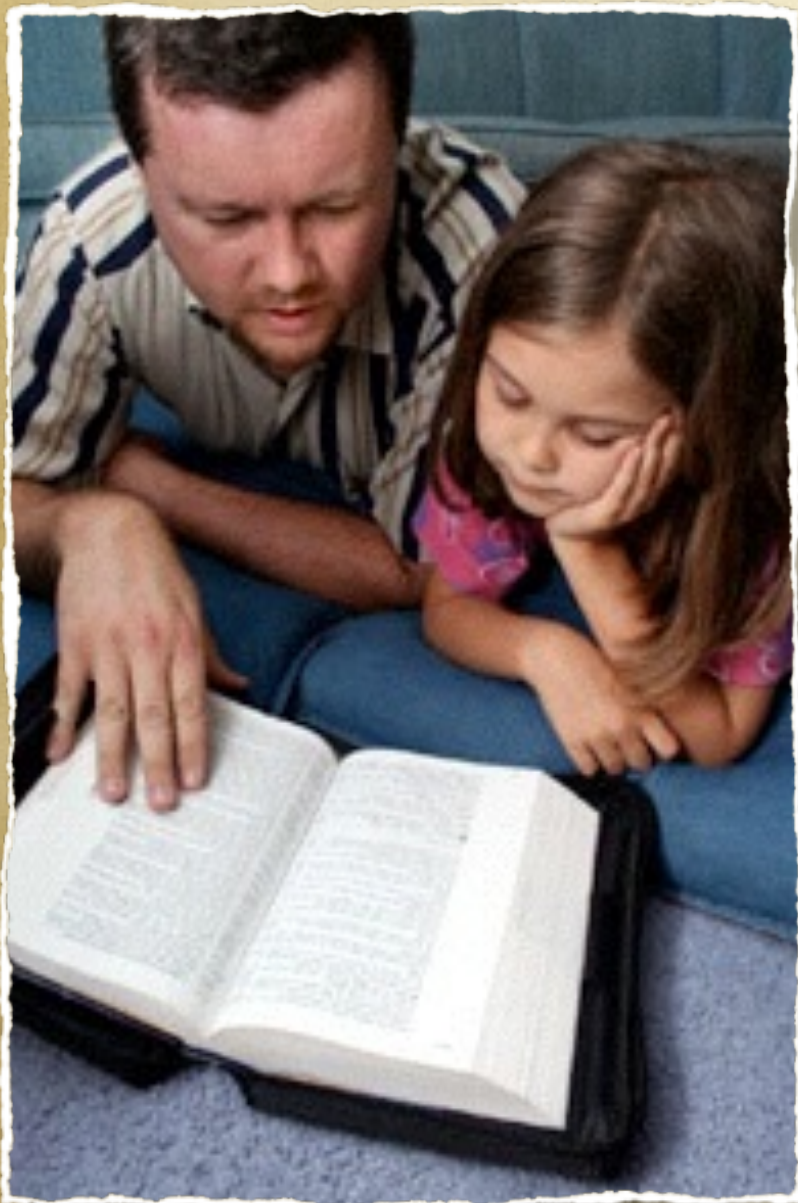
- The Beatitudes, [*humility, hate sin, meekness, hunger for God, merciful, pure, peacemakers, faithful*] - (Mat 5:3-12)
- A supreme Love for God and a sincere love for our fellowman – (Mark 12:29-31)
- Faith & hope – (Phili 4:12,13)



**COMPLAINING?
NAGGING?
NEGATIVE?
HATEFUL?
UNHAPPY?
ETC.**

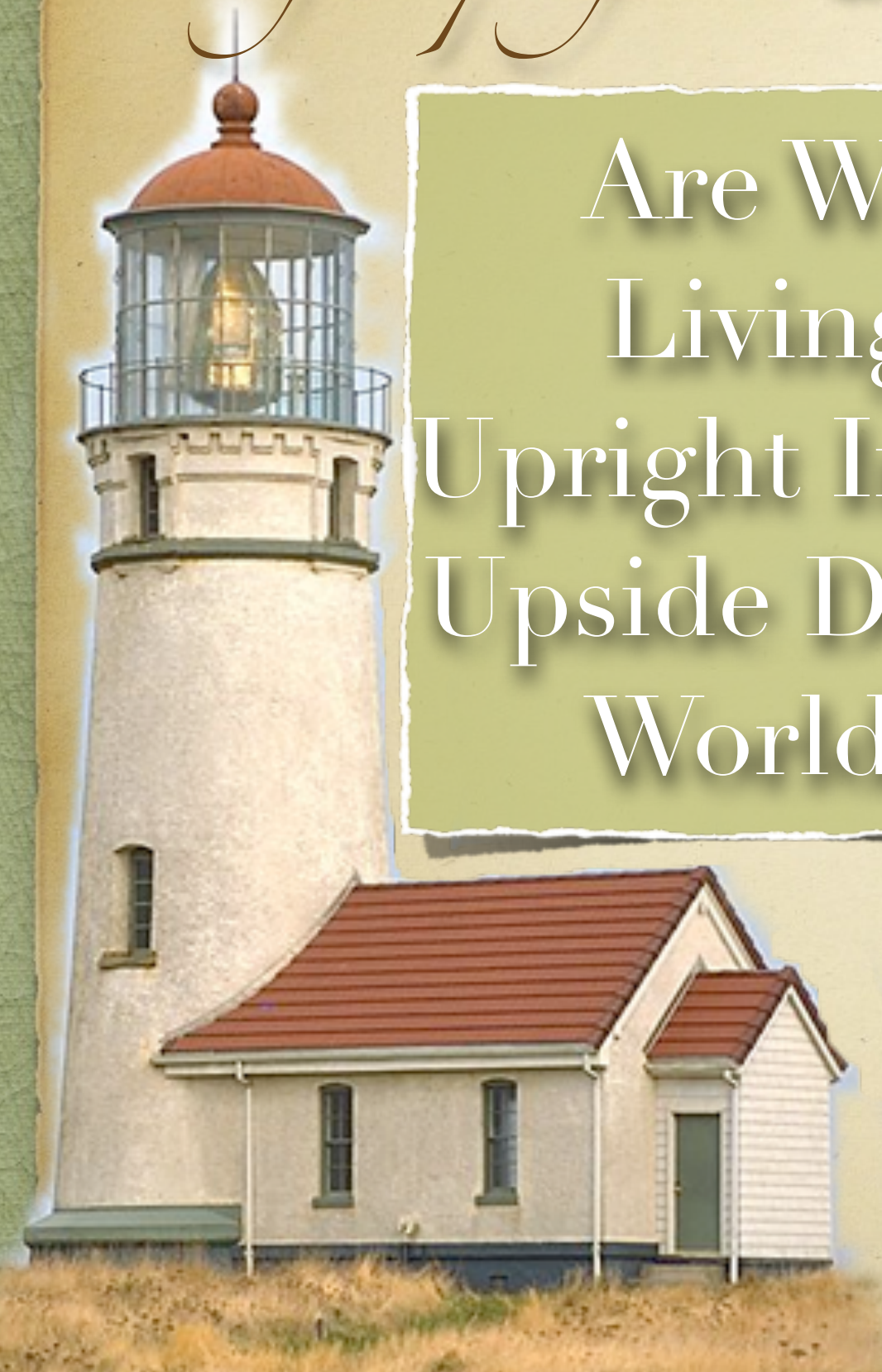
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Our Spirituality?



- Attendance? – (Heb 10:25)
- Worship? – (John 4:24)
- Fruit – (Gal 5:22,23)
- Caring for one another? – (1 John 3:17)
- Our public practice, - (Rom. 1:16) -
*(praying in public? Reading the Bible?
Talking about spiritual things with others,
godly living)*

Living Upright **IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD**



Are We
Living
Upright In An
Upside Down
World?

- Our Morality?
- Our Language?
- Our Clothing?
- Our Entertainment?
- Our Attitude?
- Our Spirituality?



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Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

- ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service.
- ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

ISAIAH 29:9—16 (NKJV)

⁹Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. ¹⁰ For the Lord has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, *namely*, the seers. ¹¹ The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one who is literate, saying, “Read this, please.” And he says, “I cannot, for it *is* sealed.”

ISAIAH 29:9—16 (NKJV)

¹² Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, “Read this, please.” And he says, “I am not literate.” ¹³ Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,¹⁴ Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hidden.”

ISAIAH 29:9—16 (NKJV)

¹⁵Woe to those who seek deep to hide
their counsel far from the Lord, And their
works are in the dark; They say, “Who
sees us?” and, “Who knows us?” ¹⁶

Surely you have things turned around!
Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay;
For shall the thing made say of him who
made it, “He did not make me”? Or shall
the thing formed say of him who formed
it, “He has no understanding”?

Living Upright

IN AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared November 7-9, 2013

Preached November 10, 2013

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