

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.

YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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"THE SIMPLICITY OF INTIMACY WITH JESUS CHRIST" (Part Four)

"Intimacy with JESUS" – There is nothing more important in the Christian walk. Nothing! Correct Doctrine and Theology, Faith to move mountains or to heal the sick, Loving our family and neighbors, Church work or attendance, visiting widows and orphans, Preaching and teaching the Gospel etc. etc., While important, all of these things must take no more than second place to our Love of JESUS CHRIST and our resulting intimacy with Him. It is not sufficient that we only believe in JESUS and expect to receive the full blessing of FATHER. After all, Lucifer believes in JESUS and his demons tremble at the mere mention of His name (see JAMES 2:19). Believing in JESUS is one thing, while loving Him and walking in a place of intimate oneness with Him is something altogether different.

Today, there is very little true intimacy with JESUS among those of us who profess to be born-again believers. Many of us profess to Love JESUS with our mouth while our actions expose our heart and its first love. Our Lord addressed the hypocrites of His day just as He would address us today for similar behavior. Listen –

"These people draw near to ME with their mouth, And honor ME with their lips, But their heart is far from ME. And in vain they worship ME, - - ."
(Matthew 15:8&9)

"In vain they worship ME"! May God have mercy on us and grant us the grace to receive the spirit of repentance for our hypocritical behavior. Week after week after week Churches are filled with people who have met man's conditions for salvation but have mocked God's conditions by denying His word, and IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP HIM! The fires of hell will be stoked with the souls of the "many" who attempted to enter by the "broad way". The broad way is paved with cheap grace and Cheap grace never got anyone into heaven – only hell. (see Matthew 7:13-23). Cheap grace will only produce more of what we are now experiencing among those who call themselves Christians. Need I remind you again that the Christian community is as full of sin as the rest of the world (see my newsletter dated December 30, 2003). Need I remind you that as each year passes the Christian community looks and acts more and more like the world. The average Christian today, regardless of their church affiliation, has more fear of a harmless snake than they do of God who is able to destroy both their soul and body in hell (see

Matthew 10:28). Holiness and righteousness is almost unheard of today in the average Christian community. The rest of the world looks on and laughs as we reflect more and more of a god that we have created in our own image. May God have mercy on us!

For those who have ears to hear, listen and listen closely. The present generation of Christians in the western world, have been exposed to more of God's word, more revelation, been given more tools to aid in the spread of God's Word and given more money (60 BILLION in the U.S. alone in 2003) than any previous generation. If the first century saints were told of the blessings that we have received, no doubt they would rejoice believing that we were turning the world upside down for King JESUS. However, their rejoicing would quickly turn into weeping, wailing and mourning when they were informed that we were bringing more shame and reproach on the name of JESUS than any generation before us.

Instead of producing the fruit of holiness and righteousness as we reflected the likeness and image of JESUS CHRIST, our first century brothers and sisters would be shocked to learn that sin in its rawest form was now a part of what is called the Church. What would our first century brothers and sisters think, especially those who watched Ananias and Sapphira drop dead for lying in the presence of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 5:1-5), as they observed our total lack of any reverential fear of God? What would they think as they watched us treat our FATHER as our servant, whom we look to to bless us and give us whatever we asked for? What would they think as they observed our religious pride and listened to our mouths declare an arrogant confidence of our good standing before the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the God that they Knew so well? What would our first century brothers and sisters think about our Christian heroes who live in gated communities, fly on multi-million dollar private jets, ride in the finest limousines and dress themselves as kings, while much of the world starves to death? What would they think? What reaction would our first century brothers and sisters have that watched JESUS drive the money changers from the Temple (see Matthew 21:12&13), as they watched us buy and sell our books, tapes, Videos etc., right in the assembly? Would the first century believers even call us true brothers and sisters? I doubt if they would! May God help us! May God help us!

Dear saints, I pray that you are counted among the few who have ears to hear our FATHER'S warning. He is pleading with us to repent, turn from our wicked ways – or else! We are now in a season where intimacy with JESUS is critical to our spiritual, emotional and physical well being. These days in which we are living are dangerous days indeed. When I say that, I am not referring to terrorism. I am referring to the judgment of God as it applies to His people.

"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"
(1 Peter 4:17)

Regardless of what you hear the preachers, TV evangelists and others saying to the contrary, I am telling you that God is preparing to set His house in order and it will

not be without pain and a lot of it. Only the remnant that hears His warning and obeys, will escape His severest discipline. FATHER is giving us plenty of warning and opportunity to turn away from man's religion and back to Him. If you complete reading this message, you will never be able to say again – "I didn't know."

Now for those who might feel that my words reflect no more than my opinion and for all you know I might be nothing more than a misguided religious sorehead. The warning that FATHER has given me to sound, He has also given to countless others. The cry of the Watchman is now rising across America and around the world. Please allow me to share a few quotes from one well known and highly respected leader in the Christian world. In April of this year Dr. Henry Blackaby addressed the Heart-Cry for Revival Conference, at the Cove in Ashville, North Carolina. The Cove is the conference Center that Billy Graham has developed where thousands of Christians hold retreats and conferences each year. Listen to these quotes from Dr. Blackaby:

"I'm one along with Bill Bright who concluded that 9/11 was God's warning to God's people that He was beginning to remove the hedge of protection from the nation because of the sin of God's people – not the sin of the nation, because the sin of the nation is a reflection that the salt has lost its saltiness, and the light no longer disperses the darkness.

God's people are clearly responsible for the condition of America."

"Certainly one characteristic of this generation is that we have lost the fear of God."

"What's happening is that we're shaping God into the shape we want Him to be. That is evangelical idolatry."

"Why does revival tarry? Because God's people are full of idolatry."

"God's people are not facing the incredible need for us to repent."

"The heart of God is broken that we have forsaken Him."

"The church remains full of sin."

If interested, you may obtain a full copy of Dr. Blackaby's address by contacting "*Herald of His Coming*" at 1-812-442-6200. Ask for a copy of the July issue. It is free for the asking.

Saints, we have forsaken the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We have departed from Him, mocked His word by rewriting it to accommodate the dictates of our own heart. The sword, pestilence and a famine of hearing God's word (Amos 8:11&12) is now visiting us and will grow in severity until God has purged His people and set His house in order. How hard will our God have to come down on us before we will humble ourselves and repent for our behavior? If past history is any indication, we are in for the most

difficult of times. Sadly, God's people have always been very slow to respond to His warnings. Today, we are no different. We keep on hearing, but we do not understand. We keep on seeing but we do not perceive and our hearts are dull. We are the mirror image of the people of Isaiah's day and we can expect our God to respond now, just as He did then. I would recommend prayerfully reading the first six chapters of the book of Isaiah for those who desire to be counted among FATHER'S remnant in these latter days.

Today there is a tendency among those who do recognize our present condition to come up with a plan, a program to correct or to improve what we call the church. This is a natural human response coming from well-intentioned believers. However, it is doomed to failure. The only sure antidote for our current state of spiritual corruption is true repentance that flows from the heart of that one who desires above all things in life – an intimate walk with JESUS CHRIST. Correction, deliverance, restoration, revival, holiness and righteousness, repentance and intimacy with JESUS CHRIST starts with me! It starts with you! Not with someone else – not with some corporate body of believers somewhere – NO! – It all starts with each one of us right where we are. We cannot blame others for our lack of individual intimacy with JESUS CHRIST and we cannot blame others for a lack of revival in the church. We can only blame "self"!

Man's greatest hindrance to experiencing an intimate relationship with our Lord is "SELF". My greatest enemy is "me" – "My" fleshly nature – what "I" believe – "My" opinion – "My" needs – "My" wants. Without realizing it, life becomes all about "me". My relationship with God becomes all about "me", "my" life, "my" family, "my" church – Me – Me - Me – what can God do for me today?

Saints, what I am telling you is the truth. The problem of "self" is not peculiar to me. It is a spiritual disease and a form of corruption that has risen to epidemic levels in the Christian community in these latter days on God's calendar. For the average Christian today "self" has become the center of the individual universe. Everything in life, including JESUS CHRIST, rotates around the individual. May God have mercy on us all!

This writer is in and out of a lot of fellowship meetings and prayer meetings with believers from all walks of life and I am here to tell you that our prayer life confirms what I am telling you today. Even our thanksgiving (and thank Him we must) is all about self – self received! – self got blessed because FATHER answered self's request. When will God's people realize that life is not about us? When will God's people realize that all of creation is about God? What about FATHER'S desires? What about FATHER'S will? What about the Kingdom and the Government of God? When will we turn away from our "self centered" world and turn to Him – alone? When will we get our eyes off the church, off our works and off our religious heroes and idols and focus them on Him? He and He alone is! Everything was created by Him and for Him – not for me, nor for you.

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

"And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

(Colossians 1:16-18)

Everything in life was created by Him and for Him. Clearly, He is to have preeminence in all things. Sadly, we have allowed a false angel of light to come in and convince us that life is all about us – our pleasure and our happiness. JESUS CHRIST no longer has the preeminence in all things among the majority of those who claim to be His followers. Is it any wonder that so few of us actually live and move and have our being in Him (Acts 17:28) and enjoy true intimacy with Him, as our first century brothers and sisters did? They walked day by day in the revelation that He alone was the way, the truth and the life that FATHER desires we live in. JESUS said:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

There is no other way – no other truth and no other life than that which is found in JESUS. To draw on His way, His truth and His life in reality, can only come from an intimate walk with Him. That walk will lead the one who desires Him alone into the secret place where he or she will abide in His shadow (see Psalm 91). From that secret place where the focus is only on Him and His will, "self" will quickly fade away, and He will increase as will all of His promises to those who desire only His glory (see 2 Corinthians 1:20).

I conclude by reminding you that Intimacy with JESUS CHRIST starts with an individual's choosing to "come out" and separate themselves wholly unto Him. For most of us, that will mean leaving the comfortable world of organized religion and taking up our cross and follow Him. That is the only way one will ever come into an intimate walk with Him. To think otherwise is to bow your knee to "self". May God grant you the grace to hear Him calling. He is knocking on your door – will you open it and allow Him to come in? This is the hour of separation – for very dark days loom ahead. On that day when you stand before Him, I pray that you will be counted among the few that held Him above all else in life, especially religion.

Please, never forget that whatever your need – He is! If you are walking in intimacy with Him, all that He has is flowing through you. This is His desire for each of us but it is not available except on His terms.

Your Brother



Tom