

"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)

SEPTEMBER 8, 2004

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JESUS CHRIST

OUR ONLY HOPE!

Dear saints, I greet you in the name of JESUS CHRIST, the only begotten Son of the living God. I greet you in the name of the King of Kings – the Lord of Lords – JESUS CHRIST! The sweetest sound heard by the angels, falling from the lips of mortal man is His name, spoken in reverential love and adoration. It is in that Name that I come to you through these words. As we fellowship together through this message may our Lord JESUS CHRIST be on the increase in and through us, and may we be on the decrease. (John 3:30)

Though we are separated, some by thousands of miles and on different continents, may we come together in the unity of the Spirit, where there is no separation due to distance or time. May our hearts beat together in the unity of JESUS CHRIST, and may we as one body cry out "Yes and amen" Lord! – "Yes and amen"!

One of the greatest blessings of being set free from the bondage of organized religion is that one can fellowship with the sons and daughters of God in the freedom of JESUS CHRIST. When we enter into Him and He into us, (John 14:20) all of man's organized religion is driven out of the heart. We literally become one with Him. We give up our personal affections in favor of His. He becomes the center of our attention and literally our very life. We now belong to Him and to Him alone.

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

**"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.
For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.**

Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

(Romans 14: 7 & 8)

Today, for the most part, we are far too "self-centered" rather than being "Christ-Centered". Sadly, the vast majority of Christians have become so saturated with man's religion and so self-confident that we have the truth, that most of us would never recognize our Lord if He were to manifest Himself to us – especially if it were in a

manner that did not agree with our personal theology. I am amazed how easily man is deceived into believing that his religious beliefs, his religious organizations, are correct. In fact, the flesh of man has corrupted the organized Church so totally that FATHER will have to destroy it in the end. A house divided cannot stand!

If a Kingdom is divided against itself, that Kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (JESUS speaks – Mark 3: 24 & 25)

Our Lord was making a strong point in Mark 3, when He clearly explained a spiritual law that is as certain as the law of gravity in the natural realm. The Church, the house, the Kingdom, the government, etcetera, that is divided against itself – CANNOT STAND! Many of us are unaware of how totally Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Charismatic, etc., our hearts have become. Our first love – our first loyalty is to our religion, which is a form of "self worship". Of course, we stamp the name of JESUS on our individual organizations as if that seals its legitimacy. So strongly do we believe in our organizations that we will defend them to our grave and break fellowship with all who would expose the darkness of our hearts. Oh that such loyalty would be directed to our only hope – JESUS CHRIST! Oh that we would defend Him, defend His word and proclaim His Kingdom with the same zeal that we apply in defending our own Church. Oh that we would denounce our religious pride and acknowledge that in relation to the wholeness of GOD – we know nothing!

**"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.**

**"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than
your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55: 8 & 9)**

Could it be any clearer? God's ways and thoughts are above ours, and unless we acknowledge that truth and come to JESUS as a little child in meek humility, we are in danger of being found unworthy of entering into the Kingdom of God. This is as serious as it gets for those of us who call ourselves Christians.

**Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom
of God as a little child will by no means enter it." (Luke 18:17)**

JESUS continues to warn us today through His word, that those who have a love for anything or any person which is greater than a love of Him, is not worthy of Him. To emphasize this truth He used our closest relatives as examples. Listen –

**"He who loves father or mother more than ME is not worthy of ME.
And he who loves son or daughter more than ME is not worthy of ME.
And he who does not take his cross and follow after ME is not worthy of ME.
He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will
find it." (Matthew 10: 37-39)**

God's living word (see Hebrews 4:12) is abundantly clear. When all is said and done, life or death depends upon man's personal relationship with JESUS CHRIST. I am fully persuaded that Hell will be well populated with individuals who were faithful to their form of Christian religion, but who's hearts never were in love with Him. They may have even experienced some fleshly emotions that they mistook for true love. But, when push came to shove, they would choose their religion over JESUS – every time and never think twice about it. We people of God have a long and well documented history of allowing our personal affections to limit, or in some cases, destroy our spiritual growth. Paul warned us of this fleshly tendency in 2nd Corinthians, chapter six, verse 12. Listen –

"You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections."

Our personal affections will always, at the very least, limit our spiritual growth, and at worst, deny our entry into God's Kingdom. That is, unless our affections are centered on JESUS CHRIST as the Lord of our very life. This goes way beyond just believing in JESUS. Personal affections are a part of each of us, and whether or not we will admit it, I would suggest that many, if not most of our affections are out of God's order. I would further suggest that the most dangerous affections that we have are our religious affections which are not centered on JESUS. Religious affections, even good ones, apart from JESUS tend to numb our spirit man and cause us to become quite comfortable and confident in what is, much of the time, deception. Religious pride and self worship are the fruits produced by such deception. Once a person falls into this bondage, they have no ability to learn, and they begin to enter into a state of spiritual rot. A.W. Tozer had a lot to say about this subject. If interested, you may obtain a copy of his book *Rut, Rot Or Revival*, published by Christian Publications, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. (www.christianpublications.com)

Dear saints, when we take our eyes off the simplicity of God in the form of a man called JESUS CHRIST, who desires above all things an intimate relationship with each of us, we become easy prey for the false angel of light and his false ministers of righteousness. Jesus warned us of this danger in Matthew, chapter 24 and Paul wrote the following warning in 2nd Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 14 & 15;

"And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

Just because it may appear to be light, may appear to be righteousness and may even seem to agree with God's word – does not mean that it is in fact God. I cannot overstress this point. FATHER'S word clearly warns us that in the latter days "deception" would be our greatest danger. (see Matthew 24:4-14 and 23-28, also Colossians 2: 8-10. As well as 2nd Corinthians 11:3 & 4, and 2nd Timothy 3: 12-17, and 1st Corinthians 3: 18-23, and Ephesians 5: 6 & 7)

Today, there is a new gospel being preached, a gospel of tolerance and inclusion, a gospel of mixture where the unholy is included with the holy. There is a new gospel of

dirt cheap grace that no longer calls for a walk of holiness and obedience to the words of the Living God. Today we preach a new gospel that has been added to and taken from, all in the name of JESUS. The flesh of man has risen to new heights in what we call the Church. Hidden agendas abound, and we have heaped more shame and reproach on the name of JESUS CHRIST than any generation before us. May God have mercy on us all.

To those in leadership that have become the agents of a new gospel, Paul had this to say:

"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1: 8 & 9)

To Paul's words, I can only add amen. To those of us who are given opportunity to preach, teach, share individually, or write, may we approach such an opportunity with fear and trembling, and only with CHRIST JESUS as our motivation. To do otherwise, is to invite an encounter with God that will be anything but pleasant.

Today, I want to encourage the people of God who desire an intimate relationship with JESUS CHRIST. A relationship that will allow Him to manifest Himself to them, in them, and through them. I must tell you that your potential in Him far exceeds your present experience. He desires that you become one of His disciples – one of His trusted disciples – one that will be known in the throne room of God, as a friend of the King. While I believe that each of us has this potential in Him, I am certain that it will cost us dearly, and that the majority of us will yield to our flesh and settle for the temporal comforts of modern day Christianity. Nevertheless, I have purposed in my heart to continue sounding the alarm and to encourage us to pursue a walk of holiness in JESUS CHRIST in hopes that perhaps one or two might wake up and join the ranks of those who serve God and not the flesh of man. In the end nothing else will have any eternal value.

Today, mankind, including what we casually refer to as the Church, is, for the most part, helpless, hopeless, and totally undone. Unfortunately, the vast majority of we Christians are unaware of just how helpless we are, apart from the manifested presence of JESUS CHRIST on our behalf. It is evident that many of us, myself included, have written a lot of checks on the promises of God that we have been unable to cash. The simple reason being that He never authorized the checks to be written in the first place. Most of our spiritual checks written in prayer or declared in open speech have had nothing to do with God being glorified and a lot to do with self gratification and self fulfillment. That would include promoting our religious organizations that provide for our personal identity. We forget that in all things, He seeks the glory. Listen to His own words-

**"For ALL THE PROMISES of God in Him (JESUS) are Yes, and in Him (JESUS) Amen, TO THE GLORY OF GOD through us."
(2nd Corinthians 1:20)**

To the glory of God! When we focus solely on JESUS and devote ourselves to Him alone, our FATHER is glorified. Our Lord's Kingdom is not only expanded but it is also strengthened and we are blessed according to His good pleasure. (see Matthew 6:33) Is it not time that we people of God come down off our spiritual high horses and humble ourselves before Him, admitting that we have made a mess of His house by taking our eyes off JESUS and forgetting the importance of living for His glory and not our own? Isn't it time to admit that if our Lord does not help us by intervening on our behalf that we have no hope? I am persuaded that most of us could use a good dose of meek humility and what better time than now to denounce the works of our flesh as being unfruitful in God's Kingdom.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain." (Psalm 127:1)

Saints, I declare to you in the name of JESUS CHRIST, that if our God has not ordained it – if He has not established it – if He does not confirm it – then the work, though well intentioned, was mere spiritual foolishness. We cannot accomplish anything that has any eternal value attached to it apart from His direct involvement. To think otherwise would be to deny Him and His word. Listen –

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in ME, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without ME you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

"He who abides in ME and I in him" – these are the ones who bear much fruit, and apart from this condition being met, we can do nothing. Oh we may perform a lot of what we believe to be good works, and in the natural realm they may be so. However, they have no eternal value (see 1st Corinthians 3: 11-17). Apart from our abiding in JESUS, and He in us, we only reproduce dead religion.

In Mark 16:20 we are told that after our Lord returned to heaven, He continued to work with His disciples by confirming His word through accompanying signs. Today, much of His word that we have presumed upon has gone unconfirmed. What does that tell you? It tells me that we have a problem here on earth. It tells me that we are not as spiritually mature as we thought we were. It tells me that we have not met His conditions and it shows me more than ever of just how dependent I am on Him.

I will continue this message at a later date. In the meantime let me urge you to separate your heart wholly unto Him. It all starts by seeking Him in meek humility, and at the same time, denouncing all religious influences that may be hindering you. Remember, HE is our only hope!

God Bless,

Tom

