

**"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)**

www.oakhillministries.org ■ 2115 Graefenburg Road ■ Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
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Jesus Christ our Love (Part IV)

**“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”
(Luke 12:48b)**

**“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes
down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or
shadow of turning.**

**Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might
be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.” (James 1:17 & 18) Emphasis Added**

Who among us would deny that we have been given much by our Father? Of all the people on the earth, those of us in the Western world and especially those of us in North America have been richly blessed by our God. Not only blessed materially, but also blessed spiritually. And what does He say that He desires in return, if anything? Much! Father’s word is clear. Not only does our Father desire “much” in return for “much” given, but He says that “much **will be required.**” Webster defines the word “much” as follows: “A great quantity, amount, extent or degree”. Webster also defines the word “require” as follows: “to demand as necessary or essential – a command, order”. When Jesus declares that “much” will be required of us we should pay very close attention to His words. Never forget - - -

**“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should
repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He
not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19)**

Failing to take God’s word seriously, as if one’s life depended on it (and it does!), always brings some form of destruction or death to the one who turns a deaf ear to God. We will never be able to say that we were not forewarned. When it comes to God’s word – The word that He has spoken to us – there is no room for man to question or debate same. That is not my opinion, that is God’s command.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life”. (Galatians 6: 7 & 8)

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My word, has that which judges him --- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

(John 12:48) Emphasis Added

Father’s word could not be clearer. When it comes to those who are given much, from those He expects “much”. His word is also clear in stating that one may give “much” and have that “much” counted as **nothing** if the one giving has not His love in them. In other words, all of our preaching, all of our teaching, all of our working with the youth, all of our good works along with our giving of money amounts to “nothing” – if His love is not in us. (Corinthians 13: 1 – 13)

As Paul was preparing to be executed, he sat down and wrote one last letter to his disciple and dear friend, Timothy. That letter is known as 2 Timothy. In chapter three Paul prophesied about the “latter days”. I believe that the evidence, concerning these days in which we live, is overwhelming. You and I are living out the “last days” of which Father’s word has much to say. As we listen to Paul’s words, remember that he knew that he was getting ready to be beheaded. May Father grant us the ears to hear what the Spirit was, and **is** saying to us.

“Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (2 Timothy 3: 1 – 7) Emphasis Added

What Paul prophesied in his last letter to Timothy you and I are now witnessing. Who among us would deny that “perilous” (dangerous) times have come? Today, robbery, murder, assault, rape, auto accidents, contaminated food (for both human and animal), polluted air and water, have become a part of our everyday life. Then there are the plagues of cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s disease, arthritis, and diabetes spreading across the land like a raging wild fire driven by Santa Ana winds. That’s not to mention the constant threat of terrorism around the world. If these days are not “perilous”, I would hate to see those that were. Clearly we are now living in the days of God’s prophecy fulfilled. So “perilous” are these days that only those who live – moment by moment – in the reality of the 91st Psalm have any reasonable hope of making it through without taking a hit.

“He who dwells in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1) Emphasis Added

I have said for years, and I will say again – Father will have a people – a remnant of over comers who will live in the reality of Psalm 91:1. They will receive all of the protection outlined in that Psalm, not in word only, but in deed! Many Christians today quote and claim the 91st Psalm and its benefits, but they fail to

receive those benefits because they do not “dwell” and “abide” in His secret place, except in word only. This applies to me and to you. My point is proven by measuring our present condition by God’s word.

When Paul prophesied about these days in which we live, he had a lot to say about “Love”. Let’s honestly examine our present condition in light of what he said. Paul said that we would be a people who “loved themselves”. Oh how we love ourselves. For the most part, we have become a people who are totally “self centered”. “Self” is the center of our world. Life revolves around “me”. “I” am the important one at the beginning and at the close of each day. Some of you may be saying – “That’s not me Tom”. “I do not think that way.” If that’s your response, dear reader, I would only say – Don’t be so sure of yourself!

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3) Emphasis Added

“For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself:” (Galatians 6: 3) Emphasis Added

Today, we Christians are constantly expressing our love of “self” as we live out each day. Listen to our words: **I** love my daughter. **I** love my son. **I** love my husband – my wife. **I** just love my church. **I** love my pastor _____. **I** love to eat at _____. **I** love basketball – football, etc. **I** love that movie. **I** love my grandson – granddaughter. **I** love popcorn – chocolate. **I** love my Bible Study. **I** love my ministry. All of these things, and much more, can be in and of themselves, good. However, when we begin to listen through the ears of the Spirit we only hear **I, I, I, I!** Self – Self – Self! You never heard Jesus talking this way! He only spoke of loving Father, Himself and one’s neighbor or brothers and sisters in the body of believers. Without realizing it, we have turned inward and become “self” worshippers. We are very much in love with ourselves and that love affair is costing us dearly when it comes to spiritual growth.

“You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.” (2 Corinthians 6:12) Emphasis Added

Paul also prophesied that we would become “lovers of money”. I could write a book on this subject, and I could write it in the “first person” as one who has had an adulterous affair with money. In my adult lifetime, I have made a lot of money and I have lost a lot of money. Making money has never been difficult for me. In addition, I have spent over 20 years on a Bank Board and have done much financial counseling. So when I speak about money, I am speaking from personal experience. I have been a “lover of money”, but the Lord that I now serve has set me free from that bondage. However, I do not boast about that freedom, as I fully realize that that illicit lover called “money” is continually wooing me back to her bed. Never-the-less, by Father’s grace I will expose the works of this enemy of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus reserved some of His most scathing remarks for the subject of money – both for the personal use of it and its use in the corporate body or church. Listen to just two examples, there are many others:

“Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:23 & 24)

“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, “It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.”
(Matthew 21:12&13)

Before any of us declares that we are not “rich”, we need to ask ourselves the question – compared to whom, Bill Gates or a born again believer in the desert of Sudan? Today, many of us who call ourselves followers of Christ are stained by the filthy lucre of Babylon. Many Christian men that I know personally, are spiritually blinded by dollar signs. There is never enough money to satisfy the man or woman who is in love with the Babylonian system of the world.

The love of money is not just an individual problem though that is where it always begins, but it has now become a corporate problem in the church. The church is no different than the rest of the world when it comes to the issue of money. When I speak of the church, I include individual ministries just like Oak Hill ministries. For the most part (there are a few rare exceptions), we are in debt up to our eyeballs because it is easier to trust the Banker than it is to trust the Holy Spirit. Of course, we always seem to justify our sin by using the name of Jesus, as if the end justified the means. We think nothing of turning a deaf ear to God’s word because we have absolutely no fear of Him.

“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”
(Proverbs 22:7) Emphasis Added

The day the church or ministry signs the Banker’s note, is the day the church enters into a contract of “servitude”. We are servants, not of Christ, but of Babylon. If you do not believe that, miss a few payments and you will quickly learn who rules over you.

As bad as debt is for the church, there is something much worse. Peddling or exchanging for money, the Gospel, or anything else that has been “freely” given to us by God, far exceeds the transgression of debt. Let’s listen to Jesus as He gave instruction to those He was sending out into the harvest field for the souls of men -----

“As you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.’ (Matthew 10: 7 & 8) Emphasis Added

It is one thing for me to take something that comes from me – from Tom – my opinion or my own knowledge and offer to sell it to you, and quite another to take something that I claim has been given or revealed to me by God and offer to sell it to you! If I shake you down for your “best” love offering so my ministry, or God’s church can continue, I am no more than a carnival barking huckster dressed in religious clothing. Even worse would I be if I agreed with Father’s word and denounced the peddling of His gifts and then attempted to manipulate you into giving by twisting, adding to, and taking from His word. At that point I am in partnership with the ancient deceiver who first spoke in the Garden.

Today, we have set up our money tables in the church houses across the land, only now we call them bookstores. Today, we have “self-proclaimed” Scribes, Prophets, Teachers, Preachers, etc. that fill what we call Christian television and radio with a form of money driven religion that I believe makes God

exceedingly angry. From time-to-time, I make myself watch a broad cross section of Christian television and listen to what the Spirit says to me. I find it painful. It is in truth, nauseating, sickening, and makes me want to vomit! When I think about our Blood Soaked KING, and as His words echo in my ears – “Freely you have received, freely give”, I cannot help but hear One just outside the door preparing His whip of judgment-----

“And He found in the temple those who sold oxen (books) and sheep (tapes) and doves (oil, beads, trinkets, prayer cloths) and the money changers (clerks) doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the money changers money and overturned the tables. He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise.”

(John 2: 14 – 16) Personal Emphasis Added

We may choose to ignore our Lord’s words and His response to those in the church of His day here on earth, but I can assure you that He will soon express His heated anger and once again drive the money grubbing spirits out of His church. Our behavior is wicked in this matter!

“To the wicked God says: “What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes. Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver:”

(Psalm 50: 16, 17, 21 & 22)

May God have mercy on us all!

Paul prophesied that we would be an “unloving” people and so we are. We talk much of love, but have little understanding of its meaning. Agape Love does not express itself in money grubbing, controlling, manipulating and domineering behavior. True Love does not break fellowship with someone just because they disagree with you. True love, first, before family, before country and before church, loves Abba Father. Second, true love loves the brothers and sisters who also love God first, and in that Love, there is unity, and that unity of the love of God, within His own, will confirm God’s love to the world (see John 17: 20 – 23). All other love follows. May I suggest that we have become, for the most part, a loveless people who fail to show the world anything, except that we are just like them? May God have mercy on us!

Paul also said that we would become “lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God.” The world today offers us much pleasure: Food, spectator sports, golf, tennis, movies, secular books, television, luxury cruises, fishing, hunting, a country club life style with private dining, card playing and shopping sprees in some of the world’s most glamorous malls – all of this and much more has infected the church as we know it today. We have become intoxicated with worldly pleasures and proudly declare that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has blessed us as we carry on an illicit love affair with the world. We openly mock God with such an attitude.

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3: 1 & 2)

Clearly, we love our pleasures more than we love God. Even our private conversations that may begin with a discussion of the things of the Spirit soon turn to our “first love” – our pleasures. I personally know but a few, maybe six or eight men, who would engage in a lengthy conversation pertaining to our Homeland (Heaven), our King and other matters of His Kingdom and Government. This is sad indeed. The church is in “spiritual freefall”. Sickness, disease, various plagues, divorce, poverty, debt, madness, along with strife and division sweep through our ranks, and all the while the men continue to gorge themselves at the trough of Babylon. May God have mercy.

Finally, we have clearly become a people who are: “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” We evangelicals run from book to book – conference to conference – tape to tape – religious service to religious service, and yes, from message to message just like this one, and we just cannot seem to get off the religious merry-go-round and settle in the shadow of His holiness. Truly, we have become just exactly as Paul said that we would. May God have mercy on us all, in these latter days, and may He grant us the grace to make a break from our religious prison cell before we too, fall into the Hands of the Living God.

Dear friends, things are going to get much worse from here on out. To believe otherwise is to ignore the very words of Christ, Paul, and John, as well as the other prophets of old. However, Father has always had and has now, a remnant of sons and daughters who hear His warnings. This remnant flees the world and religion as we know it. They are not now, and will not be surprised when Father’s judgment reaches its full maturity, in His own house. He will **then** use His remnant to express His love through, to a people who have lost all hope. My prayer is that you and I will be found worthy to be counted among those that He selects to be “with Him”. One thing is for certain; without Love – true Love – Agape Love – flowing out of our heart, we will find ourselves – outside – and – the door shut! Oh how we need a double portion of His mercy in these latter days!

In the past, and likewise now, true repentance has turned the heart of God toward His people – all else is a waste of time. Please, before it is too late, flee into the Secret Place where repentance is received by Father, and His Love is found waiting just for **you**. May God bless you richly,

Your brother -----

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Tom

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)