

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

The trial of your faith = More precious than gold that perisheth

Is this Covid virus thing beginning to wear on you yet? Do you wish you had a special eraser to totally wipe it out of your memory? Did you grumble when you had to turn your clock back one hour when we went on daylight saving time? After all, who could have wished for one more hour of 2020?

Thave a solution to your dilemma. Operate with the mind of Christ! Jesus took on Himself all the wrath of God against sin and NEVER got discouraged or angry. On the cross, his response to indescribable agony was "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." This is the same Jesus who loved each one of us while we were yet in our sins, and now "rejoices over us" while seated in heavenly places on His throne. His response to His earthly ministry and suffering is: His promised presence: "Come unto me all ye that labor, take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." It is this same Lord Jesus who challenges us to "Rejoice in the (circumstances? Problems? Shortages? -NO! Rather, it says "Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS, and again I say REJOICE."

Let me be clear about this: This suggestion is IMPOSSIBLE, without the "Mind of Christ." Scripture tells us in *Philippians 2:5-11* "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Instead of thinking we don't deserve this, we need to "humble ourselves" and realize what, outside of God's grace and mercy, we truly deserve and begin to thank the Lord for the opportunity to think outside of this box we are in and "rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS, and again I say rejoice."

This season of dread and loneliness is a perfect time to manifest what we say we believe: He will never leave me, nor forsake me." I am not my own, everything in my life belongs to Him! He has promised to "Never leave me, nor forsake me." Consequently, I CHOOSE to "bless the Lord at ALL TIMES, His praise shall continuously be in my heart. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord. The humble shall hear thereof, and be GLAD. Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from ALL MY FEARS." For your edification, read **Psalm 34** and REJOICE! AMEN!

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We, at C.P.R. Ministries would appreciate it very much if you would forward this newsletter to many of your friends. So few today in our churches have ever heard these truths. Allow the Holy Spirit to birth acuriosity in their hearts. Maybe they will join us in getting these truths around the world.

"The fields are white already unto harvest; BUT the laborers are few."

INTEGRITY AND STEADFASTNESS = GODLINESS

by Dr. Joseph A. Webb

<u>James 5:12</u> 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear-not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will open to being condemned."

Matthew 5:33-37 33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the LORD the vows you have made.' 34But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

There is one much talked about characteristic spoken of, but seldom practiced in Christian circles today. In my sixty- five years of ministry, finding people of true integrity has been rare. I have found many who speak of it as though they invented it, but when tested, fail to comprehend all that it entails in God's word.

Concerning the marriage covenant message, thousands have excitedly contacted me and declared their total commitment to this truth. They make strong statements of devotion and commitment to live out this truth till death, but who eventually, return to an easier way, because of opposition and the cost of conviction and commitment.

Think about what Jesus was saying to the future Church. James reinforces this same truth, which he learned while sitting at Jesus' feet: *James 5:12* 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear-not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned."

Please note first of all how important James felt this truth was: "ABOVE ALL." What do those words mean to us today? Does it sound like it is an option, or a preference? What could he have possibly meant by the words, "Otherwise you will be condemned." In the Old Testament we are warned concerning making vows or promises to God and then failing to follow through. Num. 30:2-4; Deut. 23:21-23; Eccl. 5:4-7; Jud. 11:30-32; Isa. 30:13-15; 5:37-39. "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." This is not condemnation preaching, but establishing biblical principles that

do not change, and by which we will be judged. It is described in the Bible as "admonishing." I encourage you to review again the warning against frivolous vows and promises. Does any of this sound serious to you?

In all the years of this ministry, we have met thousands of individuals face to face or on the phone or internet, filled with good intentions and enthusiasm who later on go back to their former, less costly way of living, forgetting what they once VOWED.

For years, as a ministry, we have emphasized the importance of understanding what genuine Christianity really is. We have constantly referred individuals to Luke 14:25-35 to help them understand what New Testament Christianity is truly all about. It is about eternal integrity in our relationship to the Lordship of Jesus Christ; the world and other believers. It is about being willing to die to ourselves completely and DOING the perfect will of God at any cost. In this portion of Luke, Jesus said: NO RIVALS. In other words, there will be no circumstance in life that will take precedence over your commitment to the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ as Adoni= Supreme master. You will love NO ONE MORE THAN HIM. To compare any other relationship in this life to your relationship to Jesus Christ, is to be like love and hatred, comparatively. We are to "Love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, ALL our soul, ALL our mind and ALL our strength." We are NEV-ER to "Take our hand off the plow and look back." Luke **9:62**. If we do, we are not, "FIT for the Kingdom of God."

I know these verses are seldom found on refrigerator doors or cabinet doors, but they are vital in understanding a scriptural basis for our faith.

Someone once said: "Many professing Christians do not mind allowing Jesus to be King of their lives, so long at they can still be Prime Minister, and make all the important decisions concerning day to day decisions in their lives."

IS THAT US?

What is the solution to this modern-day problem? Join another church? Increase our giving? Read more scripture? NO. The solution is found in *Luke 14:26*. "And whosoever is not WILLING to take up his CROSS EVERY DAY and follow me, CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD." What could that possibly mean? It means we come to the same conclusion as the Apostle

Paul did. Paul recognized Jesus Christ took Paul's place on the cross. It was Paul and it was WE who should have been on that cross and died for our own sins. Paul identified with that and said: "I DIE DAILY." Gal. 2:20, 20"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Paul celebrated his own death with a funeral for himself, EVERY DAY!

Paul "suffered for his faith in Jesus Christ every day, and concluded by saying II Cor. 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then am I strong." How is this possible? Is this what we feel when circumstances become difficult? Many experiencing such conditions want to lay down, bawl and squall, and say "woe is me, for I am undone." This cannot possibly be God because He has called me to be HAPPY and PROSPEROUS." NO, He has called us to be HOLY and CONTENT, "counting it all JOY when we fall into divers temptations." James declares: James 1:12. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord, the righteous judge hath promised to them that love Him." Are we beginning to see a biblical pattern here? People call our office to tell me; "They are so lonely." I guess I am at the age now where I am over coddling unbelief. I tell them; "Quit calling Jesus Christ a LIAR!" Jesus clearly told you "He would NEVER leave thee nor FORSAKE thee," and here you tell me you are lonely. This can only happen whenever we deny or ignore His promised presence in our lives. He promised the Holy Spirit would comfort you and teach you all things. If this is truth, how can we say "we are LONELY?"

When people tell me they are in constant need and lack, I tell them to DECLARE their God for who He says He is: "Jehovah Jireh, the one who provides." Paul the apostle said: *Philippians 4:19* King James Version. 19But my God shall supply all: HOW MUCH? ALL your need," (Not WANTS!" Does that sound like NEED OR LACK, or WANT? "ALL your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Might I suggest there is no inflation, recession, or depression in God's economy! He sent a raven to feed a prophet and fed thousands of people with three loaves and two fishes. Remember however, In *Matt.* 9:29 it says; "Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." Again, in *Hebrews 11:6* KJV: the writer said: "But

without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Do we truly believe this?

When the Lord called me into ministry in 1956 I had to make a quality decision. Who would be my total source? Should it be a denomination, a church, or an organization? I decided my total source would be Jesus Christ! If He wanted me in any ministry, I would take Him at His word. Since then we have had an agreement; I would seek His direction and wisdom concerning the work He has called me into, and I would trust Him to cause the finances to come in exactly as He saw the need. During the following 65 years HE HAS NEV-ER FAILED! I agreed whenever the finances ceased to come in, I would cease to try to keep it alive. I know the Word says: "Except the Lord build the house, they that labor, labor IN VAIN."

Through the many years of CPR, we have come close to closing down several times because I refused to go into debt to keep it going. Every time this has happened, some unknown person would step up to me and say, "God told me to do thus and such, and I want to be obedient." Sometimes I would never see that person again. Today, many faithful supporters have gone to be with the Lord, and the Lord miraculously is raising up others to take their place. If we will believe Him, He will be our total source! IT WORKS! Try it, you'll like it!

If He showed me to close this ministry tomorrow, It would be closed. This has never been MY ministry. It has been and continues to be HIS! He doesn't need me, but I desperately need Him for provision, wisdom, and anointing. I used to tell my congregation; "If you don't hear God speak to you when I am teaching, then I am not your shepherd, and you need to find your own shepherd, if you are truly a sheep, because I don't want anyone else's sheep and I surely don't want anyone else's BILLY GOATS!

The Lord has blessed this ministry with some very special SHEEP. They have a precious spirit and are constantly holding us up in prayer and provision to do our calling. In *I Corinthians 9:8-11* Paul says: 8 "Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? 10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that

INTEGRITY AND STEADFASTNESS = GODLINESS Continued from Page 3

he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

In these verses we find the scriptural foundation of Christian stewardship. Laborers in His field are called to feed the sheep, correct the goats but to fleece neither one. Laborers are warned about coveting and loving this present world. He will judge those who misuse their offices to their own benefit in contrast to being faithful bond slaves, recognizing we own nothing and will someday give an account of all we do for His kingdom. Some present day, so called ministries are doing much damage to the body of Christ by their

flagrant lifestyles. We do not answer to or for them, but each will receive his or her 'DUE REWARD" when we stand before the Great White Throne.

Pat and I want to thank all of you who have been led to support this ministry and have been so very faithful. You are present day examples of steadfastness and in-

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tegrity. Many of you send me letters of concern, clarification, and prayer requests, because you know you are a vital part of all the Lord wants us to accomplish. We thank the Lord for each of you.

There are many, still receiving this newsletter who have looked back. We love you and pray the Holy Spirit will challenge you to renew whatever conviction you once had concerning covenant marriages and continue to plow, sow and harvest, till Jesus comes. Pat and I plan to keep on keeping on until He calls us home or He ceases to lead his sheep to support this ministry.

I pray this message does not offend anyone. But if it does, please ask the Lord if it is an offense, or Holy Spirit conviction. The Holy Spirit's work is to continue to encourage us to "remember all Christ has commanded us, and urge us to remain faithful, TILL HE COMES!

May the Lord bless you and challenge you to "search the scriptures" to see if these things be so. If they are: He admonishes us to be "DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY!"

In His Service, Joe & Pat Webb

OUR GOD

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What's In A Mame?

By Dr. Patricia L. Webb

This is a rare occasion! My wife of over 27 years offered to share her heart with you this quarter. Pat is the head deaconess and women's Bible class online teacher in our home church.

Several names could be mentioned, and you would readily recognize the individual current or past for a major accomplishment good or bad! For example, Alan Shepherd, the first American astronaut. Billy Graham, Evangelist; Charles Spurgeon, English Preacher; Amelia Earhart, Aviation Pioneer; Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain. These names are associated and memorable with a variety of positive situations in history. What about Jezebel? She is mentioned in the account of the seven churches in Revelation 2:20! The only singly mentioned individual in that portion of scripture and mentioned by name. Jezebel is recognized for her intense destructive influence and conduct as Queen in Israel. Her influence was so broad, intense, destructive, and evil that the name, Jezebel, has become a term for any feminine abhorrent acts or actions mentioned above with a destructive sexually involved overtone. Jezebel was Queen in Israel and wife to Ahab. She was not an Israelite and worshipped Baal and insisted that everyone in Israel worship Baal.

The word fornication is used in scripture to identify human behavior as it relates to a personal relationship and behavior and it is used to delineate a rejection of our God to turn your interest and affection to other gods in worship. As an example, excerpts in **2 Chronicles 21:10-14**, "because he had forsaken the Lord God of his fathers."; "and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication (Strong's #2181 spiritual prostitution and idolatrous worship), and compelled Judah thereto, And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith LORD God of David thy father, because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah, But have walked in the way of kings of Israel, and has made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also have slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself: Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people...."

How about Ahab and Jezebel? A dynamic duo! Memorable for all the wrong reasons. Revelation 2:20 "Not-withstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Jezebel was called out for her influence on Ahab and their promotion and insistence on a national status of an unholy marriage of the world and church. Israel was being required to worship Baal rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Failure to worship Baal meant death to many. The reference to Jezebel is timeless as it refers to the church at large, not just as Queen to Ahab, King of Israel. It has carried down through the ages as a slur on one's character with sexual overtones.

A.W. Pink, in his book ELIJAH brings about some points of interest which we all should consider. Likewise, today we are involved with leaders, governors, politicians, groups, agencies, church leadership and other conglomerates that influence our lives by their leadership. Like it or not we have structures of leadership which once used the Bible as their guide and main influence. Today many spiritual leaders are struggling with the complexity of the battle of Biblical and non- Biblical! Right and wrong. Each have been adulterated by the feelings and opinions of the populous and we have not stood firm! In fact, many "Christian" clergy and leaders are no longer ready or willing to face the opposition one receives when they accept Biblical standards and stand firm! Humanity tends to bend with the pressures of life.

Pink writes: "when our ways displease Him, evil from every quarter menaces us. Temporal as well as spiritual prosperity depends entirely on God's Blessing. When any behave ill toward us it should make us at once examine our conduct toward God. To make His hand more plainly apparent, He frequently punishes the wicked after the similitude of their sins. He did so to Ahab's son. As he had turned from the Lord, Moab was moved to rebel against him." What has just been pointed out concerns the governmental dealings of God and illustrates an important principle in His Ways! He deals with us individually and holds our leadership responsible."

Other statements by Pink, "Nations as such have only a temporal existence, though the individuals which comprise them have an eternal destiny." "The attitude of a nation towards God is to be gauged not so much by

the general deportment of its people as by the character of its governors or government. The two are intimately related. For where a majority of the subjects are pious, they will not tolerate wickedness in high places, and on the other hand, when those who lead and rule set an evil example, it cannot be expected that those who follow will excel them in righteousness. Whatever be the particular form of government in a country, or whichever party be in power, it is the character and enactments of its executives that are the deciding factor, for they are the ones holding the positions of chief responsibility in the sight of God."

"In avowedly 'Christian' countries like Great Britain and the U.S.A., it has been the churches which regulate the pulse of the nation. 'they act as the salt' upon the corporate body, and when their ways please the Lord, He gives them favor in the eyes of those round about them. When the Holy Spirit is unhindered, His power is manifested, not only in calling on the elect, but in subduing sin in the non-elect and by causing the machine of state to support godliness, as was more or less noticeably the case a hundred years ago. But when error comes into the churches discipline is relaxed, the Spirit is grieved and His power is withdrawn, and the evil effects of this become more and more apparent in the country by a rising tide of lawlessness. If the churches persist in a downward course, then the Spirit is quenched and 'Ichabod' is written over them, as is the case today. Then it is that the restraining hand of God is removed, and an orgy of licentiousness comes in. Then it is the government which becomes an empty title, for those in power have no power except what the people have delegated to them and therefore they act in accord with the depraved desires of the masses. This then is ever the order: turning from the true God, turning to false gods, and then disturbances of the peace either social revolution or international war."

And now, So What?? What's in a Name?

Can you see yourself in the mirror? Do you feel the slippage in your resolve to embrace Biblical truth? Are you staying true to God's Word as a believer? Can you say, "I am stronger today than I was yesterday?" Is your response, "Yes Lord, or I once believed that, but now, things have changed!"

We are not sinless, and we do not have the strength nor resolve to be Biblical in thought and deed without God the Holy Spirit. Please know as A. W. Pink has written, that God deals with us individually, our church body, our local and national leadership. This includes both secular and religious leaders! If we will allow the Lord to change OUR lives, we can change the world!

Every day is an opportunity to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. We must enter worship with God and God alone having a Spirit of repentance toward our attitudes and actions that are not Biblical with the intent of trusting God, as we apply Scripture to our lives daily. We must also demand genuine Holiness and Godliness in those we electively follow. When we have no other options in our leadership we must Pray, Pray and Pray for God to intervene on our behalf. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." *James 5:16* Our prayer life should be powerful and effective. If not, why not??

How do people around you respond when your name is mentioned? Is your light shining as brightly as ever? Can others see Jesus? Has our saltiness faded, or our light become diminished in any way? When your name is mentioned, do others think of a godly person?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BY LEONARD RAVENHILL

"Our God is a consuming fire. He consumes pride, lust, materialism and all other sin."

"We are living in an unprecedented day (when) evil is no longer evil. We've changed the terminology- iniquity is now infirmity; wickedness is now weakness, and devilry is now deficiency."

"David had one of the most blessed experiences in the world, and the blessedness he experienced was that he was miserable about his sin."

"God is taking His hand off America. We've had so much light and we've rejected it."

"The Early Church was married to poverty, prisons and persecutions. Today the church is married to prosperity, personality, and popularity."



RESPONSES FROM ONLINE REACTIONS TO ONLINE TEACHINGS

This past week we experienced another blessing! An assistant pastor of a local church called me to notify me he had listened to our Outlook seminar DVDs and read "Till Death Do Us Part?" and the Lord convinced him of this truth. When he discussed this with his pastor, he learned his pastor had two families and vehemently disagreed with his new position. After several encounters, he was informed he could no longer minister in that church. We call this the left foot of fellowship.

The Lord allowed me to contact another Spanish pastor who paid the price of declaring the permanence of the marriage message in his own church and the two are now becoming acquainted for possible future ministry together. Praise the Lord! The Holy Spirit is touching hearts around the world and new voices are joining their voices with ours!

This is what Jesus called "FRUIT."

Words to Remember

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves...

This humbling, may take an outward form, but the outward form is not the part that counts. It is a decision, and not an emotion, but it manifest itself outwardly by emotion.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

...shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways ["shub," turn]...

If men will do this, "...then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Note: It's not enough to humble yourself and say, "I was wrong."

It's not enough to pray, or even cry while praying.

It's not enough just to seek God's face.

God demands repentance. 2 Chronicles 7:14 goes on to say:

...then will I [God] hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- [Verse 1] When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of glory died,
 My richest gain I count but loss,
 And pour contempt on all my pride.
- [Verse 2] Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
- [Verse 3] See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- [Verse 4] Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a present far too small;
 Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all.



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First Class

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