

April 1, 2012

HAPPY EASTER!

Dear *Friends & Family*,

FROM AGED TO (under) AGED THE SAME

(3/13) From time to time, I make it a point to go & visit some senior citizen friends who are dear to me. I did so last Thursday. The first is a very sweet, mentally sharp & articulate woman. Unfortunately, her hands are gnarled from a severe case of arthritis. Each time I see her, she conveys to me once again that she wants to go home (to Heaven). She doesn't understand why Jesus leaves her here. I think I do, & I have told her so. She faithfully prays for Kim & me & I'm sure many others. If Jesus took her home years ago, as she has oft' requested, think how much of His work through her would be left undone. Yes, God will accomplish all of His eternal plan, which no man nor devil can thwart, delay, change, or hinder. Yet--God has chosen to accomplish this eternal plan which He formed in, with, through, & for Christ (Eph.3:11) by the means of His peoples' prayers, works, & efforts which He prepared beforehand for them to do (Eph. 2:10), & which He alone originates & initiates. Otherwise, such works & efforts are dead works; worthless works. Now--back to my dear friend. Day after day she sits there in her chair. She prays. Our Blessed Lord Who initiates & inspires these prayers, also *rewards* these prayers. My friend is accumulating eternal rewards, & many of them, through the prayers & intercessions she renders down here below for God's people. These rewards, & their consequences [i.e., blessings, authority, responsibilities, privileges, etc.], will be hers **for all eternity**. *If* our Heavenly Father were to grant this dear aged saint her fervent & repeated request throughout these many years, i.e., to go home to Heaven, think of the eternal rewards mentioned above, which will last for all of

eternity, she would *not* have enjoyed, if He were to have done so! For the temporal pain & inconvenience she is enduring now [& believe me, I do *not* say that lightly!], it is “light” compared to glory & rewards to be revealed in & given to her. God knows what He is doing. He does all things well...*perfectly*, in fact. Oh, how very many times through the years I have been so very glad He did NOT give me what I so fervently & repeatedly entreated Him for! It was for a greater display of His glorious perfections that would otherwise have not been displayed, &, of course, for my good. When I left her, I proceeded downstate [Delawareans will know what I mean. J] to visit a brother/friend who was to turn **88 years old** this past Saturday. We sat, & chatted, & laughed, & then prayed before I left. Oh, how it hurts to leave him each time I visit him seeing him sit there all alone in his wheelchair this **WWII veteran, P.O.W., & hero**. He too, like the elderly woman above, longs to go Home to see his Savior, & his beloved wife. And yet, I believe for him the answer would be the same from our Lord. Here, this dear seasoned faithful saint, who wants so very much to go Home, has, instead, at the all-wise & all-loving decision of our Faithful Lord, been dropped by Him right in the middle of this very needy Veterans’ home. O, I could barely stand fighting the despair I as walked down the hall to his room. Parked in the lobby in their wheelchairs were numerous veterans. Decades ago, they were vibrant young men, thousands of miles from home, fighting an enemy they didn’t know. Now, they’re fighting much more formidable ones: **The Devil, Death, & Hades**, & the gloom of despair as they contemplate their hastened arrival. And yet, here, our God has placed His servant, in sort of a divine munitions drop, to pray for, witness to, & represent Him, & His Kingdom in this very needy place. He too, as with the dear elderly sister who intercedes mentioned above, surely, is accumulating more rewards while he awaits that blessed hour.

72 HOURS LATER BUT DECADES EARLIER

Within the space of about 72 hours I found myself in a room at our church filled with **4-12 year olds**. The day before, due to illness on her part, I was asked by the leader of this group if I could give the Bible lesson that evening. Within the space of a few days, I would go from ministering to **80+ year olds, to those eight+ decades younger!** O, what a sacred trust & privilege. O, these precious little ones sitting before me [two of which were my granddaughters] with their eternal souls only a few years old with their young minds, O, so *relatively* unscarred, untainted, & fertile & waiting to hear The Word of The Lord. I can think of few higher privileges & honors bestowed upon me in my life.

The assigned Scripture portion for that particular evening? Mt. 22 & Lk. 14, re: the King's Son's Wedding Banquet, & the resultant slighted invitations. Wow. These texts are heavy & intense for adults! To listen how I gave it, you can go to our **Caboose!** website or to my **iTunes'** account, under Michael Guertin or Caboose Ministries, & listen to it. There were the usual challenges of corralling the attention of ones so young. But, as our kind & gracious Father has done so many times in the past, He gave them to me, so that I could give them back to Him. I pray if you listen to it [It's about 18 minutes in length], you will sense so too.

BIBLE-NEGLECTORS BODY-SLAM

In my reading through the Scriptures, I recently arrived at **Peter's** first epistle. Upon arriving there, I was at once deeply struck, in the very first chapter, with the intensity of scrutiny, the depth of longing to know, the thoroughness of searching & examination, etc., on the part of **the prophets**, as to Whom, what, where, & when the Holy Spirit within them & their sacred **Old**

Testament Scriptures pointed to. Despite the fact that they saw dimly Who they were looking for, they diligently inquired & sought to know (vs.10). Then, in the next verse, concerning this salvation of which we humans have become partakers of, particularly us Christians, who have received mercy, expressed in God's gracious choice (1:1), even **the holy angels** *long to look into*. The prophets longed to know, but were limited. The holy, elect angels longed to know, but were forbidden. Now, we, God's people in these last days since Jesus came the first time, have the complete, all-we-need-to-know revelation of God & His plan in the Sacred Scriptures, the **written** Word of God, including the **New Testament**, which the O.T. saints & prophets did not have, being the fulfillment & completion of the Old, & we so often neglect it. Wow. I felt the Word & the Holy Spirit's convicting body-slam when I read it. I've written before re: the remorse every Christian will feel at the end of his life, re: how much more of the Bible he could have given himself to, [Billy Graham confessed this regret to Paul Crouch a few years ago in an interview on TBN] even the most astute theologian & scholar included, as its depths don't even come close to being fathomed. Yet, in this context of I Peter 1, this conviction was once more brought home to me, in an even deeper way. May the Lord help us, starting with me, to rectify this dearth of desire & knowledge on our part. Do it, Lord! Remember, the Word's truth is there for the taking, pulsating with **nuclear** power, throbbing with a **heartbeat** heard in the Spirit as it sits on your coffee table. May our patient, gracious Lord instill in us afresh the heart-cry of Isaiah: To the Law & to the Testimony!. May your **Easter Season** be blessed.

Gratefully,

Michael & Kim