

December 1, 2011

"DEEP DOCTRINES, RICH PRESENCE, LITTLE CHILDREN"

Dear *Friends & Family*,

(10/31) This past weekend I headed down to the Washington, D.C. area for the first time to minister there for an inner-city kids' outreach called "**Kids Konnection**". However, due to inclement weather that day the event was canceled. My host for the weekend, who was a dear friend during mine & Kim's newlywed days, took advantage of the free time that the cancellation afforded, to introduce me to three different pastor friends of his in the hope of it possibly opening new ministry doors in the future. Yesterday morning, I ministered in a small children's church service for my friend's Assembly of God church in Northern Virginia. There were perhaps thirteen or so elementary-aged children, along with a handful of adults present. I had purposed in my heart to give these children all I had, as if they were the only reason I came down that weekend. I wanted them to feel as if they were the most important children in the world. In this small fellowship hall where they met, I set up "the works": *myTime Machine*, a table full of object lessons, etc. I sought the Lord for them, meditated afresh on His Word, & prayed for Jesus to be exalted in our midst. The children sat there like angels for at least 45 minutes. The service ended like a typical evening service at kids' camp: Jesus presence was thick in the room, I heard some kids sniffing as the adults present laid their hands on them. One of the little girls, who apparently was a regular "challenge" to the children's pastor, was weeping & told her mother after the service how much she liked it. Her mother came up to me & told me so. My friend was weeping. His wife, whom I hugged good-bye after the service, was weeping. She said she couldn't talk & that she would write me later. She told me later on the phone that her daughter, who played "Eve" for me out of the Time Machine, was shaking while doing so, as she felt the presence of the Lord so powerfully in the room.

[I never recollect having an "Eve" tell me that before!] Their son in law, who, along with his wife also assist in children's ministry, said he had heard the gospel many, many times, but this particular presentation was "the best" he had ever heard & he asked if it had ever been filmed. I tried a couple of times while preaching not to cry, as I elaborated upon Creation, the Fall & its resultant depravity & state of helplessness & hostility it left men in. **The Law** & its absolute unyielding, death-wielding demands in the case of violating it was then expounded. After this, I related God's absolute sovereign freedom & choice as to whether to save angels instead of humans, whether to save Jews only instead of Gentiles, or, to save no one at all! I related Jesus enduring the wrath of God in the place of His people for six hours, & also the glory of believers being covered by His perfect robe of righteousness on their very worst day—and—forever! All of these tenets are just the "basic ingredients" of the gospel, if you will, & worthy of our deepest meditation all the live-long day! This is what puts me in awe again & again & again. Then, I entreat the Lord when I am called on to preach to others, that He would put His people in awe receiving from me as I was put in awe receiving it from Him. I am often stunned by *Scripture* study & meditation. Hence, God answers my prayers & He often "stuns" His people as I share with them what stunned me. I can ask for nothing more. However, yesterday, for whatever reason, I was *deeply* stunned. When I went to bed last night I told Kim, "I know I'm

not saying much, but I'm still so stunned by this morning's service. God did something so very precious, special & deep". Interestingly enough, this same phenomenon happened earlier in the month when I preached at a Jr./Sr. high school chapel re: the same precious doctrines—my hostess came up to me in tears & could hardly speak & made a comment & walked away. Do you know why this scares me, Beloved? If the basic tenets of the gospel are apparently not being preached & expounded upon in many Christian circles, then, what in the world is?! What makes it doubly humbling, is that I consider myself the weakest of men, constantly asking the Lord for forgiveness & help for my many sins, weaknesses, & failures. I guess it is kind of the Lord's "insurance plan" with me—it's one of His ways of keeping "me" out of it! Oh, may it continue to be so!

"MY INVESTMENT PAID OFF—IN PART"

This same couple who were our best friends as newlyweds happened to be my hosts for this particular weekend of ministry. While visiting our home some time ago, they told us they wanted to cover all of the expenses & honoraria for these two events in the D.C. area. Of course, I was humbled, & yet, felt a bit uneasy inside re: their very kind, gracious, & generous offer. Well, while at their house last weekend, when I learned that the major event of the weekend, i.e., the "Kids Konnection" D.C. outreach was canceled, I really felt very clearly & strongly in my spirit that I was to invest the entire week-end as unto the Lord by faith. Kim & I have done this many times in the past 11+ years living by faith—we have given out of our need. And yet, this time, I didn't feel the deepest need was financial, but for open ministry doors. Hence, the hours of preparation beforehand, the hours of setup, actual ministry, teardown, travel, mileage, & tolls I was do as an offering unto the Lord—as an "investment", if you will. I asked my hosts to trust me in this, though they were delighted to cover all of my expenses. I told them, "This is how we live". Well, as I stated above, I gave that small group of children mentioned above all that I had—"the works", if you will. The children's coordinator went & got me a check, which I wasn't expecting. I emailed her when I got home & told her that it was unexpected, unnecessary, but appreciated. Again, my deepest need/desire was for new doors of ministry, not money. Well, the other day, while heading out to our own church to lead worship for an inner-city ministry's devotions, I met the mailman. He gave me an envelope with a considerable gift toward our ministry that was unexpected, & of course, greatly appreciated, by a young couple with which I've done ministry in the past, who have suffered greatly in the past couple of years, but wanted to invest in the Lord's work through us. Again, despite my deep gratitude for that gift, my deepest desire was for more doors & opportunities to preach the gospel in fields where I have never been. The same dear brother & friend who introduced me to some pastor friends also appointed himself my "ministry manager"! I'm humbled by his zeal to take this task upon himself, since he runs his own business as it is! A former camp counselor for me from the early years at Tel Hai recently contacted me in the hope that I could come & do ministry for his church & Christian school in the Boston area. I'm also pursuing a door of ministry in NY, and, all of a sudden my very busy summers have just gotten busier! After 21 years of directing two camps per summer, we have just added a *third* week of camp, as a week opened up to rent, which happens *ultra-rarely*. In addition, I have a *fourth* camp in NY *the week after* this new third week! Needless to say, I shall need to

tap into that “abundant provision of grace” that Paul mentions in Rom.5:17. May it be so. May your **Christmaseason** be rich & full in the Lord’s presence.

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