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YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: "Michael Robert Guertin"

June 2018

"THIS [DOESN'T] SUIT ME TO A 'TEA'"



Dear ***Friends & Family,***

[5/17] I returned home today from a family/ministry trip culminating in my preaching at a fairly large church last night in VA. I have preached there a number of times & always with sweet blessing in the presence of the Lord. This church typically has classes on Wednesday nights but more than once now they have canceled them so that both young & old can be with me for a special service in the sanctuary. My text for last night was Col.1:12-19, not only one of the richest, Christ-centered portions of the New Testament but also of the entire Bible. It is one of five "Choice Christological Chapters" in the N.T., the others being John 1:1-18, Phil. 2:6-11, Heb. 1, & Heb. 2. I had poured over this very rich text again & again via study, meditation, & prayer. I had spent countless hours doing so, even meditating on it when I laid my head to rest at night on my pillow. More than once, as I mused over its verses, the Lord's Spirit, Who inspired the Apostle Paul to pen it down, would put me in awe of the Lord Christ-His Person & His redemptive work. I arrived at the church yesterday around 3 p.m., 4 hours before the service was to begin. I set up my table of object lessons, then went to prayer in the sanctuary, pacing throughout its aisles while I listened to various worship songs & prayed. This is my custom. I was there for hours before people began to arrive. I hate to conceive of ministry to people until I first minister to the Lord.

“DOLLAR TREE TEA”



Before I went to the church I stopped at a nearby dollar store to get some snacks & a drink as it would be several hours before I'd eat. I scanned the shelves looking for a healthy ice tea, viz, no high fructose corn syrup, low in sugar, etc. I saw an Arizona brand "Zero Tea", boasting of having ginseng & some honey to sweeten it. I felt I hit the jackpot. It actually looked "healthy". I searched the label as best I could without my reading glasses. What I failed to notice was that it also contained Aspartame! When I got to the church I drank quite a bit of it while I munched on my veggie straws while setting up. I thought the tea & ginseng would be good for me [TO BE CONTINUED!].

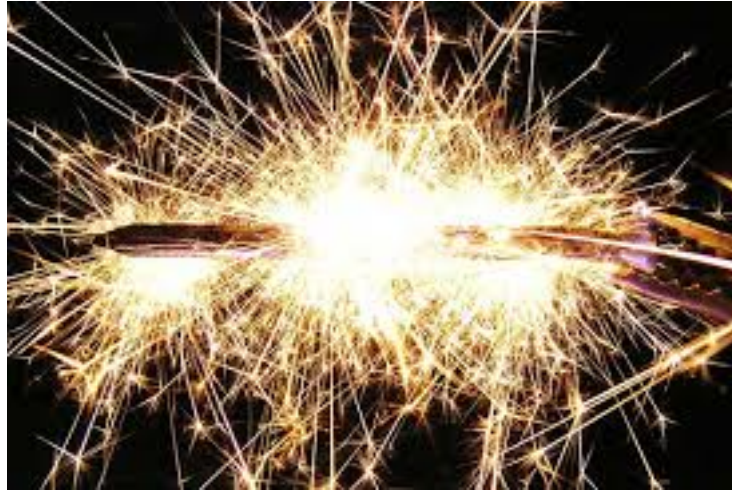
"THE LAVA OF THE LORD"



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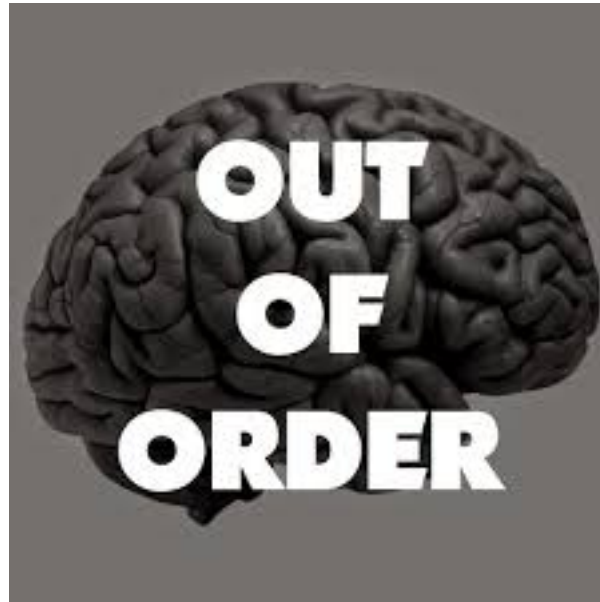
When the service was handed over to me I felt to have some men come forward. I asked them to go among the audience & place their hand on their shoulders, asking Jesus to touch them as they did. While they did so I had the Elevation Worship song "Fulness" play. I told the audience I could not pray better than that song's lyrics did. As I prayed & sang along with the song I saw in my mind recent video footage I had watched of the volcanic lava flows in Hawaii. I told the audience that is what the Word of God is like to us. It is hot molten lava that oozes power. I told them we must dig into & through the hard, gray, encrusted text of Scripture to find it. I was quick to then tell them it is NOT Scripture that is "gray & encrusted", but our fleshly heart's familiarity with it that makes it seem so. We dig through that, so to speak, hungering for the Holy Spirit's illumination.

“SERMON MALFUNCTION”



I then excitedly went to the text of Colossians. I was anxious to expound its contents that so gloriously describe the Father & the Son's working together in the redemption of Their people, culminating in goldmine of verses describing Jesus' preeminence over both the original & the new creation. However, when I got about 1/3 into my exposition, I suddenly began to lose my train of thought. I couldn't recall various & numerous texts of Scripture I had planned to quote. I couldn't decipher where I was in the sermon even though my notes, viz, my object lessons, & my written notes were right there in front of me! Everything kind of went blank. I struggled & fumbled trying make sense of it all. All I could do was finish up as quickly as possible. I finished almost ½ hour before my allocated time. In 32+ years of preaching I have never had anything like this happen before. I even had fears after I sat down that maybe this was the onset of Alzheimer's disease which runs very strongly in my mother's side of the family. It took her life, her father's, & her only sibling's.

“I’M NOT LOSING MY MIND”



I called one of my sisters who is a Christian & a nurse & very acquainted with Alzheimer’s. I told her what happened. I told her that an MRI I had on my brain in 2016 revealed no signs of Alzheimer’s. I told her about that tea. She agreed. It was the Aspartame, not to mention the ginseng & caffeine! I was so very mad at myself for much of the evening. Oh, how it hurt. Here, I had a room full of God’s people, from very young to not-so-young, & I blew it! 😞 I did find some comfort in this that a number of them told me they got much out of what I *was* able to share & impart before “my systems went down”. It is an experience I shall never forget & zealously strive to avoid in the future!

“FROM HERE TO ETERNITY”



While on this trip I met 3 of my 4 sisters for lunch one day. As I drove to the restaurant, Oh God-there it was-the assisted living complex my Dad lived in for the last 2 & ½ years of his life. He passed a year ago this past March. Oh God-I looked up as I passed the complex & there was his room. Oh, how my heart ached. Oh God, that is the place where Dad left this Earth for eternity. Yes-I’m still grieving for him.

“CLOSER TO HOME”



This same phenomenon hits me much more often when I am here at home in Wilmington. How so? Also last year my longtime neighbor passed away. I fear he

died in his sins, though he was religious. Oh God-this is one of the saddest things to me in all of life. One reason it is “closer to home”, is that he passed away at Wilmington Hospital downtown, which is now Christiana Care. Every time I come home from church I do a U-turn downtown & come to a certain traffic light & there it is-right in front of me-the hospital where this neighbor entered eternity. Every time I see the flashing stop sign on the hospital grounds I think of him. Oh God. Kim & I were there with the family shortly before he passed. I had tried to reach him with songs & verses of Scripture.

“THE MIND OF THE LORD”



In the not-too-distant past I have pondered what is on the Lord’s heart & mind as He ends the life of an unsaved soul [yes-He numbers our days, written in His Book before any of them come to be [Ps.139:16]; our times are in His hands [Job 14:5]]. Our Lord knows that at that moment of death, the lost soul will immediately enter upon instant & eternal torment in Hades, only to be interrupted at the **Day of Judgment** where their countless sins & offences against Him will be made manifest for all to see & from which his or her degree of punishment in the **Lake of Fire** will be determined. Oh God. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God [Heb. [10:31](#)]. Vengeance is Mine, says the Lord-I will repay [Heb.10:30]. “He will repay those who hate Him to their faces.” [Dt. [7:10](#)]. Yes-these are sobering thoughts, Beloved-but those that we should all ponder from time to time to keep us sober & vigilant [I Pet.5:8], given to prayer & soul-winning. That’s why I ponder them. They burden me, impress me, sharpen me in my daily quest to be a vessel fit for our Master’s use. May it be so

on the precipice of this very busy summer ahead of me, once again comprising four youth &/or kids camps.



***Caboose! Commentary Corner:** [Our daughter Laura once said she'd love to have my old Bibles when I passed for all of the notes I have written in them over the decades. This was quite humbling to say the least, especially coming from one of your own children. Hence, I've decided to post each month random notes/comments from various Bibles I have studied from.] *"The darker the dungeon, the blacker the pit, the sweeter the grace, the greater the glory when He brings you out of it." {written on a church offering envelope during a service commemorating a dear friend who recently passed.}



Caboose! On the Loose:
**Lookin' out for the little guys...*

Ministry/Events for JUNE & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

May 20: Independence Hall Mall, Phila., PA: Jubilee! 24/7 worship event: Mission Band drummer

May 24-26: Charleston, SC: Fontaine Breon Funeral & Internment

June 3: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: children's service & camp promotion

June 5: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

June 21: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

June 24-29: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Sr. Hi. Camp: pastoral director

***Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by the local church he attends, *Immanuel Church. Caboose!* is also an affiliate ministry of *The Hopewell Network of Churches*. For 14 years he served on various local church staffs as their children's pastor. Since 2000 Kim & he have lived by faith, having no set salary, retirement, etc. to speak of. Yet-this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God's Word & systematic theology, using both drama & visual aids, to all age groups, from children to senior citizens, either separately or combined. To help support this work [any amount no matter how small is greatly appreciated!], please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, c/o 1703 Dalton Rd., Lima, NY 14485, marking it "Preferred-Michael Robert Guertin" or you may click on the link below to give directly. Any sized amount would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)**

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