

***NOTE!!: Via Dolorosa sign-ups have begun! See attached flyer for info!**

***Audio Newsletters & Sermons:**<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries-audio-podcast/id506049887?mt=2>

March 1, 2015

Dear Friends & Family,

2 'SNOW JOBS'



[2/15] I returned home last night from a **3-day, 5 mtg., 727** mile trip from **Upstate N.Y.** Two of those meetings had to be postponed due to some of the severest weather that region had ever seen. This front was coming in as I was scrambling to get out after preaching twice yesterday at a kids' summer camp winter reunion event. Where I was expected to preach twice today was expecting a high of **0 degrees!** Hence, I headed south to DE a.s.a.p. It was about a 6 hr. drive, most of which was through snow. However, the worst snow accumulation was to occur right as I got home! As soon as I got out of my truck I shoveled our house plus two of our neighbors'! [one of which are in their 80's. The other-an unsaved young couple I'm trying to reach out to]. After unloading the truck cab [given the time & weather, I saved the truck bed for this a.m.] I was looking forward to getting in bed a.s.a.p. I was awakened by Kim at 12:30. The wind was so ferocious that something was constantly knocking against the backside of our house. I knew my Honey. This would trouble her all night if I didn't check it out. Sure enough, a piece of vinyl siding was hitting the power line that leads to our house. As exhausted as I was, I got into my coat, hat, boots & workout pants over my pajamas &

got out my ladder & cordless drill & got up on the roof! It was one of the coldest, blustery days I remember since moving to DE almost 19 years ago. I was thanking the Lord I could still do things like this, although I must admit it was the last thing I expected to do after such a long & exhausting ministry trip-& at 1 a.m. too!

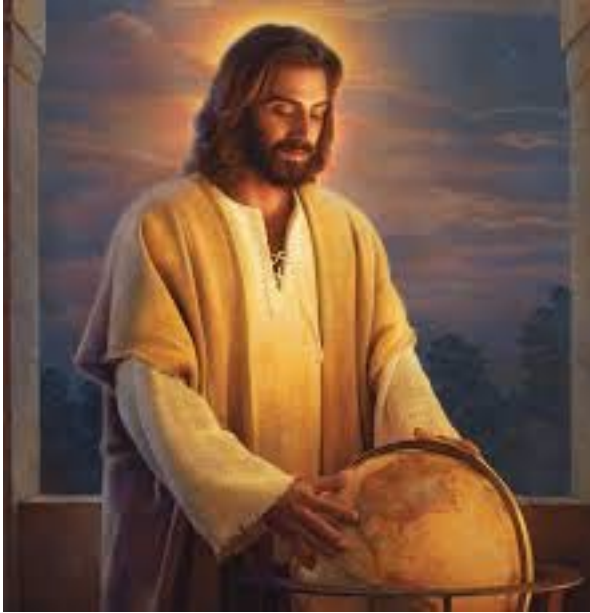
TEACHING CHILDREN HEAVY DOCTRINE



I was asked to minister at this kids' camp winter reunion event months ago. It happened to land on **Valentine's Day**. Of course, in the light of that, I wanted to focus the messages on the love of God-both His for us, & ours for Him. In the morning chapel, I felt to teach them one of the most important passages in all of Scripture-& a literal life-saver to me. In **2002** I was in my **dark night** of the soul, that many of God's people have. I've written re: it before. I could not help thinking, feeling, & believing **The Father** was mad at me more than He was not. It got so bad that at least twice I thought of ending my life. Why not? If GOD is against you, what purpose *is* there to live? I knew these thoughts to do so were real as at least twice when I pondered it a shot of fear pierced thru my soul. In His great mercy, God led me to the portion of Scripture referred to above, namely, **Eph.1:3-8**. I had never done an in-depth study of this particular passage of Scripture. By going over these precious, priceless 6 verses in my mind again & again, slowly but surely the lies I was believing, both from my own emotions & **the evil one** began to dissipate. To be honest, I still have to work on this in the renewing of my

mind-especially when I sin. John MacArthur has said, The older you get in the Lord you'll sin less-but-you'll feel worse when you do so." How very true.

SETTING OUR DESTINY BEFOREHAND



I had 75 6-13 year-olds in front of me. What would I do when I got to the unfathomably precious doctrine of predestination in this chapter? Avoid it? Many Christians have. Tone it down? Many Christians have. Deny its plain-sense-of-Scripture definition? Again-many Christ-ians have. I could not. It has become way too precious to me for that-plus, I would not rob God of this awe & worship-inspiring truth of His grace to His people, & hence of His Own glory. In love [remembering it was *Valentine's Day*], He PRE-destined us. I asked the kids, How many of you went to PRE-school? Many hands went up. I told them, This is something that happened 'BEFORE' you were enrolled in school. I spoke of God's omniscience & eternity. He cannot learn anything. Verse 4 speaks of God choosing His people in Christ before the foundation of the world. I told the kids that of all of the nations surrounding *Israel* in the

day God made her His Own, only Israel was picked, even though God KNEW she would become more **evil** than the nations He declined to bring to Himself on eagles' wings. He still chose her. I told them that is the same way He chose Christians. He knew what He was getting-this ensures that it is all of grace! What about destination? I asked them, How many of you have been to **Disney World**? A # of hands went up. I asked, Did your parents decide to go to Disney World on the day you left? Of course not, though one little girl thought so! :0) I told them, No, of course not! They planned your destination months before-i.e., pre! While I held a **baby doll** in my arms, I asked them what the destination God prepared for us beforehand was. I told them it was to HIMSELF!-to be adopted as His children. O Father! I constantly reinforced to them that God must always go first in His relationship with His people. He must love first. He must bless first. He must choose first-so that HE always gets the glory for it. Our love for Him is always a response-totally dependent upon His initiative with us. No one in the room choked on this explanation- neither children nor staff [Yes, of course-there is so much more I could & have said in the past re: this very glorious & weighty doctrine [see my sermons via the website] but remember-there were **6 year-olds** in the room! I was amazed at their answers later in the day when we reviewed this lesson with Bible games.

SAD SEEKER-SENSITIVE SAGA CONTINUED



I trust most of you recollect the very disheartening encounter I had with a seeker-sensitive church recently in my travels. It still grieves me as I ponder it. I did not elaborate last month on the parallels between this recent experience & when I last had such a head-on collision with the same mentality with a church in FL in 2005. The parallels are striking. Last month, I was re-peatedly asked to process my ***Gospel Elaborated*** message, after it was delivered. I believe I rightly interpreted this repeated request as tone down the remaining messages. I would not. I could not. This smacked of the 2 head leaders of the church in FL 10 years ago, except that they actually *told me not to preach* a message I had planned: ***The Difference Between Being In-Christ & Out of Christ***. In both scenarios, it was only a few select *leaders* that were having issues. The kids & staff loved & hungered for such messages. The other heartsickening, grievous aspect of both of these groups was while they both attempted [1 was successful] at tampering with the preacher & the message, at the same time both broadcasted at their events vile God-dishonoring music &/or videos either right after the ministry of God's Word or soon before it! After I had given 4 **meaty** messages from God's Word at this camp in FL, as I was about to leave on the last night I heard the group preparing for a talent show. They were cranking the song YMCA by ***The Village People*** [a blatant homosexual group] thru their sound system. It was all I could stand. My heart broken-I tried to be gracious & say goodbye to my host [& did] but could not get out of that place fast enough. Then, at this recent event, before I was to give my Saturday night message [Adoration Versus Idolatry] {there was a worship-in-song set right before I preached}, there was a game time scheduled. The leader [more than once!] played a video clip from a ***Jim Carey*** movie [I know not which one]. In it, Carey comes out of the birth canal of a realistic giant **rhinoceros**, as if he were the baby rhino being born. He comes out completely naked & drops on the ground. Thankfully, his private parts were not seen as he rolled away from the camera! Yet-here I am sitting in the back of the meeting room, dumbfounded as I watched, that *this* was what was preceded worship in song & the ministry of the Word of God! It's not over, however. Another clip they showed was that of ***Richard Simmons*** from his earlier years, scantily clad, leading an exercise group. O God. What has happened to us?! O God! Again-I was told repeatedly, Let's 'process' this, re: the Word of God-but these vile images passed the inspection for the young people to view-& in the very room where

we came to the retreat to encounter the living God & His presence. O God. That is all I can say. Have mercy, O God. And we wonder why God is taken so lightly in America-especially by young people!

[2/21] SICKLE-CELL?



I was lying on the floor in prayer yesterday in one of our bedrooms, trying to pray & prepare, while at the same time fighting debilitating fatigue from yet another sinus infection. I was preparing for preaching tomorrow at a church that has a different ethnicity from mine-a different culture-not only in the natural but spiritually as well-another spiritual **DNA** if you will. I'd been told by one of its former pastors that it has its, well, tendencies, bents, etc., if you will-as we all do. While praying I saw in my mind's eye a laboratory's microscope view of a cell, with a needle being injected into it [presumably by a scientist]. Wherever I go in ministry-I go with a sickle in my hand. I go to harvest men. I have also observed in my travels over the many years that God also, in a very real sense, puts an syringe in my other hand-to inject His truth & oft'-neglected foundational doctrines into parts of **Jesus' Body** that rarely, if ever hear them. The hardest part is piercing the outer membrane of the cell, so to speak. I prayed that the DNA of the church tomorrow, as well of the seeker church mentioned above, would be injected & altered. O God-change all of our DNA's-where needed most! Amen.



"CABOOSE! ON THE LOOSE"

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

Feb. 4, 18: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Feb. 6: Concordville, PA: mtg. with hsc camp director

Feb. 8: IC, Wilmington, DE: Via Dolorosa Team Captains' mtg.

Feb. 11, 25: Elsmere, DE: IC Young Adults' mtg.: teacher//planning mtg.

Feb. 18: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders' mtg.

Feb. 19: Brandywine Valley Baptist Church, Wilmington, DE: EMF pastors' mtg.

March 3: Petra Christian Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//pastors' mtg.

March 12: Lebanon, PA: Sunrise Tax Service Annual mtg.

March 15ff: Via Dolorosa setup begins [takes 2 weeks!]

March 18: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders' mtg.

March 19: Wilmington, DE: EMF pastors' mtg.

March 30, 31: IC, Wilmington, DE: Via Dolorosa-first two nights

*Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by his local church, 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, please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, c/o 1703 Dalton Rd., Lima, NY 14485, marking it "*Preferred-Michael Robert Guertin*". If your church would be interested in ministry at your church by Michael, please feel free to contact us.

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