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SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW THE VISION GOD HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART

His Way Newsletter

Tomorrow Is Too Late

By Doug Cook

Another milestone was established in my spiritual growth with the passing of my mother from this life into eternity. It was a very personal memento that life is very short, change is constant, and nothing of the flesh is forever.

I am reminded of the struggles in the relationship I had with my mother that began in my teens and continued for many years -- the issues were numerous. And when one holds anger, resentment and unforgiveness in their heart, as I did during those years, it will be communicated outwardly in some form of expression. *"...an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."* Even though I tried to suppress the feelings, others that knew me well could easily discern that things were not right between my mother and me. Even though I was not a Christian in those days, it doesn't mean that God's Word didn't apply.

One of the people who perceived my matriarchal rebellion was an older and wiser gentleman who was my supervisor for a season in those early years. He advised me ever so subtly on several occa-

sions, "Doug, it's much harder to reconcile with them when they're 6 foot under." I never knew for certain, but I could sense this profound bit of wisdom may possibly be emanating from experience. Even though I didn't act on his foresight at the time, the seeds were planted, and his statement forever remained in the shadowy depths of my soul.

For years I continued to harbor ill will towards my mother, deciding that the best way to deal with it was to not deal with it, and keep as much distance between us as possible. Even though she lived less than 3 miles away, I can remember some years seeing her less than four or five times in the entire year. Looking at the circumstances through the spectacles of hindsight, my situation was really sad. One of the things I seemed to inherit from my mother was a very strong will, which gave me the ability to remain steadfast and immovable on demand. This personality trait works well when standing for the truths of God, but can also work to your detriment when your thoughts are fixed on unrighteousness.

Eventually, after 12 years, I had a first marriage that ended in divorce, and a major injurious factor in my failed marriage was the lack

*** Comments Welcome ***

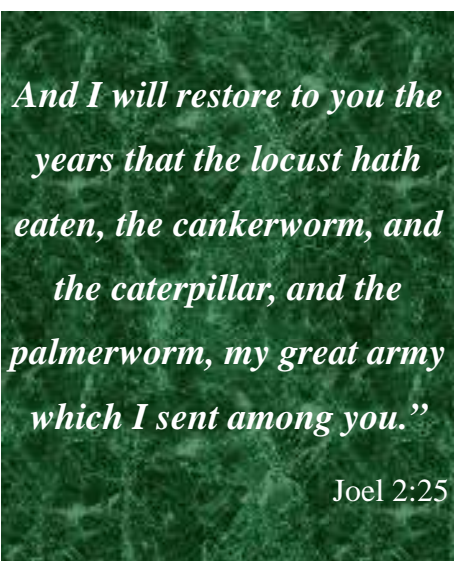
We beckon the opportunity to give you, the reader, a chance to interpose your opinions on the subjects covered in our newsletters. In future issues, we will be adding a new section entitled "From Our Readers." If you wish to express your opinion — pro or con — please E-mail your civil comments to: opinion@emeraldministries.com
Only initials will be used if the comments are published.

of a decent relationship with my mother. During the divorce process a psychologist advised me that I would have a difficult time in a close relationship with anyone of the opposite gender, as long as there continued to be unresolved issues with my mother. Although at the time I wasn't ready to receive what he was suggesting, I knew in my heart he was right.

With an unsuccessful marriage adding to the enduring words of wisdom from my ex-employer ringing continually in the earpiece of my mind, I was finally able to grasp the concept that in order to live in some semblance of peace with myself and others, I must do something to resolve my plague of unforgiveness. I disembarked on the understanding that my mother may never change and I couldn't change her, leaving only one person I could change...me!

The process was finally set in motion one day during another stressful time in our family's life when one of my grandparents passed away. It was one of those early learning experiences that began the revelation of how short life is before we all are put "6 feet under." It sent me to my knees weeping and apologizing in front of my mother on her patio one day. Everything was not completely restored that day, but God began the process of changing my heart. It was shortly after this time that I finally surrendered my life to the Lord, so my bitterness was not only affecting my earthly relationships; it was hindering my developing a relationship with God as well.

Through the years that followed, I can honestly say that even though my mother may not have changed much, I was able to let go of all the resentment, anger and unforgiveness and held nothing against her at all. In other words, the restoration was completed. During the last year of her life, I was actually able to really enjoy her company, something which I had not been able to do for decades. I am able to release her from this



life with the knowledge that I had done everything I could do; I have no regrets and no apologies. The peace I now have with her relationship is more valuable than any other possession in the world, because it's a treasure that I have stored in heaven, and those heavenly treasures are the only ones we get to take with us!

It probably took me too long to react, but I did heed the warnings, and by Gods grace I had the time to complete the process. God is in the restoration business, and He wants to restore all things, whether that is relationships with

your parents, your spouse, other blood family members, or more importantly our spiritual brothers and sisters in the Lord. Unfortunately, we are in the last days and you may not have as many years as I did, but God can "restore the years the locust have eaten." I implore you to listen to the same Godly wisdom that was given me many years ago; forgive those that have wronged you and reconcile your differences in your stressed relationships. They will be much more difficult to reconcile when they are 6 foot under.

James 4:13-14 says, "Go to now, ye that say, today or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

We are not promised tomorrow, we are only given today, so tomorrow may be to too late.

I sat down and wrote this article, looking into the future, on a Friday morning before preparing for my evening bible study. My mother was still alive while composing these thoughts, but I knew she didn't have much time remaining. Little did I know that by that very evening, she would pass from this life into the next. While anguishing over how to pray her last few days, God told me to "let it go." So, following Gods urging, I had totally and completely released her into God's hands the day before this composition. It's amazing how much grace He gives us at the point of need -- *His burden is light* -- when we are quick to obey!

Paul's Prologue

Introducing a new writer and a different perspective!

Worship

By Paul Armento

Recently I was watching a TV evangelist exhorting on how to press-in to God. During their rather emotional discourse, included was the statement "...sacrifice as an act of worship denotes His worthiness, value, respect and reverence". This is such a great point for the church today to understand!

As God's children, we need to have a healthy understanding of and incorporate into our lives the act of selfless and abandoned pure worship before God. This is "worship beyond motive", as I like to refer to it. A good example of this would be when we individually and/or corporately bring before God the sacrifice of our praises. God loves it when we lift our voices in praises to Him! "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15. When we offer pure praise in worship before God, we set into motion the ability for great and supernatural blessing to release into our lives. I have seen people who do not understand this truth completely disengaged during corporate worship at church and, rather than praise God, they behave as though they're on hand to witness another form of entertainment.

Try this: Next time you're in church and there's worship music along with everyone singing, completely empty yourself, focus your mind and your heart on God and really worship him in praise. As you do, you may begin to notice something amazing happen! During the act of true worship, our concerns will melt away and become trivial compared to the release we sense as we yield ourselves over to God's spirit in reverence and respect. The band is not playing and the singers are not singing to entertain us, they are there in

order to facilitate our entrance into the very throne room of God in worship and high praise to him!

Another form of worship before God is the sacrifice of our time. Numbers 20:8 is the fourth commandment which states: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy". It is important to recognize that by honoring

God with the first part of our week and by sacrificing our time, we are actually worshipping God. The literal definition of holy is "set-apart" or "other". When we sacrifice our time spent with God, we are setting it apart for other than what we would normally do, which would be everything that takes place time-wise outside of this form of worship.

Finally, we can be confident that by sacrificing a portion of our income, or our money, we are actually worshipping God. Most everybody's heard of the term "tithe", which translated means "tenth" or "one-tenth". This is essential to understand in that we worship God by giving one tenth of our earnings:

"Bring all of you tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now with them, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10. The storehouse is our local church where we fellowship. By our obedience in what may be considered by many to be the highest form of worship to God, we are providing the mechanism by where all of God's work on earth may be facilitated and carried-out. God doesn't need our money, he needs us to associate our parting with it as a supreme sacrifice in worship to him!

Comments Welcome

Contribute to the section

"From Our Readers"

Coming soon to future editions.

Everyone has opinions where
The Word is concerned!

Even though God may not
agree with our theology,
His "Love covers a
multitude of faults."

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If you would like to express an opinion that may be used in the section "From Our Readers,"

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A comment of note!

Any articles or words of encouragement in these newsletters are not necessarily the views or doctrines held by Emerald Ministries. There may be opposing views that are presented at times by different authors. It is not the intent nor desire of Emerald Ministries to censor content on the basis of biblical differences — that's how denominations (heresies) get started. However, it is the responsibility of you the reader to study your bible to determine what the whole truth really is, and we at Emerald implore you to do just that. We would like to remind you that we have also provided a means to communicate your views to opinion@emeraldministries.com.

Physician Humor.....or is it?

Think about this:

- a. The number of physicians in the US is 700,000.
- b. Accidental deaths caused by Physicians per year is 120,000.
- c. Accidental deaths per physician is 0.171. (US Dept. of Health & Human Services)

Then think about this:

- a. The number of gun owners in the US is 80,000,000.
- b. The number of accidental gun deaths per year (all age groups) is 1,500.
- c. The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is .0000188.

Statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

FACT:

NOT EVERYONE HAS A GUN, BUT ALMOST EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST . . . ONE DOCTOR!

Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. As a public health measure I have withheld the statistics on lawyers for fear that the shock could cause people to seek medical attention.

Rich's Humor List: RKBA news & info: freefire@attbi.com

This bit of humor adds a whole new perspective to the health care system we have in place. It also implores the question why the majority of "Christians" put their faith in doctors when The Word says, "by *His stripes* ye were healed?" How many times have we heard leaders in church buildings say, "Jesus heals by doctors too," but yet there is not one example in the bible of Jesus or the apostles ever sending anyone to Dr Luke to get their healing?

Something to think about . . . Something to write about!

Until next time... Doug