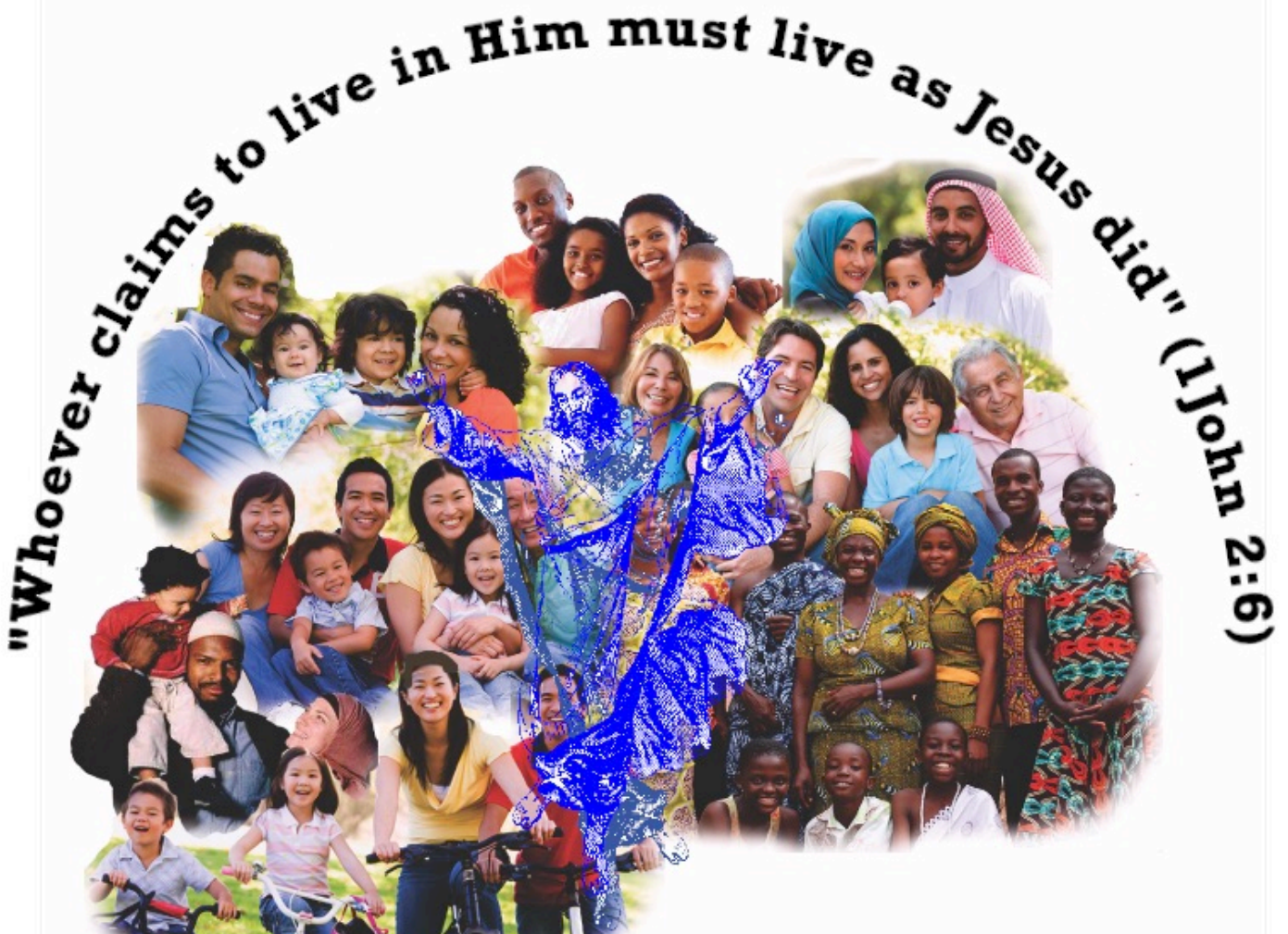


Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 3. Now Is the Time for You Younger People To Prepare



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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Restoration Ministries International

Reality 3. Now Is the Time for You Younger People To Prepare

(see Matthew 25)

To younger followers of Christ Jesus our Lord,

For many years we've been trying to help older Christians realize the God-required role they must enact in the lives of younger followers of Jesus. The responsibility of the older generation to share wisdom with younger generations is a pattern that was readily practiced in the Hebrew Scriptures. The elders of Israel represented all the people. The decisions which elders made at the city gate were expected to be wise and to benefit everyone who was concerned. In the Newer Testament the earliest followers of Jesus were Jewish and were familiar with the role of wise, older men guiding younger generations. These older men were family men themselves, and were prepared to represent our heavenly Father's loving concern for His children.

In Pastoring By Elders, the final book we published on the Hebraic foundations, we discuss the biblical backdrop of elders as leaders of extended spiritual families. These are older men who have gained wisdom and compassion during the course of their life experience. Thus they are equipped to guide the extended spiritual families of Jesus followers who meet in one another's homes (see Acts 2:46,47; 1Corinthians 14:26). No-tice that among these extended spiritual families there were no clergy!

We had hoped that the older folks who were reading these materials would take ownership of the significant biblical role they are to play in the spiritual lives of younger people. But for too many seniors, the temptation of ongoing leisure in a pleasure-bent retirement overcame them fulfilling any spiritual involvement with the next generations. We gave our generation the "right of first refusal" in this biblical responsibility — but we are dismayed and even embarrassed that our peers cared so little to carry out this role. So as times of deepening discord and deprivation continue to disrupt this nation, we're focusing on helping you younger people stand firm in your loving and obedient trust in Jesus and be fully available to do our Father's will.

IF YOU ARE YOUNGER, BE SURE THAT THIS DESCRIBES YOU:

Because of your love for our Lord Jesus and your obedient trust in Him, you live repentantly through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Repentance—turning away from sin and turning wholly to God's way—is THE crucial identifier that demonstrates the reality of you **loving the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength**. Purposing to live repentantly and staying fully cleansed through His grace also demonstrates that your unceasing fellowship with your Father and Lord Jesus really, really matters to you.

DON'T EVER LET THIS DESCRIBE YOU:

Too many in Christianity have been deceived by anti-Semitic theologians who have tossed out the Hebrew Scriptures as irrelevant to followers of Jesus. So much truth has been forfeited! Because of this loss, daily grateful obedience to the Lord they say they believe in never crosses their mind. Instead, "Christians" are urged to focus on attending services and taking part in religious programs. For many, their spiritual expression is summed up in reading the Bible and trying to live "good" lives and be "good" people.

YOUR REASON “WHY” MATTERS TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

When you enter the New Covenant which our Father offers you in Christ, you are being called to live in union with the divine. You have been purchased by Jesus’ blood to do Father’s will for your life in fellowship with Him and with His Son Jesus. But keep in mind that it’s not what you do or don’t do that is as vital as **why** you do what you do or don’t do. And in Christ your most preeminent **why** must be, “**Father, place me and use me where I can bring You the most glory.**” This divine motive defines, for example, **why** you live where you live, **why** you work where you do, **why** you use your spare time as you do. It’s this **why** that identifies you as your Father’s child intentionally journeying to heaven versus just being a religious Christian living to serve yourself.

If the purpose of **why** your major decisions haven’t had the goal of glorifying your Father or fulfilling His will, then repent and start walking with His *grace of purpose*, guided and empowered by the Spirit at work in and through you.

DON’T EVER LET THIS DESCRIBE YOU!

“No one can serve [literally, slave for] two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You can’t be a slave to both God and money” (Matthew 6:24). Many in the Baby Boomer generation, our generation of those born from 1946–1964, have wholeheartedly pursued the financial security of accumulated wealth and possessions — while at the same time adding a lukewarm religious veneer to their lives. But Jesus Himself warns that only your “treasures in heaven” will count, and that whatever you consider to be “treasure” is where your heart focus will be (Matthew 6:20,21). Too many Boomers have put their confidence in whatever funds they have. But their intense longing for more of what money can buy carries with it a severe result — forsaking their trust in Jesus: *“The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many griefs” (1Timothy 6:10).*

IF YOU ARE YOUNGER, BE SURE THAT THIS DESCRIBES YOU!

Our Lord Jesus’ command must be your single-minded, foremost intention: *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).* If this is your heart’s motive, then the **love, forgiveness** and **compassion** of Jesus will flow through you to others. This expression of Luke 9:23-26 has guided us for many decades, and we hope it will guide you too: **“You’re not ready to go anywhere or do anything for the Lord until you’re ready to go anywhere and do anything for the Lord.”** You’ll find that when your heart’s goal, your **why**, is lifting up Jesus as your Lord and bringing our Father glory by doing His will, you’ll be safeguarded from succumbing to **fretting, fear**, and the **hoax theories** and **conspiracies** that are rife in this nation.

“You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ in regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it”
(Isaiah 8:12).

You may have noticed in our past writings that we don’t have a lot to say to those in the Liberal camp in this land. **Why?** Because few Liberals claim to be born again or that

they're standing up for the Bible in their political agenda. Instead, our writings have often targeted self-deceived "Conservatives", many of whom claim that the basis of their political conviction is the Bible. But too many of their declared policies and public agendas have revealed self-preservationist and/or racist motives which defame our Lord Jesus. If, however, Conservatives would authentically represent Jesus in the Spirit and Truth which He requires of those who claim to be His, then the **love, forgiveness** and **compassion of Jesus** would lay at the core of their words and actions instead of shouts of "Conspiracy! Conspiracy!"

IF YOU ARE YOUNGER, BE SURE THAT THIS DESCRIBES YOU!

Why you take a stand for something with the heart of Jesus, is **why** our Lord will stand with you and for you (see 1Samuel 17:45-47; Daniel 3:15-30). BUT this means that you don't demean any other person or raise alarms of "hoax" and "conspiracy". Followers of Jesus stand firm against demons, not against humans (Ephesians 6:12).

We encourage you to keep seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance as events in this nation and around the world become more desperate. Be careful that you don't allow politics to dictate your religious convictions! While the thinking of liberals and conservatives differs, a common factor is the hardness of heart and polarization which are ripping apart the fabric of the United States. But keep this in mind. Political history has clearly shown that during times of widespread distress and societal chaos, the political climate becomes dominated by a **desire for increased authoritarianism**. People become more and more open to finding a political "savior" who favors their particular position and will put an end to the havoc.

The groundwork for authoritarian leadership is already being prepared. Extreme right-wing movements, such as those which have emerged in the United States, Israel, and Europe, thrive under conditions of societal threat and rampant anxiety. Behind the conservative mindset is the leaning for an authoritarian leader who can "set things right". Peddlers of hoaxes and conspiracies have been creating an underlying attitude in conservatives that "**It's us against them.**" A word of warning for you younger people: We who follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior are forbidden that kind of motivation. It's important that you discern from the Spirit of our Lord Jesus what you do stand for, and especially **why** you stand for that. Make sure your reasons start with our Lord's spotless character and reputation in mind!

Now is the time for you to understand the ways in which this pervasive societal discord is being incited so you can avoid being ensnared. Here's some insight from our past to help you recognize the sinister undercurrent that's swirling around the US today:

In the early 1980s while we were at seminary, we heard that a local congregation had split, and the pastor and all the elders had left. Interested in what happened when a split took place, we began to attend there. The gatherings were being led by three older men of wisdom who had remained. After we'd attended for awhile, these men asked Mike if he'd help them find out why the people who had stayed were having difficulty cooperating with each other. Mike began to interview the adults.

After several weeks he met again with the three older men to let them know what he'd discovered. They then asked him to brief the congregation at the Sunday service.

As Mike stood in front he reviewed the core of what he'd learned from his interviews: the reason there was no cooperation was because two particular couples in the congregation, whom he named, kept sharing lies and venomous rumors which were poisoning everyone else. Mike pointed out to the congregation that neither of these couples had any real care for anyone gathered there. Rather, they enjoyed the power they exercised through their bad-mouthing. The two couples publicly admitted that what Mike had said was true, and they departed. Relational harmony ensued.

(For more insight into pursuing the source to untruths, see page 4 of our Prophetic Insight, Refusing to be used as Jezebel's serial killer or as a murder victim).

We offer this anecdote because this scenario is exactly what's occurring in this nation. The demonic powers of **Deceit** in Washington, D.C. and of **Jezebel** over the entire country are using venomous distortions of truth to divide this nation through hoaxes and conspiracies which abound! Whatever you do, don't let demonic spirits of deceit and Jezebel spawn in you an unChristlike attitude against another human being! NOTHING will stop this democracy from destroying itself — except maybe nationwide repentance. Only our Father knows if this is going to happen.

From history you can ascertain when a democracy is about to become a dictatorship:

- (1). Moral decadence reigns throughout society.
- (2). Colossal national debt has accumulated.

Please learn from the past. During the colonial era Professor Alexander Tyler warned that a democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. When voters discover that they can vote themselves money from the public treasury, the majority always vote for the candidates who promise them the most money (the most personal benefits) from the public treasury. Concern for the good of ALL the citizens dissolves. Then a democracy collapses from too-loose fiscal policy and is followed by a dictatorship.

✦ In Deception Is A Pandemic Spiritual Cancer (Part 3) we discuss how a dictatorship is formed out of the downfall of a democracy. ✦ In Teaching E-mail 66. Only Your Faith Can Overcome Chaos, we wrote how the societal and political tension that's been growing in this nation for decades is the fertile soil for a dictatorship to come into existence. We've also mentioned previously that the United States has been in the **Atomistic Stage** of societal meltdown at least since the Vietnam Conflict—and that no society has ever come out of this self-obsessed stage. Without repentance, bondage and dictatorship are our future. ✦ For further insight into the identifiers of the Atomistic Stage of societal meltdown, see: Appendix B, page 36, in our article, Hebraic Homes Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generation).

It may sound unpatriotic, but where this nation ends up isn't as important to us as preparing you younger followers of Jesus to be His light before disastrous days do occur in this land. Don't count on the Baby Boomers or envy the prosperity which the Boomer generation has spent a lifetime pursuing. A good part of seniors' retirement pleasure is financed by the government, and you younger people are faced with an unpayable debt which we older folks have accrued. Our generation has no regard for the generations after us. (This smacks of Hezekiah's cavalier attitude about the future cap-

tivity of his descendants in Isaiah 39:8: *“At least peace and truth will continue during my lifetime”*) Honor your parents and grandparents, but don't seek their self-serving way of life. Too many have catered to their own desires by moving to the **cesspool of retirement** in Florida, Arizona and other Sunbelt areas. They will have to render account before our Lord at the Judgment Throne for forsaking their God-given responsibilities to impart wisdom and lead their families through the narrow gate.

We couldn't be more ashamed of most of our generation and their penchant for ease and pleasure. But our hearts rejoice over some notable standouts who have sacrificed themselves in lifelong service to our Lord Jesus and in service to others.

IF YOU ARE YOUNGER, BE SURE THAT THIS DESCRIBES YOU!

Repentance starts with just one person, you, asking the Holy Spirit if there is anything your Father holds against you. If there is, when you've repented, encourage those close to you in your faith walk to do likewise. Receive His forgiveness with a grateful heart and thank our Lord Jesus for His faithfulness so you can be clean before the Father Who loves you! And may this promise which our Father gave to the Israelites be yours too as you discuss with those close to you how to bring your Father glory:

“Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard (see Matthew 18:20). A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored His Name. 'On the day when I act,' says the LORD Almighty, 'they will be My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him” (Malachi 3:16,17).

We want to close by recalling **why** our Lord become man: *“My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of Him Who sent Me and to finish His work” (John 4:34). *“For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38).* When you are doing your Father's will and bringing Him glory in the name of Jesus, there's nothing greater to live for!*

We pray this blessing for you who are younger: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13). Your ongoing repentance and your freedom from demonic strongholds enables our Lord Jesus to entrust you with the Spirit's power. This way of life as His loving and empowered son or daughter brings unfailing hope!*

Mike & Sue

PS If you'd like to be encouraged by a woman who experienced deep suffering and distress in service to our Lord at the risk of her own life, you might want to read as a family *Each New Day: 365 Reflections to Strengthen Your Faith*, by Corrie ten Boom. Corrie personified love-grounded, obedient trust in action. Arrested by the Nazis along with the rest of her family for hiding Jews during the Holocaust, she was imprisoned in a concentration camp. After WW II she went on to travel all over the world, sharing the forgiving work and holy nature of Jesus and the need for every person to forgive.