

Teaching E-mail 70 A Year Older and Very Saddened

(April 12, 2013)

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare Your power to the next generation, Your might to all who are to come”

(Psalms 71:18).

Mike: I turned 67 a few days ago. While it's not a particularly significant age, I have to admit I don't look forward to ever turning 68. Over the course of my life thus far I've witnessed the destruction of this nation, family by family. I've especially observed so many botched opportunities for Christian men to have kept this rapid downward spiral from ever happening, never mind escalating. I've grieved that the majority of men I've met who claim they're Christian have been dominated by **cowardice, fear** and their **widespread toleration for sin**. Because of their own choice to shrink back, they have remained collectively impotent as demonic principalities have infiltrated and overcome this country.

During the past several decades various movements have purposed to alter the path of immorality and irresponsibility in this land, especially among husbands and fathers. Sadly, most of these organized attempts abandoned their emphasis on humanity's need for a right relationship with God the Father through the saving work of His Son Jesus. They neglected the vital truth that without the power of the indwelling Spirit of Christ, a person's own life will ultimately be torpedoed by sin. Yet organizations such as the Moral Majority and Focus on the Family altered their initial course by waging political battles with the unredeemed who are enslaved to sin. Naturally they resisted with all the indig-

nation their sin nature could muster.

Husbands and fathers segmented their spiritual lives into a tidy little compartment of Sunday services, erroneously believing that the organized system would teach their wives and children all they needed to know about God. Yet the all-too-painful reality publicized by research polls has been a level of worldliness and wrongdoing among churching young people that parallels that of individuals who make no claim to be “Christian.” Husbands and fathers forsook their biblical responsibility to use their home as the training ground for their children to learn to stand strong in the Lordship of Jesus.

Wives and children were disappointed time and again as the men who should have been leading the way in righteousness and obedient trust in their Lord instead turned to self-gratification and spiritual sloth. The rah-rah rallies of Promise Keepers exposed the nature of men who all too often expected and received entertainment rather than strong and convicting messages that brought forth lasting repentance and Spirit-empowered determination to train a Godly generation. Jesus was relegated to a concept instead of the ever-present core of their being to use His power and purpose so they would lay down their lives for their wives and children.

When our Father commanded us years ago to *“contend for My Son Jesus,”* we didn't appreciate that the most difficult arena to affirm His preeminence would be among self-identified Christians, especially men. How small has been the number we've met who intentionally

respond with grateful love to Jesus as their Lord and live with the humility and devotion of **blood-bought, responsive servant/slaves who eagerly do His Father's will**. While a larger percentage may study the Bible to enhance their knowledge of facts and history, very few meditate on it to internalize our God's commands and **put His Word into practice day by day**. The result has been a contrast between men puffed up by what they can expound and others who obliviously ignore their need to explore His essential truths.

As the years have passed, the heaviness of spirit within my soul has only gotten worse as irresponsibility and self-idolatry among men has burgeoned. There's a description of the prophet Ezekiel that rings true in the sorrow of my own heart regarding the hardened and obstinate hearts of the men of this nation: *"The Spirit then lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the LORD upon me"* (Ezekiel 3:14; see also 2Peter 2:8).

Ezekiel was living among a people God had chosen to represent Him to all the nations of the world by their holy lives and glorious message of hope in the one True God. Yet they resisted their God-given responsibility and gave way to the sinful practices of the nations around them — much like today as the "churched" compromise with evil and then wonder why the next generation does even worse without conscience.

When I first followed Jesus, the two chaplains on our Navy ship anointed me with a ministry which they told me would be lifelong. They cited Ezekiel 33 and stated that this "watchman assignment" was God's call on my life. I've been a watchman for a long time, voic-

ing by the Spirit the warnings I've been given to convey, only to watch the recipients nonchalantly continue in their sin. You could compare the life of serving as a watchman of our Father in these past decades to an obstetrician who has delivered only stillborn babies.

I realize that our Lord has made known to Sue and me that what we have been given to share by our Father will not bear fruit until after the dark days of chastisement come on this nation. I wish I could have seen the truths of what He is restoring become reality in my lifetime, but I also recognize from Hebrews 11:13 that I can't expect to see fruit. By the grace of my Lord and His mighty power I can only press on in trust, knowing that His will is going to be accomplished because He IS sovereign: *"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth"* (Hebrews 11:13).

"The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men"
(Psalms 12:8).

Let me paraphrase the above verse to introduce my deepest hurt, the failure of Christian men to stand tall for Jesus as soldiers bearing a shield to protect the vulnerable: **"Half-naked daughters freely strut about when sexual impurity is honored among men."** Last week while Sue and I were shopping at our local pharmacy I talked with Martina, a cashier who is about our age. I noticed that all the sexually explicit magazines had been moved near the checkout counter and lamented to Martina, "What if we Christian men had joined together

and stood up for the dignity of women when Hugh Hefner first published *Playboy* decades ago?" With a sad expression she responded, "Christian men wouldn't have done it. They are just as bad as everyone else!"

I knew from my years of counseling clergy and conducting numerous men's retreats that her appraisal was accurate. Now we men are seeing the tragic fruit of our own toleration for sin (and participation in it). By refusing to be the spiritual leaders our Father demands of us in His Word, the curse of our collective failure is being manifested all around us.

Every half-clad female in an advertisement is our doing! Every daughter who has fornicated is our doing, and every son who took advantage of them is our doing. Every mother who is raising her child(ren) alone is a result of our sin! It's a shame to be a man in this nation. And even worse, to be a white man after what we've done to diminish and demean men from different races and minority groups. **The wickedness which dominates this nation has come about through the silence and negligence of white "Christian" men!**

I look forward to the day when the Kingdom of God will arise out of the ashes of the building-bound "Christianity" which has fostered such hypocritical self-righteousness among so many "churched" in this nation. Only when men become truly desperate and appalled by their personal depravity will those who are serving themselves realize that they're thirsting for an authentic relationship with Jesus as their Lord and King. For now they're able to feel good about their weekly exercises in repeating creeds and participating in denominational rituals. It's a socially acceptable thing to do and appeases their conscience that their fami-

lies are learning something "spiritual" inside a "sacred building" designed for spectators to enjoy performances.

Even these men's conversations allay any sense of guilt their disobedience ought to have kindled—yet it's nothing more than religious **trash talk**: "I went to so-and-so's website and found it really interesting reading." "Did you hear the latest worship song by...?" "Are you going on the ski trip with the singles' group?" "I'm helping the youth group do a car wash so they can go to Six Flags." "Which restaurant are we going to after church?"

Where is the heart burden for the lost who have yet to encounter the Good News of the cross and the resurrection—the reason Jesus came? Is anyone shedding tears over the rampant self-focused, misguided misrepresentation of our Father's plan to call a holy and set-apart people to Himself? Yet slothful "Christian" men who are enslaved by the corruption of the goals, ways and values of this world have led the way in this hell-inspired, pleasure-bent focus. (See Jude 1:4.)

In Lesson 36 of our series *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church* we wrote about the responsibilities God places on us men in these topics: • *What Is Authority?* • *Authority Given To Men*. Yet it appears that now it's too late for change, because **women will rule this nation at all levels, from family to government, until the Dark Days of Chastisement**. If you do read this lesson, read it for what you need to know when our Father does restore by His Spirit an authentic walk of love-grounded obedient trust to His people and manifests once again faith practices which pour out into every day life. The prophets of the Older Testament are still warning us

today if we have ears to hear! *“Youths oppress My people, women rule over them. O My people! Those who guide you lead you astray and confuse the direction of your paths”* (Isaiah 3:12).

In this country the vast majority of professional clergy and people who prophesy for pay have deceived the unrepentant that their sins are okay with God (Jeremiah 5:31). But He isn't sitting back and letting this lie go on much longer. When a woman becomes President will be the sign that the Dark Days are almost upon us. Men have abdicated their role as leaders and vessels of honor through whom the righteousness of God is made known. It just breaks my heart to see what Christian men have relinquished for several generations now. That's why I really don't want to see my 68th birthday.

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings”
(1Peter 5:8,9)

The **tolerated unrighteousness** among so many Christian men has incapacitated them to resist the demonic forces that seduced them into pursuing the **things of this world** (James 4:4; 1John 2:15-17). Rather than loving Jesus as His grateful servant/brother and instilling the Kingdom of God into the hearts of their families, Christian men have made themselves and their families enemies of God.

Just about every Christian couple we've met who has grown children describes their kids by their level of success in this world. Anchor this in your

innermost being: **Success in the Kingdom of God is measured by being in your Father's will.** This is true holiness. Holiness is not found through a particular religious occupation, but by being in the center of your Father's will. You don't hear many Christian parents role modeling or instilling His measure of success in their children. It's grievously shameful that Christian men relegated their spiritual lives to a mere veneer and led the way in pursuing the pleasures and perceived security that worldly success provides. Titus 1:15,16 serves as a sharp rebuke to those who live under the sway of compromise.

I've just about given up warning men about the spiritual warfare that we're up against. Since most men throughout Christendom are not a threat to the demons, these men face no opposition because of the spiritual stupor and lethargy they enjoy. I began 30 years ago in Connecticut trying to rally Christians to stand up against the thousands of satanists who moved into that prosperous state. Only a few men, those who were determined to respond righteously in the Spirit and who had experienced demonic opposition because of their obedient trust in Jesus, joined us in prayerful resistance to this scheme of Satan. But we were too few and ultimately ineffective.

In case you doubt that spiritual warfare is real, I can bear witness to personal encounters with demons, two of which almost cost me my life. One skirmish ended up with me in the hospital. And there were situations involving other individuals through which our Father wanted me to see how demons operated openly inside congregations:

- As part of our ten-year teaching retreat ministry I counseled church leaders. On one

occasion a clergyman (I'll call him Tom) came for some advice. He was battling sexual temptation as he counseled a woman who had recently begun attending his congregation. We talked for a while and he left. Several weeks later our family happened to attend worship at this church. At the end of the service there was a time of prayer ministry. The elders took up positions in the front. Because so many people desired prayer that morning, the elders asked me to help.

As I stood next to Tom a woman came up for prayer. As she walked toward me the Holy Spirit said, "This is the woman Tom mentioned to you. She was sent here by Satan to seduce him. Pray for what she asks but do nothing more." After she walked away I turned to Tom and said, "That's the woman you mentioned to me a few weeks ago." Amazed, he asked, "How did you know?" I revealed what the Holy Spirit had told me regarding her satanic mission of seduction. Her cover blown, she was never seen in that congregation again.

- On another occasion we were visiting a congregation and were surprised by the complete lack of male testimonies during a time of open sharing. On previous visits we had always observed a balance among the men and women as they spoke. Sitting there that morning I bowed and inquired of the Lord, "Why are there no men sharing?" The Spirit replied, "To your left are two women with a Jezebel spirit, sent here to inspire fear in the men to keep them from speaking." As I looked in that direction I could see the two women the Spirit was indicating. In prayer I asked if there was anything I should do. The Spirit prompted, "You can pray to bind their influence here this morning." As I was praying I glanced over to see both women glaring at me; then they got up and left. At the end of the service I mentioned the situation to the

church leaders. They recalled that the women had begun attending several weeks earlier, and that the testimonies of the men had dwindled from that point. The two women never returned.

- In yet another congregation the wife of one of the church leaders had trepidation about a woman who had been attending for about two years. This individual had become the head of the Sunday school program. One morning during worship the leader's wife recoiled in alarm at a demon she saw perched on the suspect woman's shoulder. She insisted that the leadership look into this situation. When they met with her the woman finally acknowledged that she'd been sent by a satanist group to water down the curriculum of the Sunday school program.

I could go on with testimony after testimony but it would be to no avail. ***If you aren't regularly encountering demonic opposition because of your love and obedience in Jesus***, then you've given into demonic seduction in one form or another. Anything further I could cite would be meaningless to you. But realize that if you intentionally continue to stray on this path, the Judgment Throne will find you grieving that you refused to stand up for our Lord Jesus and His Word no matter what the cost. At that point you will finally recognize the inroads the demons made into your own home and family as you fed your fleshly desires and purposes.

One last piece of essential counsel from both Sue and Mike:

The Bible commands husbands to seek *rhema*, the revealed will of our Father through His Spirit, for their wives (see Ephesians 5:23-30). Be aware that He only entrusts His *rhema* to those He knows will do His will. If you're not receiving any *rhema*, you really need to

examine your heart motives and readiness to obey. We recommend you go to our website and put the word "*rhema*" in our search box. Study some of the materials you find there and make sure you fully understand what our Father is commanding you as His obedient and loving child and as your wife's loving and responsible husband.

Over the years of our ministry we've met very few men who seriously sought *rhema* from God to actually put into practice. In fact we've found that as wives have increasingly taken part in women's Bible studies, husbands have shrunk back in carrying out their responsibility to seek God's revealed will for their families. And when these women become puffed up with knowledge through year after year of Bible study attendance, they assume a deceived sense of inflated spiritual superiority over their husbands (1Timothy 2:13-15). If anything, the Bible studies have also increased a judgmental, critical response in the women to spot what's wrong with everyone else.

Consider that the Bible calls for older women to train the younger ones to love

their husbands and children (see Titus 2:2-5). By forming and nurturing an *inter-generational relational accountability* between an older and younger woman, change that will result in more Christlike motives, attitudes and actions can take place — change that women's Bible studies which cater to adding more knowledge can actually undermine. Think of it this way: participation in women's Bible studies without older women training the younger ones is a curse on men for failing to seek the will of God for their wives and families. Can it be that the failure of men to seek *rhema* and the rise of women's Bible studies has contributed to why women now initiate 85% of divorces in this nation?

We strongly encourage you to pray about this message and take the warnings in this e-mail seriously. Please discuss it with those close to you so you can mutually identify any tolerated sin and help one another repent and walk in the new life that regeneration by the Spirit brings (2 Peter 3:3,17,18).

Mike & Sue