

**November 8, 2011**  
**Jesus Is LORD; Is He Yours?**

If you've become a grateful, joyful slave of our Lord Jesus the way Paul and his fellow-workers identified themselves to the Colossians, you'll find this teaching an encouragement. But perhaps you're waffling, choosing to *serve yourself* first according to your own will and plans, using a veneer of religious participation to make you look acceptable to others and feel good about yourself. We hope you have the humility and courage to prayerfully go through this Teaching Email and cry out to Jesus for His intervention.

You may have left the Nicolaitan religious system (over 20 million have fled in recent years, hungering for a closer walk of obedient trust in Jesus as LORD), but perhaps you still don't understand how our Father wants to mold you to live according to His Kingdom purposes. Please, make sure you don't fall into the common trap of railing against or being embittered by your experiences in Nicolaitanism. Instead, press forward in loving confidence in your LORD, and eagerly receive and put into practice His character changes and spiritual anointing as you take part in extending the Kingdom of God.

***"All these [anointings] are the work of one  
and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one,  
just as He determines"*** (1 Corinthians 12:11).

If you, your spouse and those who will press on with you as beloved fellow-slaves (Colossians 4:7) of our Lord Jesus will mutually discern your spiritual anointing(s), you'll collectively discover how Father wants to use you as an expression of His body. Some giftings are like internal organs and work within a particular faith community, for example, shepherding, mercy, wisdom, and knowledge. Others anointings more resemble external body parts, reaching out beyond the faith family to impact others as apostle, prophet and evangelist.

The call of those who venture beyond the local faith community can be very lonely, and often disheartening because the nature of your ministry is so little understood by those comfortable in Nicolaitanism. When you're operating in these "external outreach" giftings, you're not routinely present with your faith community each week. This has been the nature of our ministry for almost 30 years. And if you're part of a Nicolaitan system, these three anointings are often a threat to the clergy and driven away. The apostle John addresses such a situation (3 John 1:5-10).

By His grace our Lord recruits beloved and faithful slaves to work in His Kingdom according to the internal *and* external anointings His Spirit has given. Both those with external anointings and those with internal ones must understand and appreciate one another in their differences rather than feel threatened or frustrated when their

responses and outworking are so disparate. That's why there's only one Head, Jesus, who directs you to cooperate according to His purposes. NOW is the time for you to see yourself and others close to you through the eyes of the Spirit. Then you'll recognize your anointings and what He has ordained as you mutually do your parts laboring together to extend the Kingdom.

***"For you have spent enough time in the past  
doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery,  
lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry"  
(1 Peter 4:3).***

If you've ever studied European history prior to World War II, you know that few could really comprehend the underlying evil motives of Adolf Hitler and the rise of Nazism. The foremost voice of warning was Britain's Winston Churchill, who recognized that such evil needed to be forcefully confronted, not appeased. But in an attempt to placate Hitler, Britain ostracized Churchill from government influence until after the war had started, with devastation of cities and citizens alike the tragic aftermath. If you've been earnestly seeking the mind of our Lord about these present chaotic times, you're probably sensing that this nation is on the brink of a thundering catastrophic period. But as with Britain's blindness and deafness to what was happening around them, most who can in this country are scrambling to hold on to a nebulous figment of their imagination —**"The American Dream."**

Many would define their own "American Dream" as their quest for all the worldly pleasure and earthly security a person can obtain (1John 2:15-17). In the past, the American Dream had a "Christian" veneer: attending services regularly, celebrating religious holidays, and trying to "be a good person" allowed them to also run a parallel track of worldly success and personal prosperity. But that perspective is no longer functional (and certainly wasn't worthy then in the sight of our holy God!).

Throughout this nation Christianity has been disregarded as irrelevant and intolerant, the venue of "far-right extremists." The unabashed greed at all levels of society has been unmasked; the wealthy few strive to protect their opulent way of life, many by disguising themselves as "conservatives." At the lower economic levels are those who demand what they haven't worked for, disguising it behind "social concern." Caught in the crossfire are the manifold victims of both demographics, people who didn't overextend themselves financially but lost their jobs through no fault of their own. At all levels of the financial and economic spectrum, the Word of God so clearly delineates how God would have those with much (or at least *more*, like 2 coats!) help those with little. But obedience to His Word has been abandoned. And as history has demonstrated time and again:

**Whenever our God and His commands are discarded,  
chaos (complete disorder and confusion) erupts  
and ultimately leads to His judgment—  
and at times,  
the deliverance of a righteous remnant.**

### **Take a lesson from history**

You may be trapped in the false assumption that someone else will lead you out of the spiritual and economic quagmire you find yourself in. In Segments 36 thru 41 of our **Way of the Lord** series we discussed with you the theological hindrances that keep you from living with Jesus as LORD of who you are, how you live, and what you do. *Only you* can leave behind these hindrances and begin to experience the life of a beloved and precious slave, sheep, friend, brother, sister of Lord Jesus.

Please, DONT look to the Federal government to get this nation out of its present crisis. IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN!! We've included some information below for you to see how *God-dependent leaders of the past* led this nation during a time of great crisis. We also thought you'd find interesting a testimony of how a hundred years ago some schools included in report cards an evaluation of each student's *home life*. What if *you* were required to fill out a report card on your home, your family interaction and the personal responsibilities of your children?

### **By the Hand of Providence: How Faith Shaped the American Revolution**

by Rod Gragg (New York: Howard Books, 2011)

"The Continental Congress would continue to officially issue public calls for national days of prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving throughout the Revolution. The congressional practice followed a tradition established long before by America's colonial legislatures, which had often called on American colonists to confess personal and community sins, fast and pray for forgiveness, and prayerfully observe days of thanksgiving... "Public days of prayer were based on biblical passages such as 2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (p. 127)

"Colonial Americans took such biblical admonition seriously. So did the Continental Congress. Even so, while the American people were asked to pray at times by Congress, they were never ordered to do so, following the biblical principle that faith should be modeled rather than forced. (p. 128)

"[Amid] the sinking morale that afflicted the American people in early 1778, the Continental Congress issued a public proclamation setting April 22, 1778, as a day of national fasting and prayer. ...It was the duty of the American people ...'to acknowledge God in all his ways, and more especially to humble themselves before him' and to 'forsake their evil ways, and implore his mercy' on America in its dark time of peril....The Continental Congress showed no reluctance to publicly and officially express a biblical

faith, or to recommend that Americans pray in the name of Jesus Christ." (p. 132)

Obviously this isn't describing the leadership of this nation at this time, so don't look to them to get you out of however you're suffering in this **sin-caused** national mess. It's time for you to make sure that your *own* relationship with Jesus as your Lord is loving and responsively obedient. Talk this over with those you care about so that they, too, can examine the vitality of their faith walk in Jesus as their LORD and find spiritual shelter under His wings (Psalms 91:4).

You may also find eye-opening this article from the Colorado Springs *Gazette*, 10/2/11: **A Report Card for Today's Parents** — *A century-old document redefining "education"*

"Barbara Unell was sorting through the paperwork and personal items of her beloved Uncle Dan...when she came across a surprising artifact. It was his fifth-grade report card from 1914... The left side was labeled "School Report," with a typical list of elementary school subjects and his grades. But on the right side, carrying equal weight, was the "Home Report," with a list of "Home Activities" and assignments of each. The back cover contained a message from the superintendent: "The worth of a child cannot be measured in terms of 'Per cent' alone. The home life of the child is an important part of the whole life. The teacher's judgment will be a much better one if the home will kindly cooperate. Parents are asked to carefully consider and mark "Home Report" as indicated."...

Parents were asked to numerically log, for instance, "Books Read" and "Money Earned" for their child and grade him or her on such activities as ... "Care of Clothing,"... "Helping Mother, Helping Father,..."Obedience & Promptness" and "Habits of Kindness." Unell said, "It's the basic ingredients that define parenting, about being a mother and a father." Unell showed the report card to school administrators, teachers and parents, and the reactions were similar: "What happened to this? Can we get it back?"...

"The "home report" can be motivational for parents and children, Unell said. Children want to be held accountable for good behavior and love being rewarded for it. Adults appreciate the help in focusing their attention on what really matters in parenting... "It's exciting because it's not about punishing. It's about encouraging and promoting and validating. What would it be like to bring back a 'home report' not only across our community but across the country?"

Again, consider your home life from our Lord's perspective. Would Jesus commend you for what goes on within your walls? If He wouldn't, what do you need to change so that your family's activities and interaction there will be pleasing and honoring to Him?

When God wanted to show Himself powerful to the Israelites before He delivered them out of Egypt, He commanded them to place blood around the door of their homes (Exodus 12). During His judgment against the Egyptians, He wanted to make sure there was a *distinction* between His own and those He intended to punish. That same need for *distinction* is true today if we claim to belong to Jesus: every sin we've ever committed needs to be covered, placed under His blood through repentance. This is the **ONLY** way you can be cleansed from ALL unrighteousness (1 John 1:9), so make sure

you've *resisted* any fleshly impulse to hold onto anything that violates His Word. No "hidden" areas of unrepentance escape His Fatherly eye!

Heed the words of the widow Naomi concerning her much-loved daughter-in-law and the opportunity that lay before Boaz to take her as his bride. Be as eager as that kinsman-redeemer to pursue the LORDship of Jesus in your life: "*For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today*"(Ruth 3:18). Until you're assured in your heart that Jesus is indeed your Lord and Master and King, set aside all other distractions. Please, prayerfully go through this Teaching E-mail and see if *anything* is holding you back from this crucial choice in your life. Do whatever is necessary to make it so...

Trusting in His faithfulness no matter what,  
**Mike & Sue**