



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”
(Colossians 1:10 NASB)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

On this crisp, freshly snow-whitened, winter morning all of God's creation is enthusiastically preening itself. The cardinals who swarm our feeders are a brilliant red against the fresh snow. The blood red on the woodpeckers' heads is almost as bright as the cardinals, and the purple finches look like they have just been freshly dunked in raspberry juice. It is as if the sun has finally shone through the leaden gray winter clouds, and all creation is bursting with joy to have an opportunity to please their Creator who so delights in all His creation.

How our Lord longs for His highest creation, us human beings, to want to please Him too; to please Him more than we want to please ourselves or others; to please Him when no one else is looking or admiring our efforts; to please Him like nature does even in the remotest areas where they're only seen by each other and by Him.

Our father in the faith, Bob Mumford, engraved in our hearts and minds years ago that our top priority in Christ Jesus is to become a *Father Pleaser!*

When we enter into the Kingdom through faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ as God's Son, our past, horribly-wrong decisions are weighed, and as we confess them as sins against Him and proclaim our desire to turn from them to Him, they are declared forgiven! They are eradicated from our Book of Life! They are expunged from God's remembrance by Christ's blood. PTL!!

They must also be completely removed from affecting our thoughts of ourselves in any way. Having a full revelation of this is how Paul could write in Rom. 8:38-39: **“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Please notice that in this list of things that cannot separate us from the Love of God, Paul never mentioned *things of the past!*

Why? Because he knew that the *things of the past* that are repented of, and from which or for which we have been forgiven, are eliminated from the total sum of our life's experience that are judged by God when we stand before Him in Glory. And he also knew that the *things of the past* from which and for which we have not repented and let go into the sea of forgetfulness by God's grace, can eventually so color our thinking about ourselves and about God that they CAN create boundaries and barriers between us and the love of God.

Take time to absorb the fullness of Jesus' grace-and-kindness-filled words to the woman entrapped in adultery: **“Neither do I condemn you; go your way; from now on sin no more.”** (John. 8:11) He grants to us a new “slate” to write our life upon, a divinely-sensitive conscience, and the Holy Spirit to be our teacher, helper, and empowerer. Once we accept all that Christ has done for us on the cross, we have a real choice not to sin undergirded with the strength to resist its siren call! And we are given the Biblical admonition to not even let thoughts of those past icky-awfuls enter our minds!

That we Christians have been given the power, desire, and courage to choose righteous behavior is one of the most exciting messages of Christianity! That is why it is so important that each decision we make now should be a righteous one, one with which the Holy Spirit within us is at peace.

Remember, unbelievers are watching to see if the gospel is true in our lives. No amount of pious

talk is as effective as our living a holy and honorable life through the One whom we call our Lord Jesus. Even those who are not in the kingdom recognize the truth that “actions speak louder than words!” For example, Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher whose bitterness toward Christianity greatly influenced Hitler, declared: “Christians will have to look more redeemed if they want me to believe in their redeemer!” Ouch!

It has become fashionable in some Christian circles to emphasize the Biblical truth that we do not need to “earn” God’s love to be saved and that He loves us “just the way we are right now.” But the whole Truth in this regard is that God wants us to mature through this entry-level truth so that once we’ve entered into His Kingdom and become part of His family, we will increasingly re-present His Son, Jesus, fully in everything we think and do and say.

When we, who are supposed to personify divine love and righteousness, “**act unbecomingly**” we put a lie to the 1 Cor. 13:5 definition of agape love and cause others to stumble by our unbecoming actions. This grieves the Holy Spirit who is trying to teach us the ways of the Lord so that we may spurn all temptations to act contrary to His character.

We are under delusion if we think that what we do privately does not matter to God or to the Body of Christ! It is so easy to become deluded into thinking, “*I am doing my job very well and what I do in private life is no one else’s business!*” And there are popularized delusions about the Christian life like: *it will ordinarily be easy, successful, healthy, and wealthy, excitingly punctuated by miracles; that such acts as fornication and tax evasion will not matter as long as no one finds out; and that God always wants you to do what you feel like doing.*

“Satan, the father of lies, and a past master at deluding Christians, labors constantly to mislead and muddle God’s people, so that humble self-suspicion, and the commonsensical hardheadedness that used to be called prudence, and the habit of testing by Scripture things hitherto taken for granted, become virtues of very great importance.” (ref. J. I. Packer, *Rediscovering Holiness*)

It especially pleases God when we are honest in financial matters. The Apostle Paul reminded the Philippians in 2:14-16a: “**Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life...**” And he exhorted Titus, “**...in all things show yourself an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.**”(Tit. 2:7-8)

Paul wrote to the Corinthians words that we are continuously cognizant of here at RCM regarding your financial support, as should all Christian ministries be: (I am) “**taking precaution (in order) that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**” (2 Cor. 8:20-21)

Lastly, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to assure Titus, “**...Christ Jesus ...gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.**” (Titus 2:13b-14) Dare we add to Paul’s words: zealous to be Father Pleasers?!

So, here is the unbelievable offer (promise) of the Lord to us: if we will choose Jesus as His Son above all other humans, false gods, and our own temptations and desires, and turn from our former ungodly behavior and commit to obey God, He will be so pleased that our sins will be completely expunged from our Book of Life by the blood of Jesus, and we will be adopted into the family of God and given an incomparable heavenly inheritance with all the other saints!

Beloved, God has given us sage advice through His prophets, and He sent a flesh and blood man of righteousness in His Son, Jesus, for us to emulate, and He invested His own “dynamite” Holy Spirit in us to empower us to do it! Let’s all freshly commit to “**walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...**” and become true Father Pleasers!

Hugs,

