

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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FUNDAMENTALS OF JESUS AND HIS IMMINENT RETURN- PART ONE

One fundamental to all that I write is my understanding and absolute belief that the Bible is true and is the inerrant word of God. Recognizing and taking it as such, I know the Bible is true literally, in the very surface definition of the words themselves. If you understand the words and the sentences, you know what it means! It also of course is an infinitely deep book, having many levels of meaning; over and over when a student of the Bible reads a section he has read countless times before, he discovers new meaning. God reveals more and more truths this way. The Bible is, as often said, a living book.

As many of you know, God called me to several specific assignments, one of which is to tell people who Jesus is and that he is returning soon. I have received a great deal of revelation on that subject, which I have shared at times in past writings.

So with that background and in recognition of how close we are to the Lord's return and how terribly lost and confused most of humankind is, I have thought it wise for a while at least to focus directly on absolute fundamentals primarily relating to Jesus and his imminent return. That will be the focus of this newsletter and several upcoming, unless of course the Lord interrupts with other plans. (Unless otherwise noted, all scripture is from the NIV.)

GOD IS GOD

This is fundamental. He is. In his own words, "I AM." He is all powerful, all knowing, all seeing. He is absolutely true to his character traits which he himself spells out in the bible. He does not change.

Of course God is love. Wondrous love. It is the trait that impacts so many. But it is not the only character trait God has, and this is where many are led astray. In his own words in Exodus 34 God describes himself as compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. He also says that he does not leave the guilty unpunished. And he makes the point that he is a jealous God, indeed that his name is jealous (one of his many names, his attributes, who he is). Well, remember the first commandment – you shall have no other gods before me?

Whenever you are in doubt about any issue – whenever there is a disagreement between what people seem to be saying and what God says – then let God be true and every man a liar, as the Bible itself says (Romans 3:4).

Needless to say, God cannot tolerate sin. He is truth, so he could not be true to himself if he tolerated sin. If you want to see how much God hates sin, just look at Psalm 5:4-5, Psalm 11:5, and Proverbs 6:16-19.

Once Adam and Eve had sinned against God, had rebelled by eating a forbidden fruit, humankind was separated from God. The rest of the Old Testament really is the account of God finding individuals (prophets) through whom he could communicate to people and by whom he could prepare the way for the culmination of his plan to reconcile human beings to himself. That reconciliation took place through the actions of the son of God, Jesus Christ.

SIN AND WHAT JESUS DID ABOUT IT

To understand what Jesus overcame we need to look a moment at this “sin.” Just what is it? Well, we know the result of sin is separation from God. God is truth and honesty and love and he just cannot tolerate sin. He hates evil.

Sin is awful, horrible. It is so much more than is commonly thought. Some types of sin are easy to understand, like murder and stealing and adultery, but there is much more to this word. It is not just the behavior of those on the street who are obviously lost and down and out or who live riotous lives of depravity. It is also sometimes that of men and women who apparently live upstanding lives, who appear in our world as leaders and great thinkers and writers and role models. Sin, you see, is rebellion against God. It is whatever you do and wherever you are in your life where you put your desires and your plans and your priorities over that of God. It is whenever you declare your right to yourself and your own dreams and priorities.

All our sin is sin against God. No matter who seems to be involved here on earth, ultimately it is he we hurt the most.

Against you, and you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...-Psalm 51:4

This great problem for humankind was handled by Jesus’ coming and going to and through the cross, taking upon himself our sins and overcoming them, and thereby earning the opportunity for people to be forgiven and to enter into an eternal relationship with God. Jesus did so much on the cross, and we will focus on that in the next one or two newsletters. But for now, an easy way of thinking is that Jesus took care of everything that separated people from God. Sin is taken out, taken care of only by Jesus, who came to destroy the works of the devil. It is he and his actions that have overcome sin and overcome the world. Remember, he became sin so that he might take care of the sin in us and reconcile us to his father.

So now in our time, if a person truly realizes who Jesus is and receives Jesus as their Lord, they can be forgiven and can be in the Kingdom of God (even now – at least internally).

Thank God for Jesus Christ. While we were all yet sinners Christ died for us, the only sacrifice that could satisfy the holy and pure God. Yes, God is love, but he hates sin. You receive the love of God in a dramatic way when you receive Jesus as your Lord.

Don’t stop at the initial rung of the experience with God. That initial step, believing in Christ and asking him to be your Lord, being forgiven – that’s just the key that opens the door to the eternal classroom of God, the door to the Kingdom in which you must steadily go forward and upwards.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

Well, that makes sense, doesn't it, when you consider what we've just been saying. He overcame evil and did all that was necessary to restore humanity to God. He became a sacrifice for us, being the only sacrifice God could accept. Jesus had no sin. He was clean, pure. No human being met that description when Jesus was on earth and no human being meets it now.

So if Jesus is your Lord, if you know Jesus, God has indeed forgiven you and you are in a relationship with the Lord. And you also know that if you slip up, which human beings clearly do as we all see in life, and we recognize our error, our sin, and go to the Lord and ask his forgiveness, we know we have it and we go forward.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6 (Jesus speaking.).

No one. No one. Anyone who says there is another way is preaching and teaching falsehood.

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.... - John 11:25-26 (KJV – Jesus speaking.).

... there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.. – Acts 4:12 (Peter speaking).

EVERYONE DOES NOT GO TO HEAVEN

Because people love to read and hear that God is love, they are easily misled into thinking that surely if God is love he would want all people to be in eternal life with him, in the Kingdom, in Heaven. But that is just not what happens. You may want it, but many, many people never come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. There are numerous scriptures that make the point that the number getting into the Kingdom is not a majority of the people who live. Just consider these brief quotes, and we could get many more:

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. - Matthew 7:14 (Jesus speaking).

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. – Matthew 7:19 (Jesus speaking).

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. – Matthew 25:46 (Jesus speaking). Eternal means eternal, forever.

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (Paul speaking).

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In the next three or more newsletters we will be dealing succinctly and directly with what Jesus did and who we believers are in him, with what the day of the Lord is, when the Lord is coming to gather his believers, what we know about the anti-christ and the false prophet, what the seven year period popularly described as the tribulation is, the great battle at Armageddon and what happens there, what warnings Jesus gave us for our very day, and more.

Please send these on to anyone you know who needs to receive this information. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email so you can easily forward, please let us know. We're even happy to send it to you both in paper and by email.

A FINAL COMMENT AND REQUEST

We do as always thank you for your contributions in support of this ministry. Please do continue to help us go forward and also to reach more and more. Should you wish us to hold programs or seminars in your area let us know.

I recently heard a Christian radio station asking for contributions, and they said they were a "listener supported station." Well, I hope you know, this is a "listener/reader/partner supported ministry!" We depend on funds coming from you and others. That seems to be the primary way God supports his ministries, through people like you.

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

NOTE: Our teaching CDs that relate directly to the subjects of this newsletter include:

WHAT DID JESUS DO? – PARTS ONE, TWO, and THREE

JUST HOW DOES ANYONE EVER REALLY GET INTO HEAVEN?

These can be requested through the web site or directly from the ministry. On the web site you can also watch our television programs that relate to these subjects.

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