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John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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FIGHTING WEARINESS AND REMEMBERING WHO GOD IS

I am really weary of this world. By that I mean the world systems out there, the secular world, all that we see happening around us every day involving politicians and reporters and stores and shops and schools and more. I am really weary of all the unbelief, of all the actions of so many that we read and hear about every day that so clearly are not believers and do not know where we are in time.

It's hard not to be weary, isn't it? I expect most of you share those feelings at times. Listening to prominent national newscasters give views that we know are just not true. Or hearing and seeing national politicians taking actions that can only hurt the country, lead to more division, and in general just are no good. Or hearing famous entertainers blast the United States and its culture when they clearly do not understand how absolutely horrible conditions and life is in many other countries of the world – for some economically and socially and for others more on the freedom scale. I am always amazed to hear all the criticism of women's rights in this nation when I have seen women's lack of rights in some foreign lands.

When I spent time in Africa years ago I was always encouraged by how warm and enthusiastically people greeted me when I arrived and throughout the time I was there. And those people just have almost nothing in a material sense compared to all of us who live in the West. And consider the lack of freedoms in some of the Middle Eastern Muslim nations, especially freedom of religion and freedom of speech and especially for women freedom to do what we consider just normal activities of life (education, drive a car, job).

And then the truly dangerous nations. Nations at war are one thing. But then the closed societies, the communist societies. Modern day Americans who have not traveled just don't get it.

So I am weary of these times. These are the days of the Lord's return. I and all of us should be joyful in that, and I am in that subject. But the conditions around and the fact so many people do not know Jesus is not a joyful thing. The majority of people do not know Jesus nor that he is coming soon. Even a large number of people who say they are Christians do not know he is coming soon.

I have written a great deal on the Lord's return, especially since he has pressed me to tell others who he is and that he is coming soon. Not long ago he made the point specifically the return is my message now.

Today I was thinking back on all those past newsletters and other writings on all the wonderful aspects of God and life with Jesus and the Holy Spirit – love, salvation, healing, the gifts of the Spirit and operating in those gifts, casting out demons, our authority in Christ, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, the Kingdom of God, and so much more. Wonderful subjects. They are still important. But right now in this moment, while they all continue to be important, the top focus has to be on the Lord's return, and on the fact that unless a person has been born again, that person is not going with Jesus when he takes his sheep away.

You know all that if you have been reading our newsletters and other writings. So for just a moment here I thought again about the amazing love of God for us. I thought of all Jesus has done and does for us. And I

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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thought of the extraordinary presence of the Holy Spirit, his guidance. God operates in great ways as witness the miracles and healings in the Bible and in our ministry and lives in the past. And he operates in small, gentle, ever so sensitive ways. If we are not paying attention we may miss those. They are great too. God does love his people. In that vein I thought I would include the following poem, an account which actually happened to Cathy and me in our former neighborhood. Don't miss the hand of God here.

FLOWER BOXES

by John Newlin

She lived quietly by the sea,
On the very beach itself,
Her front yard only sand,
Her view the unending ocean.

Often as we passed on our way,
She quietly moved about,
Caring for flowers in boxes
Neatly stationed along deck rails.

She always wore bright scarves
Firmly wrapped about her head,
Their colorful patterns
Hiding the absence of hair.

We would see her from our house,
Steadily moving,
Watering plant after plant,
Gliding in a flowing skirt.

The years passed, four years,
And we noticed a "for sale" sign.
Well, she died, you know, we were told.
No, we did not.

Suddenly new people arrived,
Filling the freshly painted house
With activity and new life.
No flower boxes could be seen.

Reborn, the house lives on,
With a new identity.
The past has disappeared.
Fresh life fills the rooms.

And the flowers that once grew,
So that she could water them,
Now bloom on other decks,
Their purpose here fully served.

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Our God is a wonderful God. He loves you, every square inch, every cell. Never forget that even in these trying times. Just focus on his eternal love for you.

NO ONE CAN FATHOM

Almost lost among all the many great scriptures is this little powerful phrase about God:

"...his understanding no one can fathom." – Isaiah 40:28 NIV

We just cannot know fully what God knows and how he thinks, what his plans are. We are not him. We do not have his all-encompassing wisdom and knowledge and perspective. We don't.

Even those who steadily seek the Lord and more revelation never can get to that point. Consider:

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"*

declares the LORD.

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts." – Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV*

God's ways and thoughts are higher than our ways and thoughts. Not a surprise to be sure, but here we have it stated clearly as fact. It is true. The serious disciple of the Lord realizes this eventually. It is a tough realization. But if a person does not come to grips and peace with this there is a risk of going bonkers. God knows everything. We do not and can not. Those of us blessed immeasurably receive guidance from the Lord. Revelation. Guidance. Direction. But know all there is to know? Hardly.

There are long periods in the life of a true believer when he is sincerely following God but not in any way seeing where the guidance is leading. Sometimes years. Sometimes maybe never. I think we do not necessarily ever see the impact of or understand all that God does through us. Sometimes – but only sometimes and then probably for encouragement in a tough time, God lets us hear or see or receive knowledge of someone impacted, someone healed, someone whose life has been changed. It has been that way in my life for years. One time years ago a young man telephoned the office from the Boston area. After a few minutes of conversation and asking about some CDs, suddenly he blurted out "Your programs are wonderful. Saved my life." And with that he was gone. I've lived a long time on that telephone call.

Years ago I was talking with an older famous Christian leader. I mentioned that God had called me to something specific many years before, and I had been waiting fifteen years for it to happen. He replied, "It's been forty years for me." That's the way it is. God's time. His wisdom and knowledge. His plans. His ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts higher than ours too. Way higher.

Paraphrasing some words I read from Oswald Chambers years ago, let's consider a true disciple of the Lord, following and seeking and searching and doing all he knows to do. And he thinks and believes he is in synch with all the Lord wants and has led him to do, that he is walking with the Lord. Then suddenly he sees Jesus walking by, not even looking aside at him, and the Lord walks steadfastly straight ahead, way out in front of the disciple going on somewhere. A solemn face, staring ahead. The disciple is shocked and rushes, struggles, runs to catch up, has difficulty keeping up. Where is the Lord going?

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It's like that. We just don't know everything. One time years ago in one of those wonderful close moments with the Lord, he suddenly said to me, "John, you know many things, but you will never know everything."

That was it. Point taken. We will never know everything. But we do know that we have a wonderful loving God who in all things works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (see Romans 8:28). That will have to suffice. It will. Forever.

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THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GET THE TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND JESUS' IMMINENT RETURN OUT TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE!

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May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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