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November 2017 - "DON'T ACCEPT LESS"

Dear Friends,

Many people debate the concept that individuals are a product of their environment. Some say this is not true, while others maintain it is a reality. The truth is, our environment is a source of great influence, but ultimately we are a product of what we choose. Too many people have overcome the crime infested, drug dominated environment in which they were raised to become respected members of society. Not everyone becomes an alcoholic who grows up in a home dominated by alcoholism. Not all people who were molested as children grow up to be molesters. I could continue with examples, but I'm confident you grasp this concept.

Yet, interestingly enough, I have discovered that Christians seem to be a product of their environment more than any other segment of society. In fact, all too frequently, Christians esteem their environment higher in their lives than they do the Word of God. I'll explain.

One of the most critical questions asked by Christians is, "What is God's will?" The answer to that is both simple and complicated. God's specific will for each individual Believer cannot be found in scripture, but must be discovered through times of fellowship with Him. However, God's basic will for all humanity is identified in Genesis 1:26-27,

²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

It was God's desire for all people to be non-deified replications of Himself. We were to live forever possessing His life, nature and character. Not only that, but we were supposed to live our perfect lives in a perfect creation,

³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. ¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (Genesis 1:31-2:1)

God did not create a world in which there was sickness, disease, death and corruption. What He created was a perfect universe in which was a perfect Earth. These were the conditions wherein humanity was to live. Had Adam not sinned, he and Eve would still be alive today. In fact, they would be our approximately 6000 year-old great-great-great-etc grandparents. Even more, they would not be maligned with abundant wrinkles, hearing loss, diminished eyesight or in need of walkers to be mobile. They would be as healthy today as they were the day they came into existence. However, Adam sinned and both humanity and creation were plunged into a state of corruption: Romans 5:12,

¹²Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned

In this verse, the word “world” does not simply mean “planet Earth.” Likewise, the word “death” does not exclusively mean “to die physically.” Here is one way to paraphrase Romans 5:12,

Wherefore, it is because of Adam’s willful choice to disobey God’s Word that sin and all its power was released into the sum total of all creation. Subsequently, sin was the means by which absolute corruption was released into all creation. This corruption results in the ultimate degeneration of all non-living things and the death of all life, human, plant or animal. This sin and its nature have been passed down to all mankind and this is why all have sinned.

The consequence of what Adam did in Genesis chapter three is that every human born has been raised in an environment of corruption and imperfection. The world in which we live is not at all what God intended. If Adam had not sinned and corruption had not been released into creation, we would not have any of the following:

- Tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, blizzards, etc.
- Freezing temperatures or scorching heat.
- Volcanoes or their eruptions and release of toxins into the atmosphere.
- Sickness, disease, viral plagues, etc.
- Wildfires destroying thousands of acres of vegetation.
- Birth defects.
- Degeneration of eyesight or hearing.
- Arthritis, bone deterioration, tooth decay and so on.
- Barren, waterless deserts.

Christians talk about the beauty of God’s creation, but seem completely unaware of the fact that what they are seeing is not at all what God originally created. Many awake on a cold, winter morning to see their neighborhood blanketed with fresh, pure white snow and ice crystals covering trees and shrubs. I completely agree that, yes, it is very pretty...but in a perfect creation, such a scene would not exist. Likewise, people talk about the stunning colors of an evening sunset; what they don’t realize is that those colors are produced by particulates and pollution released into the air, all of which would not be there in a perfect creation.

As Christians, we have been raised in an environment that, other than its basic structure and form, bears almost no resemblance to God’s original intention for humanity and creation. As we are raised in the midst of such degeneration, death and corruption, we learn to accept and adapt to those conditions. Complicating this even more is the fact that so many Christians preach and talk as though what we see around us is the will of God and the way He made things.

The problem is that far too many Christians simply do not accept Genesis chapter one as being the revelation of God’s true will. Instead, it’s almost as though they believe God’s will is revealed in Genesis chapter three when sin, destruction, corruption and death were released into humanity and creation. Though they may not say it exactly that way, if they believe that our present conditions are God’s will, there is no other conclusion. Thus, if we preach anything other than Genesis chapter one being God’s will, we are preaching false doctrine.

Adding to this confusion is the fact that many Christians do not really understand the totality of why Jesus came to Earth. It is common to hear it preached that Jesus came to redeem us. When asked what we will be redeemed from, the answer is usually, “redeemed from sin.” But if I am redeemed from sin, should I not also be redeemed from its effects? If I am redeemed from its effects, does that not mean that at the least, my physical life should be better?

To put it in concise terms, Jesus came to Earth to redeem humanity and all of creation from what happened in Genesis chapter three. This is confirmed in scripture, especially in John 6:38 where Jesus said, “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” Since Genesis chapter one reveals a perfect human condition, then wouldn’t the completed work of Jesus do something to help restore us to such a condition? Absolutely!

³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:3, 5-6)

¹⁷Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)

Through faith in Jesus as Savior, we experience a spiritual birth that results in our being what God originally intended and revealed in Genesis chapter one. We are spiritually born in His likeness and image. But when Christians define their spiritual condition by what they see in the world and in the behavior of other Believers, they come to the conclusion that Christians still have a sin nature; they exalt their environmental conditions over the Word of God. Free will is not the sin nature; it is by his free will that Adam sinned, not by a sin nature. Christians have free will and can choose to sin if they want, but that does not mean faith in Jesus left them in the same sin-natured condition as those who are not born again.

²⁴Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (1 Corinthians 15:52-54)

The above passages make it indelibly clear that the day is coming when all Christians will receive perfect bodies that last forever. Between now and that moment, healing power has been made available to us so that our bodies can be healed of sickness, disease and affliction. Even the maimed can be made whole because of what Jesus has done for us. In spite of the fact that all of this is true, a great number of Christians teach and believe that healing is not for today and that God puts sickness or injury on people to teach them lessons. They do this because they are a

product of their environment, having become fully accustomed to and accepting of a world filled with disorder and sickness to the point they elevate those conditions above the Bible's revelation of God's truth.

Furthermore, it is not just our spiritual and physical condition that changes, literally all of creation will be redeemed and restored to God's original Genesis chapter one plan.

⁷But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men....¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹²Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

(2 Peter 7, 10-13)

When this takes place, the entire universe will be purged of all corruption and degeneration. Until then, we have dominion over the Earth, just as God declared in Genesis 1:26. Though we will not be able to change the cataclysmic natural disasters Jesus spoke of in Matthew chapter 24, we can still exercise this dominion over other adverse conditions.

What all this comes down to is this: Are we going to live as products of our environment, or are we going to exalt God's Word over all? Will we live by what we see and experience, or will we live by every Word God has given? Yes, there is indeed much turmoil in this fallen world, but we do not have to live dominated by what we experience or by the wrong belief of others. We do not have to accept less than what God has declared in His Word. If we press into God and allow His Word to be the true foundation for how we live, His will is going to be more firmly established in all we do! (I have a sermon which flows perfectly with this letter, titled, "Genesis 1 Life in a Genesis 3 World." If you would like to have a CD of this sermon, please use the order form on the next page.)

In closing, I am sharing a prophecy that is very critical for the days to come. Please read and take it to heart in preparation for what lies ahead.

May God's peace fill your life!

Jim

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A SHIFT IS COMING

There is a shift coming. There is a change on the horizon. It is not an easy change because things will look different and feel different than they were before.

I have laid a path before you. It is a path I want all My people on, but not everyone will choose it. Many will 'let up' and not go as far into Me as they can.

Look around...even some of those beside you now will not all be standing when this shift happens. It will be very grievous on your emotions to see those you love back off from pursuing Me. But do not be dismayed. Do not let natural affections keep you from going deeper into Me. Keep your eyes on Me.

DO NOT LET THE *FEELING* OF BEING ALONE STOP YOU FROM GOING FORWARD. You WILL feel alone on this path, but you are not alone. I am with you. Keep going forward. Keep coming into My presence and do not let up.

You will be surprised at some of those who choose to back off because they have seemed like spiritual giants to you in the past. But again...DO NOT LET THIS STOP YOU. You said you wanted to be led by My Spirit and not the sense realm. This is part of it. Do not be moved by what you see happening around you. It will seem like there is much damage to the Body of Christ because just as plates shift and leave much damage in a natural earthquake, this shift in the spirit will seem to leave much damage around you. But in the end, those who keep moving forward will walk into a place like never before where everything talked about will start being reality.

DO NOT measure **anything** by what you see with your natural eyes. The next phase is beginning and only those who have learned to see with spiritual eyes will make it in the next phase.

Take heed where you are standing when the shift happens. Those who are standing on Me will never fall. But those who have stepped off the sure rock and foundation of My Son will stumble. So be one who goes forward. Be one who stands. Be one who pursues Me like never before, because a shift is on the horizon.

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____ Please send me a CD of the sermon "Genesis 1 Life in a Genesis 3 World."

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