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APRIL 2021

“TEMPLE’ TANTRUMS”?



Dear **Friends & Family**,

[3/23] Well, at the time of this writing it has been a full year since nationwide Covid lockdown & restrictions were implemented & enforced. I remember well my “last Sunday out” before “Covid-confinements” began. I was at **Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church** in Coloma, MD portraying **Pontius Pilate** once again. It happened to be March 15-the “Ides of March”-the very date when Julius Caesar was assassinated by members of the Roman Senate in 44 B.C. Being an *itinerant* preacher, Covid has taken its toll on me personally, as I have written before. I’m a people-person. I always have been. Yes, our Lord definitely has used Covid to “sprout” new ministries from within me, vis, my weekly video productions, “**Cab!Talks**” & “**Chip Sunday Shows**”. And yet, and yet, like **Simeon & Anna** of old, I “long for the Temple”. I miss being “in the Temple” with God’s people, who, of course, are God’s true Temple now. **Simeon** abided in the Temple. He waited many years for the promise of the Lord via the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord’s Christ (Lk.2:26). Even before **Pentecost**, Simeon was a “man of the Spirit”. The Holy Spirit was upon him (Lk.2:25). The Spirit moved him to come into the Temple at the moment when the Holy Family arrived to dedicate the Child Jesus (Lk.2:27). The Temple was the focal point of religious activity in Israel. And now, One greater than the Temple had come (Mt.12:6). And, the Holy Spirit led the aged man to Him. God was at this moment in history in the progression of His redemptive plan, moving by His Spirit in the Temple. The Spirit of God was likewise upon the aged prophetess **Anna**. “She never left the Temple” (Lk.2:37). In the Temple she worshiped, prayed, & fasted “night & day”. **David** loved God’s House as well. After being told by the Lord through Nathan the prophet that God would raise up a son to David who would “build the Temple”. In the prophecy the great Messianic reference was included, vis, “He will be a son to me & I will be a Father to him”. The immediate reference

was to Solomon but it ultimately referred to the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus (Heb.1:5). Upon hearing of the Lord's great mercy upon him, the Scripture says "David went in & sat before the Lord" (II Sam.7:18), a reference of course to the Tabernacle, as the Temple had not yet been built. He "went in". David loved the Lord's House-"And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever" (Ps.23:6). He went in & sat before the Lord. How can one not think of **Mary of Bethany**, Lazarus & Martha's sister, who sat before the Lord, listening to His words? (Lk.7:39). Few portions of Scripture stir me more than I Sam.3. "And the boy Samuel ministered before the Lord...**Samuel** was lying down in the Temple of the Lord where the ark of God was..."



Our Lord Jesus loved the Temple-even as a boy. He knew even then that HE was the True Temple & that one day His Bride, the Church, would be the Temple of God. Yet, when Joseph & Mary left him in Jerusalem after visiting there for the annual Passover Feast, Jesus remained. Jesus remained. I can't help but think as I type when I was in a "temple" at 18 years of age. The temple then was an **Ursuline Academy** in Missouri **47 years ago** last month. After a scheduled meeting of the retreat I was attending, the rest of the group headed to lunch. I remained. I was "drawn"-to remain in "the temple". And it was then that the Lord introduced Himself to me. After His presence was released in the meeting that had just ended, I couldn't help but stay. Jesus at 12 had just experienced the traditional rituals & ceremonies of the **Passover Feast**. Yet, this time, He stayed. He was found 3 days later by His parents sitting in the midst of the teachers. The Scriptures had center-stage here-all in "God's House". As with the boy Samuel centuries before, I wonder if Jesus "lay down in the Temple of the Lord" & spent the night there. With Samuel, he lay where "the ark of God was". Now, with Jesus, the True Ark was in the Temple. I want to be in The Temple. Many today like me are weary of Covid & its nebulous ever-changing restrictions & guidelines. May our Lord bring His people back together "en-masse". Amen.

"THE 'ARK' OF TRIUMPH"



My perennial ache each year at camps is for this to be the case with the young who attend them each summer-i.e., that be “where the Ark of God is”. I ache for the Spirit of God to be so thick & heavy (“glory” means “heavy” in the Hebrew) in **Hemlock Hall**, which is our chapel building, our “Temple”, if you will, at camp. I ache that the children & teens under said “weight” can only lie down on their faces before Him in adoration. For decades I have expressed it thus: [“Adore on the floor”](#). What is the key to having such an experience happen to both old & young who attend camp?? It’s *the ark*. The ark made all the difference. The familiar **Capitol One** commercial: “What’s in your wallet?” can be applied to God’s various “Temples”, i.e., congregations of His people. What’s in your “ark”? For God’s Spirit, glory, presence, “Shekinah”, if you will to “come” into your midst, it is all proportionate to what is in your “ark”. What was in God’s ark? **The Law of God**. True repentance is a result of one’s awareness of their liability to God’s pristine holiness. The Law accomplishes such repentance when applied by the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Experiences in God must be founded upon the doctrine of God.



As I've said & written many times through the years, **"God's deepest fountains [of experience] are in the foundations [of Christian orthodoxy]"**. **A jar of Manna**. This once again references the Word of God but also foreshadows the Lord Jesus, the Bread of Life-the Sustenance of life. The staff, teens, & children are constantly exhorted & encouraged all week to look to The One Who is their life-sustenance-& their Provider. **Aaron's rod that budded**. This speaks of God's authority. A gathering of God's people must be overseen by men whom God has ordained, chosen, & anointed. Countless disastrous effects have resulted by self-appointed leaders whom God has not ordained to lead His people. ***The presence of God results from the reverence of God***. I have taught children & teens for decades re: God's presence coming upon a gathering of His people or not: ***"If you treat Him lightly, He shows up lightly."*** Our culture is reeling right now due to disregard for authority: God's authority, God's Word's authority, God's leaders' authority, etc. **Charles Hodge** once wrote "The history of man is basically the history of sin." [Systematic Theology abridged, 1988]. I would add to that, "The history of man is the history of rebellion." As far as the Ark of God is concerned, "these three abide": ***His Word, His provision, & His authority.*** Amen.

“LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ‘MY HUSBAND’”



Just a moment ago I got a text from a young married woman who grew up with me in camps since she was a little girl. She now has a little “future camper”. Some years ago she & her husband [also a camp veteran] gave me the high honor of joining them in marriage. One of the songs I used while speaking at it was *The Beach* by Nick Cave & Warren Ellis. This young woman asked me for this song info in her text. I started to play it on my phone. All of the sudden I began to weep as it made me think of my “Husband”. Yes, unbeknownst to many of you I’ve had one for **47 years** on the 31st of last month. Yes, some of you by now know Whom I’m speaking of: The Lord Jesus. Why weep, Michael? I weep in broken disbelief that the Lord of Glory, the Messiah Himself, would want me to be part of His Bride, the Church. Why would He want any of us? We were conceived with natures that are hostile to Him. All He loves, said sin nature in us hates. I wept because He could have easily created another race. He could have easily chosen this time not to allow His future Bride to be tempted, & so avoid the Fall. That Bride would be sweet, submissive, faithful, & devoted to Him “by nature”. His marriage to her would have no issues. The Husband would have no pain, strife with His Bride. The honeymoon would never end. Yet-our great Lord & Master & Husband chose not to do so. He purposely allowed & hence ordained the Fall. Why, Michael, why?! For the reason that He does or allows all that He does & allows-more of His glory will be seen, displayed, revealed, manifested, etc. for all to see, than if He chose not to allow said event to occur.

"HIS EYES ARE ON THE PRIZE"



I would dare say not one of us has been to a wedding where the groom was not up in front of the church, awaiting the sight of his bride-to-be, as the sanctuary doors are pulled open to display her fair beauty. And what is the groom looking for? The sight of her, in high anticipation in just a few minutes of becoming her husband-& one flesh. That is another reason I wept as the song played. I saw Jesus in my mind's eye staring at me coming towards Him on That Great Day-the Day of His Wedding Feast. Why would He want *me*? HOW could He want me? Why would He look at me like that with gleam-ing fire in His eye?? I can't take it in. I've sinned against Him so very many times. I've disappointed Him, I've not reflected His glory. Yet-yet-He still wants me. I can't take it in. He who is forgiven much, loves much. That's my story. That's me. If I have any devotion & faithfulness to Him at all, it's because it's all reciprocal-a reaction-a response to His love that He incited, ignited, & kindled. We love Him, because He loved us first.

"MY BELOVED'S PILLOW"



While studying on my iPad yesterday on our bed I pulled **Kim's** little pillow she uses to support her shoulder over to my head. I did so to be more comfortable while I studied about our Lord

Jesus when He was 12 years old in the Temple. When I pulled Kim's pillow to my head & face, I immediately "caught her scent"-& it was lovely, it was fragrant-it was "Kim". My heart swelled at that very moment with love for her. I had never used her pillow for this so it was all so very new to me. I was immediately reminded of my mother-in-law. When her beloved husband died four years ago, Mom would sometimes hold one of his t-shirts to her face. The "scent of Dad" brought him closer to her in a very real way. Now I understand what Mom meant when she related it to us. Our Husband Jesus has made us "the fragrance of life"-we, who before He did so only reeked of death. He is our Life. May the fragrances of **Spring** remind us of this.



***Caboose! Commentary Corner:** [Our daughter Laura once said she'd love to have my old Bibles when I passed for all of the notes I have written in them over the decades. This was quite humbling to say the least, especially coming from one of your own children. Hence, I've decided to post each month random notes/comments from Bibles I have studied from: **"Anointed preaching: people being amazed at the things you say about Jesus."** (Lk.2:33) [M.R.G. 3/6/'21]



[Caboose! On the Loose!](#)
[Looking Out for the Little Ones](#)

Ministry/Events for **APRIL** & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

March 28: *Villains of Via* production orientation & rehearsals

March 30: *Villains of Via* production final rehearsal

April 1,2: Parkview AG Church, Newark, DE: two last performances of "*Villains of Via*" production

April 6: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg./Network pastors' mtg.

April 4, 11, 18, 24: Chip Sunday Show video productions

April 7,14,21,28: Cab!Talk video productions



*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by *Immanuel Church*, Wilmington, DE. *Caboose!* is also an affiliate ministry of *The Hopewell Network of Churches*. For 14 years he served on various local church staffs as their children's pastor. Since 2000 [Kim & he have lived by faith, having no set salary, retirement, etc. to speak of.](#) Yet-this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God's Word & systematic theology, using both drama & visual aids, to all age groups, from children to senior citizens, either separately or combined. [To help support this work \[any amount no matter how small is greatly appreciated!\]](#), please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, c/o 1703 Dalton Rd., Lima, NY 14485, marking it "Preferred-

Michael Robert Guertin" or you may click on the link below to give directly. Any gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)

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