

Audio sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: "Michael Robert Guertin"

August 2019

"INTENSE IN A TENT"



Dear **Friends & Family**,

[7/27] I returned home a week ago yesterday from my 2nd camp of the summer, vis, **Jr Hi Camp**. We had 118 campers—one of if not the biggest camp for me ever since serving the Hopewell Network camps since 1991. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is I Sam.3:3. "And the boy Samuel was lying down in the Temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was." It was in this setting & atmosphere that the Lord first spoke to Samuel. My ache for the week was to have solemn assemblies before the Lord with the campers. Many times I have said at camps, particularly after the children have responded to the preached Word & have come under the Holy Spirit's weight & conviction because of it, "the chief end of man is to glorify God, & to enjoy Him forever." [Westminster Confession]. As they're lying &/or kneeling all over the floor up front, or even just sitting still in their chairs, I will tell them, "You're learning how to enjoy God. You're being still in His presence, spending a long amount of time in His presence, & you're enjoying it." Like Samuel of old, as a boy lying in the Temple, the campers were under the same weight & glory of the Holy Spirit that Samuel was. I've often described camp chapel services re: the presence of the Lord as "deep, rich, thick, & sweet". These are the services I ache, pray, prepare, & long for. When things end on a lighter note, I can't help be but disappointed. **Hemlock Hall at Tel Hai Camp** becomes a present day "Tabernacle" for so many young. May it ever be. The campers heard messages from various preachers & teachers re: Heaven & Hell, Gideon, Josiah, Saul of Tarsus, integrity in the heart [our brother Shane Richardson humbly exposed his soul & shared how our gracious Lord worked with him in a recent trial & struggle & brought him through to victory], & sexual purity.

"CAMP AWESOME-A CAMP SOUTHERN EXPANSION"

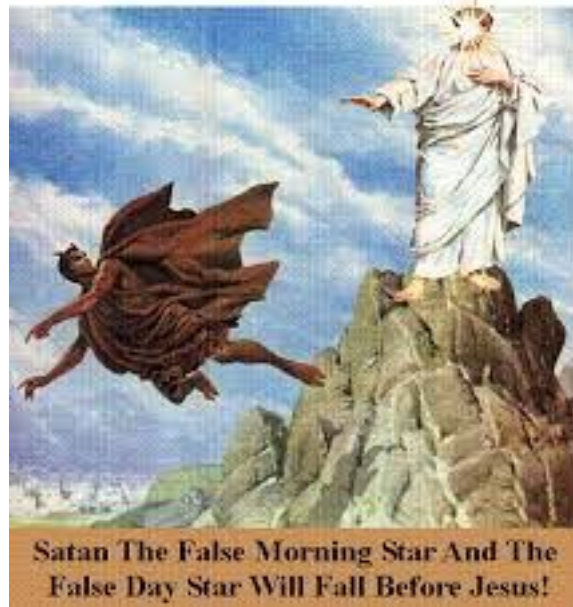


“THE VILE NATURE OF OUR FOE”



Some of you may recollect my July newsletter last month, where I gave numerous passages in Scripture which were very pivotal, poignant, & powerful re: the Person of the Lord, His redemptive work, the eternal destinies of men, & the inspired origin of the Word of God. I had the reader notice that at each of these passages, juxtaposed in the same contexts were also references to **the Devil**, false prophets, & false teachers. **Satan's** activities & desires to dilute, pollute, & steal the truth of the Word of God from men, demean the glory of the Lord Jesus, & hinder His ministers, reveals much re: the evil one's character. He is totally depraved in the full sense of the world. When "total depravity" is ascribed to fallen humanity, it does not mean that men are as evil as they can possibly be. It means, rather, that every faculty of his is deadened, crippled, & tainted by sin. With Satan, however, the matter is different. He is totally & thoroughly evil throughout, with no hope of redemption. When he fell from his high rank & estate before the Lord, his attitude toward men was *not*, "Sons of men? Please don't make the grave error I did! I had rank, privilege, glory, & power! I was perfect in wisdom & beauty. I was covered with precious stones. [Ezek.28]. I had a closeness to the throne of God, beholding His face! Learn from my example O sons of men! Listen to my wise advice from my own personal experience!". No. "**Lucifer's**" response was far from it. When he became proud in his mind & heart, envious of God, jealous, & bitter [Isa.14; Jms. 3:14-17], & was thus expelled from Heaven's glory, his first mindset & bent was to pollute the human race, tempting them with the very sin he fell with, hoping for the same results [Gen.3:1ff]. The Tempter's heart has been set on the eternal perdition of men ever since. In fact, one is hard-pressed to find any other motive than this for all the Devil does in the Scriptures. He & the angels who followed him in his rebellion [Rev.12:7ff] were eternally sealed in their total wickedness-with no hope of redemption. **The Dragon's** mindset is, "If I can't have eternal life-*no one can!*". I've often said the Devil values men's souls more than most men do. O God. May we, God's people, learn from this-for ourselves, & for the lost.

“HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN”



These words were spoken by David when he learned of the deaths of King Saul & his son Jonathan [1 Sam.31]. I can't help but wonder if someone exclaimed them when they beheld Satan's fall. O God. O God. So many in the Bible & even in "secular" history have "fallen" from previous greatness & rank. It has been a fear of mine since beginning in the ministry in 1986. So many men of God, much mightier than me, have fallen &/or ended on a bad note. My goal is not to do so-to allow this "fear" to press me to God, to humble myself before Him, & entreat Him for mercy, lest I make the same mistake. This is what Galatians 6 instructs us to do.

"1²_{ND} THAT DEMOTION?"



One of my favorite preachers, a.k.a., **Lester Roloff**, once said decades ago if he was ever offered the presidency of the United States in exchange for his call as a preacher he would say, “Never. I couldn’t stand the demotion”. Brother Roloff understood the high nature of the call to preach. Sadly, a few days after I wrote my July newsletter, when the **Fourth of July** was being celebrated across our country, I saw two “professing” sisters in the Lord, one from the recent past & one presently, not “get it” re: the gifts & callings of God. There was revelry in the air-a party spirit, having nothing to do with God, & this one woman joined right in belting out a secular song, fitting into the surrounding crowd as if she was one of them. Yet-sadly-very sadly, she was introduced as a *gospel* singer. O God. I couldn’t help but wonder, “O Father-what has the word ‘gospel’ been reduced to in our culture? O Father-this most priceless of messages has been reduced to a musical genre-a style of music that is just one among many. O God. O God.”. Another famous woman was mentioned, who, before her death last year, was crowned “The Queen of Soul”. She was a famous secular artist all of the time I was growing up. And yet-& yet-I once heard she “had her start”-in gospel music. Had “her start”. O God. She traded her God-given gifts for music & singing, which she once used for the gospel message, to “go secular”. And, of course, she quickly rose to worldly fame & fortune. The evil one held out the bait & glitter of the world, & sadly, she took it. Unlike Lester Roloff, this woman could apparently, “stand the demotion”.

“HOPEWELL SUMMER CAMPS’ ‘MAGIC KINGDOM’”



I’ve often said through the years that if I was forced to do only 1 of the 3 Hopewell Network Camps each summer [I absolutely love them all!], I’d choose our annual Kids Camp in August. I’ve often referred to it as a “Christian **Chuck E. Cheese**”. Unlike the 1st two camps of the summer, which are special in their own right, Kids camp has a huge **16’ X 7’ puppet stage, Bible games, Kids’ wall props, puppets, costumed characters, a living “robot”**, & of course, along with the two older-aged camps, a **Time Machine** drama.



As the Arab said to the audience in the opening scene in the Disney movie *Aladdin* that came out in 1992 re: the “magic lamp”, “Do not be fooled by its commonplace appearance.” “Commonplace” in this context would mean what our camp chapel looks like to the untrained eye-it looks like you’d expect a “kids” chapel to look like. However, where one can be fooled by this is presuming along with it, that all that occurs in this Christian “Magic-Kingdom-looking” chapel is fun & games & “kid stuff” spiritually. Nothing could be further from the truth. The children hear basically the same messages by oftentimes the same speakers that the two older-aged camps received. And, as in the two older camps, the *power of God* comes down on these precious little ones.



When I was a young boy, our large family plus my uncle’s large family visited *Frontier Town* together in MD [for those of you receiving the email version of this newsletter which includes pictures, that is me in the stagecoach with my older brother & sister. I’m the little boy on the right]. As I watched a cowboy & cowgirl dance on the stage in the saloon to “I’m An Ole’ Cowhand”, I was in awe.

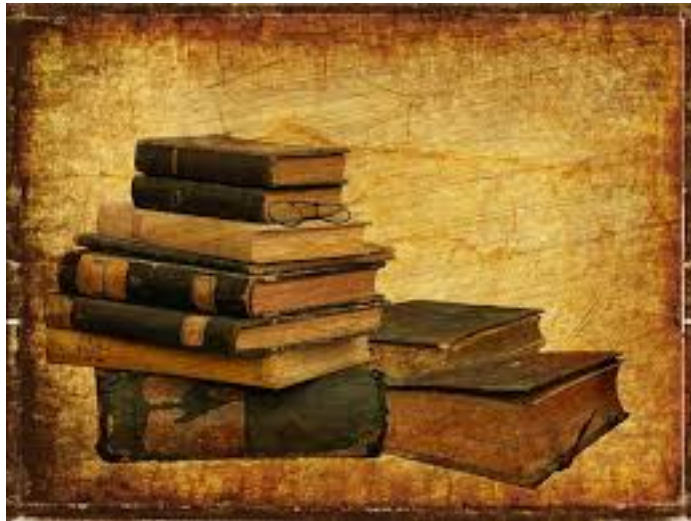


I was in awe-much like the boy in the picture above. Yet-the said boy above was not at **Frontier Town**. This picture of him was taken at a Bible Camp in S.E. Missouri in the **1950's** as he listened to a Bible teacher expound the **Word of God!** I told the staff at our Sunday night staff vision meeting before the campers arrived the next morning that that was my ache & goal for the week for the campers-that they would be left in "awe" of the things of God, by being saturated with His Word, His Spirit's presence, & His people's fellowship. I showed the staff several pictures of that Bible camp in Missouri from decades gone by. I couldn't help but think of a very poignant scene from the **1977** TV miniseries "**Jesus of Nazareth**". It was its depiction of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.



The scene shows the Apostle John watching the Lord about to raise His good friend Lazarus from the place of the dead, where he had been for the past 4 days. The script writer has John quote from Jonah 2:6. However, he decided to use the **Septuagint** translation [Greek translation of the O.T. circa 250 B.C.] instead of the Masoretic Hebrew text. John quotes, "***I went down to the countries underneath the Earth-to the peoples of the past-but You raised my life from the pit.***" O God. O God. That quote kept ringing in my mind & heart as I pondered our camps this summer. Those peoples of the past, vis, the staff & campers of the 50's & 60's, have had "their turn" on the surface of the Earth. Many are, & probably have been in eternity for quite some time. I told the staff, "Now-it is *our* turn. And if Jesus

tarries, peoples of the future will look at old photos of us & wonder & feel the same thing.” O God. It is thoughts like these that keep me sober, serious, focused, burdened, & zealous to serve our God & His young. As I told Kim recently when life as I had known it seemed like it was over, re: my hip replacement & its accompanying complications, “If I can’t be with kids & teens, Lord, then please take me Home”. I cannot conceive of life & ministry not being with them in His presence. May it continue. Sincerely, Michael



***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]: “Demons are terrified of Christ & Hell, fearing when He came to them on earth He was about to cast them into their place of eternal torment ‘before their time’. Yet-men mock & slander Christ, & either joke or sing songs about Hell-or deny its existence. Dumb, stupid, men.” [12/30/2018]. “Those who preach only the kindness of God & ignore His severity have edited their own Bible.” [11/19/2018]



Caboose! On the Loose:

***Lookin' out for the little guys...**

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

Aug. 6: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg./Network pastors' mtg.

Aug. 11-16: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Kids camp: pastoral director

Aug. 22: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders' mtg.

*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by the local church he attends, *Immanuel Church*. *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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