

Audio Sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

YouTube Channel [for dramas, sermons, & puppet shows for kids]: Michael Robert Guertin

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December 2020

"COVID CONFINEMENT CAUSES CREATIVITY"



Dear **Friends & Family**,

[11/23] Being an itinerant minister for almost **21 years** now, I for one am especially feeling very acutely the containment & confinement that the Corona virus has instigated. When I'm on the road out & about among God's people, both old & young, I feel like I'm doing what I was made to do. The ministry the Lord has gifted, graced, & called me to involves every aspect of my personality & skills I learned even before the Lord brought me to Himself. I could not be more grateful. I've often said, "Put me in a roomful of kids & I'm doing what I was made for."

"NO KIDS ON THE BLOCK"



Now, however, with Covid restrictions & quarantines, I'm not in my "element" anymore, vis, around kids & teens. Yes-it's getting to me. I long for "face-to-face fellowship" with God's people again. I know many of you do too. Kim & I have been playing the "super-cautious-Covid" route as well, as we're grandparents again. Kim is in her "element" when she's around her grandchildren! I told her just yesterday that she "glowed" while holding our youngest son Caleb & his wife Elizabeth's newborn, **Harley James**. Well, with "no kids on my block" re: proximity, i.e., with me going to them with my "truck of stuff", I now go to them weekly with my "Chip Sunday Shows". I know many of you are familiar with them. Adults love Chip too. I don't know why-he's so annoying. 😊 I've written to you before that producing weekly "Chip Sunday Shows" for kids [& adults!] in quarantine was Kim's idea back in April. **"EASY STREET?"** Even though producing Chip's shows are a labor of love, they are not easy by any means! Filming, post-production, & posting the finished product on at least three different venues of social media takes a lot of time.

"DISNEY & GUERTY"



Kim & I don't watch a lot of TV. If we do, it is either documentaries, Bible movies, old movies, or Shirley Temple movies! Seriously. 😊 In the past few months we have watched a number of different documentaries re: **Walt Disney**. I related to Disney in a number of ways, but especially so in two aspects. One interviewee commented re: Walt that "**he kept one foot in the past**", striving to keep ever before the American public its history, not to mention keeping his childhood perpetual. This has been my constant daily practice for decades. In many ways so

much of me lives in the 1950's, even though less than 5 years of my life were spent in that decade. I love its Bible movies, its TV shows, its Christian orchestra instrumental music, etc.





The other unique feature of Walt Disney was that he **loved children**-that he himself was a little boy although a grown man physically. Those of you who know me know I immediately resonate with that characteristic of the world-famous animator. I've often said if the Lord should pull me away from kids & teens, please just take me Home!



Speaking of that era's music, two of Disney's most prolific songwriters for his countless productions were the **Sherman brothers-Dick & Bob**. Dick would write the lyrics & Bob compose the music. The brothers have been asked many times as to how they could write so very many successful & memorable songs through the decades. I will never forget what Bob replied, as it directly corresponds to me & my "Chip Shows". He said, "Writing the song is the easy part. The most difficult part is coming up with an *idea*. Once you have the idea, composing the song is easy." And so it is with Chip. Hence, I am always looking for new ideas & themes for his shows. Often, I will just see or hear something in everyday life & stumble across one. At other times a friend, relative, or neighbor will come to mind who is especially unique or funny. These are "prime file" subjects for guest stars on Chip's Show.

“CHIP & BARNEY FIFE”



One of the most beloved TV shows in American history was *The Andy Griffith Show*, which aired on **CBS** for many years. **Don Knotts**, who was a friend of Andy's, was a guest star for one episode in the early years. After the success & popularity of that episode, Knotts approached Griffith & told Andy he needed a comic sidekick to Griffith's role as the straight man. This has been an effective comedy show strategy for decades. This is the strategy I like to use when Chip has guest stars on his show. I enjoy doing his shows exponentially more with guest stars versus him doing one solitaire. 😊 Hence, Covid season weekly video production has squeezed a steady flow of creativity out of me!

STICKING TO THE TEXT



However, with my other weekly video production since Covid, vis, “**Cab!Talk**” [formerly called “**TabTalk**”], though they too involve many hours of filming, post-production & posting, the story is different. Creativity with these is not needed as much as with Chip’s show. Why? Because Cab!Talks are a **verse-by-verse** exposition of Sacred Scripture. Hence, they are “text-driven”. As I have often said re: the Scriptures, “The life is in the text”. Hence, I don’t have to come up with an “idea” for Cab!Talk each week-the idea, i.e., the **thought of God** is already given in the text. I simply strive to stay faithful to the text. Much preaching & teaching in the past few decades has been absolutely disastrous to the Body of Christ as so many “seeker-sensitive/attraction model” preachers have told stories, focused overtly on themselves, shared jokes, chit-chatted, etc. in the pulpit. Few things have infuriated me more. Lately, when I’ve pondered this plague, which is extremely more deadly than the Corona Virus, I have virtually screamed inside to such preachers, “GET OUT OF THE PULPIT!”. **Text-driven** preaching/teaching forces the preacher/teacher to stick to the theme of the biblical narrative & doctrine. **“FOND OF FURY-I DON’T DREAD DEUTERONOMY”** Speaking of “furious”, this might sound a bit strange to many of you, but I have actually grown very fond of the Lord’s fury. I have written about this before in previous newsletters. Yet, this “fondness” has once again come to the forefront with me while preparing recent Cab!Talks based on the book of Deuteronomy. Many unbelievers judge & criticize the Lord & many Christians deliberately avoid this divinely inspired book of the Bible [*which is just as much inspired as the gospel of John*] because of the frequent reference to the Lord’s fury & threats of judgment. Those who do these things do so prematurely and/or out of ignorance of *the context*.

“ISRAEL-& HER ALONE”



I’ve been sharing emphatically & repeatedly in my recent Cab!Talks re: the Lord’s free, sovereign, merciful choice of Israel *above & instead of* all of the other nations of the Earth. Contrary to common human arrogant opinion, God does not have to treat all nations, nor all humans for that matter, alike. When all equally deserve His holy, just wrath & eternal damnation, it is the Lord’s right & prerogative to have mercy on all, none, or some. With Israel & the several nations who surrounded her, He freely chose to exercise the latter option. Many presume this was because Israel was the “best of the lot”, the least of the evils, or perhaps even

“virtuous” compared to the other nations whom the Lord decided *not* to choose. Nothing could be further from the truth. Israel was not only as evil as the other nations who surrounded her, but she would become *more evil than* these said nations. [II Kgs.21:9; II Chr.33:9; Ezk.16:27, 47-52]. Yet, yet-the Lord, knowing this before He decided to choose her, chose her anyway! He commanded Israel to exterminate these nations-leave nothing alive that breathes-neither men, women, children, or animals! MANY, especially in our present day & culture, of which, **John Piper** has once said, “swim in arrogance”, exude intense vitriol towards the Lord for commanding such a thing. Little do they realize they, themselves, by doing so-&, to be honest, even before they do so, deserve such “holy extermination” because of their own sin! Such cavils & gainsays against these practices of the Lord reveal two things: these criticizers are ignorant of *God’s holiness-& man’s depravity*.

“PRIVILEGE, RESPONSIBILITY, & ACCOUNTABILITY”



It is one thing for Bible readers to struggle with the Lord’s anger exhibited toward the idolatrous, immoral, & abominable nations who surrounded Israel, but how does one handle when said wrath is then directed toward *Israel*?? I’m reminded of one of my dearest friends

who is like a little brother to me. Some years ago his pastor at a church he attended then was preaching through the book of Deuteronomy. He must've been doing something wrong, for my friend was so exasperated by it week after week, that he put his hand to his neck with a "cut it" gesture to his pastor. He meant by this to say, "Please stop asap! Enough! I can't take anymore!". Deuteronomy, again, read out of context, can be ruthless! But-when read in the context of the unfathomable grace & mercy the LORD extended toward Israel above all other nations [Dt.7:6], it makes much more sense. The precious text declares that the LORD not only did not obliterate Israel along with all of the other nations as she so *deeply deserved*, but on the contrary, He **set her apart from** them, He **chose** her [& not them], He made her [& not them] His **special, treasured possession**, &, wonder of wonders (!), He **set His affection upon** her-& not them! [vv,6,7]. Our Lord Jesus would say while on Earth hundreds of years later what was true when this same Lord Jesus pre-incarnate dealt with Israel-"To whom much is given, much is required." [Lk.12:48]. The LORD had chosen Israel to be His Bride-& her alone.

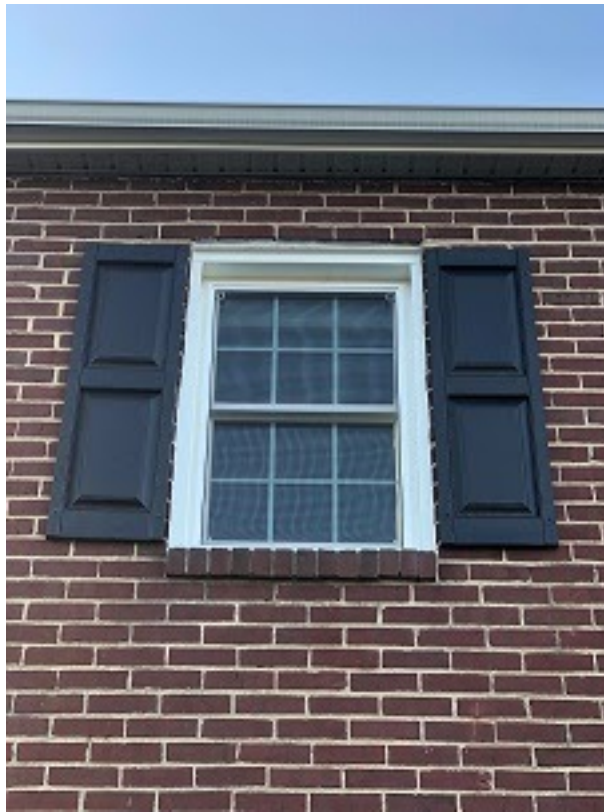
"LOVE, JEALOUSY, & FURY"



This is why the Lord's anger & punishment is so severe upon Israel in Deuteronomy, because of all of the *indescribable very high privileges* He freely lavished upon her, *versus the other nations*. "Jealousy enrages a husband, & he will show no mercy on the day of vengeance." [Pr.6:34]. In His love relationship with His chosen Bride Israel in the early years, the LORD declared, "Israel, you **belonged to Me alone**; you were **My sacred possession**. I sent suffering & disaster on everyone who hurt you. I, the LORD, have spoken." [Jer.2:3]. We must remember, Beloved, that a husband's **wrath** over his bride's infidelity *is proportionate to his jealousy* for her. And his jealousy over her *is proportionate to his love* for her. In the light of this insight I saw

re: the Lord it opened my eyes to see beyond what too often many sinners & *saints* see in Deuteronomy, vis, a capricious, unpredictable, vengeful God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Few prophets displayed the fiercely loyal love of God for Israel like *Hosea*. The Lord spoke of His “love-sickness” for Israel. God loved Israel in this intensely devoted way, again, because He *chose* to do so. He likened Himself to a “bear robbed of her cubs” re: His jealous anger over Israel’s idolatrous infidelity. Few things in the realm of nature are more dangerous.

“ROOM WITH A VIEW?”



As *Kim* & I were pacing & praying around the bottom floor of our house again recently, these meditations in Deuteronomy were fresh & aflame in my heart. Here is an analogy that came to mind, which I spoke aloud as we paced & prayed [with some further elaboration-& discretion]—imagine a man getting home from work one day. He gives his wife a kiss & a hug at the door but the exchange is very rigid, formal, & half-hearted on the wife’s part. He heads up to their bedroom & opens the door. To his surprise, shock, & deep chagrin he sees posters & pictures in frames all over the walls & on the bureaus & dressers. The posters & pictures are of male models & movie stars whom his wife is infatuated with. She even mounted a bust of one of her favorite stars on a Roman column. As the husband tries to compose himself in the light of all he sees, he notices there is a framed picture of another young male movie star lying on his pillow—right next to his wife’s! These pictures of the wife’s “Hollywood idols” are in *their bedroom*! Their bedroom! *The marriage bedroom*—which contains the marriage bed—*the only place* on the globe in the eyes of the Lord where intimacy is honorable. Everything else is fornication, adultery, & promiscuity—which God shall judge! [Heb.13:4]. [The Lord’s Bride, Israel,

placed an idol in His Temple!] The husband goes back downstairs to ask her about them only to hear her on the phone flirtatiously chatting with one of their single male neighbors! From deep within all kinds of emotions begin to surge & explode within the husband. Why? Why should he care? What's the big deal?

"SHE'S 1 IN A MILLION"



Of the many other women this man may have wound up married to, his wife is the one he set his affection on & chose to be his wife. When he was wedded to her, he chose her above all others & forsook all others & vowed himself to her & her alone. He has kept that vow for decades. He has had no other woman since the day he set his affection upon her. The man has consistently fought the fight every married man fights-to be faithful to his wife & her alone-with his eyes, thoughts, & affections-for decades. And his bride will be the only woman he'll ever have for the one life he's given. He shall not have many other lives where he can choose a different wife. Now, in the light of that, Beloved, can you understand the intense ire this husband would have well up within him when saw her "panoply of lovers" in their bedroom? **"RAGING ROMANCE"** If this scenario would have actually happened, the husband would have surely acquired a baseball bat, several swords, a fireman's axe, & a propane torch. With reckless abandon, he would head straight up to the bedroom & begin swinging-& chopping-& lashing-& burning every picture, poster, & bust in sight! His rage would be proportionate to his jealousy over the wife of his youth. His jealousy would be proportionate to his devoted love for her.



This frail analogy, despite being pathetically miniscule in comparison, Beloved, is a small picture of what swirls within our Lord's heart when His Bride forsakes Him for other lovers. Now you'll understand in some small way those numerous texts in Deuteronomy [& other places in Scripture] where the Lord commands Israel to "... **tear down** their altars & **smash to pieces** their sacred pillars, & **cut down** their Asherim (symbols of the goddess Asherah), & **burn** their carved or sculpted images **in the fire.**" [Deut.7:5]. Why do so? Watch again our LORD'S furious love displayed via His furious hatred of Israel intermarrying with idolaters & by it embracing their idols- "...because they will **turn your children away from following Me**" [Deut.7:1-4]. This drops you on your face when you ponder our Lord is *Self-sufficient*. He doesn't need His people's love, & until He decided to set His affection upon them their faithlessness to Him didn't bother Him! Israel gave their eyes to these idols; their ears; their hands; their time; their money; their thoughts; their creativity; their sweat; their emotions; their affections. The Lord views these things, & the numerous & various idols in His people's lives today, as His "competition"-His "rivals". And in His fierce loyalty to & jealousy over His Bride, He will not tolerate such competition. As I've often said in my preaching, **"His jealousy-is our security."** Now, Beloved, because of this? I love God's fury. Now I understand where it comes from in relation to His people. If He didn't so fiercely love His people, He would not be so fiercely jealous over them. Now? When I read about His fury towards Israel? I see the depths of His devotion towards her-& to me. And my heart melts with indescribable love, gratitude, & adoration towards Him. These things attract me to Him. May it ever be so. **Michael**



{*above pic of our home Nativity set which was *Elim Bible Institute's* for many years}
******Merry Christmas*, Beloved, from Kim &

me.*****



****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: "As you go through the 'ups & downs' of life with God, your life-story is being recorded-in the books." [M.R.G. 3/15/1998]



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

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

Dec. 2,9,16,23,30: weekly Cab!Talk verse-by-verse Scripture exposition video production.

Dec. 6, 13,20,27: weekly "Chip Sunday Show" video production/posting

Dec. 22: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: 2 Sunday services [TM drama & preaching]



*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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