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

*July 2019*

**“THE WELLS & WARNINGS OF GOD”**



Dear ***Friends & Family,***

[6/18] You may recollect that I said in last month’s newsletter that I have been in the book of Jude for months during my hip-replacement “debacle” that, praise our God, I am slowly but surely coming out of. Again & again, during the day reading the text, then at night meditating upon it on my bed, my mind has been on the book of Jude. I myself have never done an in-depth study in it. The more I’ve studied it, the more I’ve begun to see a pattern in the Word of God: the very deep, important, & eternal wells of God’s truth always have warnings surrounding them re: those who would pervert & pollute them.



**Note well:**

\***Jude 1-3:** he speaks of God's people being *called*. According to one scholar I consulted years ago {I believe it was John Murray} in every case [except for one] it is used in the New Testament, it is synonymous with "chosen". These same ones are *beloved in God the Father & kept for Jesus Christ*. Jude then expresses his heart's desire to talk about "our common salvation". O! Is there anything else to talk about, dear ones, when we ponder what that entails? The apostle Paul apparently didn't think so: "I was determined when I was with you to speak of nothing but Jesus Christ & Him crucified [I Cor.2:2]. "Beloved in God the Father"- The Father Who chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world [Eph.1:4], the same Father after choosing us gave us to Christ in eternity past [Jn.6:37, 10:29, 17:2,6,24], the Father Who predestined us to be adopted to Himself [Eph.1:5], the Father Who delivered us from the authority of darkness & translated us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son [Col.1:13], the same Father Whom Paul says is ultimately responsible for us being in Christ [I Cor.1:30], etc. Jude then writes, "& kept for Jesus Christ". Imagine-we are being kept by *Another* [the Greek verb is passive]. Here is our Father again, keeping us for His Son-to be married to Him at the Lamb's great wedding feast. BUT, despite the fact that this was Jude's initial intention, he writes that instead, he felt constrained [surely by the Holy Spirit since he was being inspired by Him to write at the time] to urge his audience to *earnestly contend* [it originally was a word used for wrestling/athletic competition] for the faith handed down once & for all to the saints.

Why would the Spirit arrest Jude to do so? "**For** certain persons have crept in *unnoticed* who turn the grace of God into licentiousness, perversity, & 'moral anarchy' {one version's rendering}..."

\***Mat.7:13-15:** Right after the Lord Jesus warns His audience to enter by the narrow gate, basically saying that the majority of the human race from Adam & Eve are lost, vis, that "few are they who find it", He exclaims, "Beware of **false prophets**, who *come to you* as **wolves** in sheep's clothing".

\***Mat.13:4:** Right after the Lord Jesus shares concerning the seed of the Word of God being sown with the intention of birthing eternal life in Its hearers, "**the birds of the air** come & devour the seed..."

\***II Pet.1:16-21:** The apostle Peter shares his Mount of Transfiguration experience [Mt.17] & the divinely-inspired origin of the Holy Scripture. He says the audible voice of the Father confirmed the divinity & Messiahship of His "Only Beloved Son". All of this, the apostle writes, only made the prophetic word [of the Old Testament] more sure. And yet-in Peter's [Actually, the Holy Spirit's!] next breath was, "But, there were also **false prophets among the people...**" [II Pet.2:1ff].

\***Gal. 1:4-9**: After the apostle Paul declares that the Lord Jesus gave Himself for our sins, that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of God the Father, four verses later he warns, “If we or **an angel** from Heaven preach *any other gospel* to you, let him be accursed [damned eternally]”.

\***Acts 20:28-31**: Paul relates to the Ephesian church elders that God has purchased the Church with His Own blood [a very unique text affirming Christ’s deity]. Immediately after this Paul *knows* that after his departure “**savage wolves will come in**, not sparing the flock...”.

\***II Cor.11:1-4, 13-15**: Paul again cites the precious truth that God’s people have been betrothed to Christ in anticipation of that Great Wedding mentioned above. Immediately afterwards he expresses his deep concern that they will be deceived as Eve was by **the serpent**, for, “if someone comes to you & preaches another Christ...” [which will always happen, Beloved!]. Later in the chapter he cites said persons as **Satan’s “ministers”** disguising themselves, as did their master, as **angels of light**.

\***Col.2:8,9**: Right before the apostle Paul cites one of the most powerful Christological texts in all of the New Testament, vis, that in Him [Christ] dwells all of the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, he warns his audience, “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy & vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, & not after Christ.*”

\***Phil.3:2,8**: In the context of Paul sharing that he might know “the surpassing value of knowing Christ”, of being “found in Him”, of having Christ’s righteousness & not his own via the Law, etc., he begins by warning the Philippians “watch out for **the dogs**”. He was referring to human beings-false teachers-in God’s sight. The Holy Spirit, Who inspired Paul to write these words, when men teach doctrines contrary to the gospel, called them spiritual dogs-“dead dogs” in God’s sight.

## “MOST HIGH’ SCHOOL”



**[6/30]** The warnings above were very pertinent to our mission at last month’s hsc Sr. Hi. Camp. I preached re: **Jude** to the staff the night before the campers arrived. Our two goals for the week: to *present* the faith handed down once for all to the saints [Jude 3]-and, in the light of Satan’s henchmen who are everywhere- to *protect* it! On Wednesday evening, when I portrayed King Josiah out of the Time Machine & preached re: “High Places”, I elaborated on the camp theme above. In II Chr. 34 re: Josiah, the Chronicler writes that “in the 8th year of his reign, *when he was still a youth*, he began to seek the God of his father David...”. After noting that critical life-decision in the young king’s life, nothing is recorded for the next four years of his life. All we know is that he entered the school of the Most High, vis, “**MOST HIGH** School”. I asked the students, “How do I know if I’ve graduated from Most High School? How do I know if I’ve passed?”. The answer? The Chronicler gives it in the next verse: “In the 12th year of his reign, he *began to purge* Judah & Jerusalem of *high places*.” If one seeks God, immersing themselves into His Word, seeking His Holy Spirit’s illumination, it is impossible not to have that same Spirit’s fire rise up in you to want to rid yourself of “high places” in your life, i.e., people, places, activities, hobbies, possessions, etc. that have taken “too high a place” in your eyes, ears, mind, heart, emotions, passions, physical exertion & activity. The Jealous God Whose face you have sought will certainly sooner or later address those things as He fills you more & more with Himself. The awe, dread, fear, & heart-longing for God will become so strong that it will be only

“natural” that your desires for these vanities & worldly pursuits will dissipate-praise be to His Name!

**“AN OLD MAN & LITTLE BOY-IN THE SAME BODY”**



Every camp, every year now, we have a former camper fly over the playing field in his Russian acrobatic plane to drop candy for the kids to scramble after & collect in their bags. For years we only did this at Kids Camp in August but I just had to do it at the older camps as well, as I’ve striven for years to give these kids things that they don’t see the rest of the year.

While I was sitting on a 4-wheeler [loaned to me by Curt Malizzi, my camp board boss 😊] waiting for the pilot to arrive, I looked to my left to see a very old, frail, feeble man hobbling out from his apartment [the camp playing field has a retirement complex adjacent to it]. When I saw him I tried hard not to cry. “Why Michael?”, you might ask. Despite his frail condition, he seemed to be hobbling out to the field in excitement to see what the kids were seeing & doing. As I viewed him in those moments I didn’t see an old man, but a little boy. This aged man was once a little boy. A little boy. I have viewed senior citizens like this for decades. It breeds compassion in them for me. I have also striven to envision children & teens as senior citizens. It does the same to me-it breeds vision, compassion, & burden. I took a short video of the man then snuck a photo of him after he went back to the front of his apartment. This incident reminded me of a similar one that occurred decades ago at camp. We were doing our special event on this same field. Back then a very elderly man was watching us. He too, yes, was once a little boy. I vividly remember going up to him & chatting with him. I may have hugged him. I’ve been a hugger since I got saved in a convent 45 years ago.

I'm sure this man is in eternity now-perhaps for years. O God. O God. Help us, O Lord, to number our days, that we might obtain wisdom. 😞

### "A LITTLE GIRL WITH A GIANT FAITH"



One of our skill classes at camp for years has been Bible study methods & quizzing with Yours Truly. The past camp was the largest enrollment we have ever had for the class. I noticed that one of the campers in the class, who has been at camp for a number of years now, had an unusual-looking brace on her leg. I asked her in class, "Honey? What happened to your leg? Did you sprain it?" She told me she had been in an accident five years ago & the crash did injury to that part of her brain which controlled her leg. I was crushed inside & immediately filled with the Lord's compassion. I asked her, "Hon? I know you've been prayed for a thousand times but may I make it a thousand & one?". She was quick to say "Yes". My hope was that we could anoint her with oil at that evening's chapel. Well, evening chapel came around. After the message the front of the chapel was filled with praying, singing, & adoring teens. I just had to get over to her to pray for her. As I meandered through the girls, I feared for myself as my legs & feet were sore & weak from being on my feet but also from sitting. I was afraid I was going to fall

over onto praying girls on the floor. This little angel was among them, singing her heart out. As I made my way through the crowd, she looked up & knew I was coming for her. I held her & entreated our Jesus from the depths of my soul to heal her. I was weeping & shaking & she was too. I felt like she was one of my granddaughters. She shook & cried & cried. And I did too. I held her tightly with my hand on her head. I cannot remember in my 45 years of being a Christian feeling such compassion for anyone like her. When I tried to tell others about her, I would just weep & weep. "Why, Michael? Because of her ailment?". Yes, & No. I wept also because of her sweet, precious, childlike faith. I watched her try to keep up with the other kids, limping as she did. Never once during the whole week did I see her grimace, whine, complain, etc. She was always radiating a smile, sweetness, etc. I saw Jesus all over her. And I felt very ashamed of myself. I felt inadvertently "preached to" by her when I pondered how I handled my hip replacement surgery this past Winter. This lil' angel showed me how I was *supposed* to walk through that very debilitating experience. "Out of the mouths of babes, You have ordained praise...". Yes, this pastoral director of the camp was "schooled" at *Most High School*. I shall never forget this little girl. Never. Her mother sent me a picture of her in the hospital right after the accident. It would make you cry. But then again, seeing it & then seeing her now, it would probably make you rejoice! Her mother gave me permission to post this picture & to tell her daughter's story. Her name is "Abby". So is one of my granddaughters. And she wants to counsel one day. I think she can handle it, since she gave me tons of "silent counseling" by her faithful behavior & attitude in the midst of her severe trial. May I learn from her. Lord Jesus, please change me. I need to be like You-& her. 😞



### "HEALTH UPDATE"



Given the hard Winter I had with many & severe complications concerning my hip replacement surgery, I had a very deep feeling of gratitude to even *be* at camp last week! And, I rode a 4-wheeler [which my camp board boss provided for me!], played in the pool with the guys as I always do [though I took it slow & easy!], & even danced the Polka in the dining hall! [Dancing the Polka is a decades'-old tradition I began with our daughter Laura. When she moved on from camps she was succeeded by various campers who are like daughters to me. 😊].

### "ON THE ROAD AGAIN"





In the light of the above, Kim & I are praying for ministry doors to begin to open again [this is the longest hiatus I've had from preaching in 33 years! I take this hiatus as mercy from our Lord re: enabling me to heal & rest!]. I have been working out with strength-training for months & about a month ago began using my elliptical which I hadn't used in years. It definitely makes a difference re: strength, flexibility, & mobility. The Lord be praised.



***\*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]: “If by God’s gracious gift of faith, we allow suffering to do its God-ordained & intended purpose, no matter how severe or unjust it is or seems to be, we must come to the place sooner or later (preferably sooner!) where we can say-“Thanks, I needed that!”.

[4/6/2005]

“It seems to me that a Christian’s sufferings are proportionate to what he or she needs (re: lack of sanctification, character flaws, etc. for reasons clear, & not so clear.” [4/6/2005]. “God uses all things in people’s lives to ‘reveal & deal’ with them.” [3/3/2005]



**Caboose! On the Loose:**  
**\*Lookin’ out for the little guys...**

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

**July 13-19:** Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Jr Hi camp: pastoral director

\*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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