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A Letter from Pastor Marr

Newsletter - June 2008

Dear One in Christ:

I hate to have to admit to you and my perfect God that, when I'm hurt, inwardly I still question God. And I still frequently feel deserted by the God of love.

Worse, I am usually surprised that this is so when it should be no surprise to me at all that I am still the sinner and rebel that I am.

After years of dealing with Parkinson's pain, I recently found that my dear grandson, Sean, had cancer.

After weeks of suspense, the doctors cut away his cancerous upper right arm bone and replaced it with a cadaver arm bone and titanium plate.

While they expect no need of chemotherapy or radiation, some further surgery could still be necessary. In the meantime his arm is entirely immobilized.

Obviously, I needed from the beginning always just to turn to the Lord in trust and love, knowing that...

All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. -Romans 8:28

But, it's one thing to want to believe it, to say we believe it, even to believe we believe it. It's quite another to actually believe it when it seems so patently untrue ... when the hurt is deeper than any other reality.

You and your friends may find some help in the enclosed message, The Greatest Thing in the World.

This message ends, "Welcome His revelation of your sin, your shame, your need. Let it cast you wonderfully hopelessly on Him Who alone is your hope. "

Praise God with me and the board for His victories over the evil one. I thank Him I am somewhat better than I was physically a year ago. Also co-workers have lifted much of my ministry workload. Lives are being changed, and our financial needs are being met.

We need one another.

Also, I and the board members would greatly appreciate a personal phone call or note from you with a promise of continued prayers and support. I would love to have the opportunity to pray with you for your many needs.

Let us hear from you today. OK? Request some of the enclosed brochure messages to share with those who also may

be helped.

Lovingly in Christ Jesus, our Lord, and soon-coming King,
Pastor Marr

Proclaiming Christ Jesus All Sufficient Always in All Things to All Men Everywhere

Do You BELIEVE in Jesus?!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever BELIEVETH in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - (John 3: 16)

I want to continue to thank you for your prayers for this ministry and especially for Pastor Marr.

We are also very grateful for the many notes, letters and e-mails of encouragement that we have received. God is so faithful (no matter what our eyes "see")! Please continue to pray for us and give as the Lord leads.

When it comes time for me to write my letter to you, I normally read Pastor Marr's letter and pray and seek the Lord for His wisdom and insight. Often, He inspires me with thoughts that are in line with those of Pastor Marr.

In this month's letter, Pastor Marr shares his own struggles with "believing" the Word of God. As I prayed the verse that the Lord brought to my heart was the most famous verse of the Bible, John 3:16. My thoughts were mainly drawn to the word "believeth".

What does it mean to "believe in Jesus"? This is a VERY IMPORTANT question, since whoever believes will have everlasting life!

To "believe" in Jesus - Does NOT mean that you acknowledge His existence. For example, "Yes, I believe in the historical existence of George Washington."

To "believe" in Jesus - Does NOT mean that you "THINK" He is the "right way". For example, "Yes, I believe that is the correct answer to that equation."

The word translated "believeth" means "to completely entrust oneself to", it means to "commit oneself to". Therefore, to "believe in Jesus" means that we are totally and completely entrusting ourselves to Him!

Since we are to fully trust in Jesus, we MUST get to know Him more! We must read, study, memorize and meditate upon God's Word more (all of it, not just our favorite passages). We must pray in accordance with the Bible. Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to us more fully. We must hunger and thirst for righteousness. We must fellowship with mature Christians and learn from them.

The bottom line: we must get to know Jesus more fully so that we can be more fully confident that He is over-abundantly TRUSTWORTHY!

Love in Christ Jesus,
Robert (Bob) Dallmann

To God be All the Glory! He Alone is Worthy!

The Greatest Thing in the World

To walk with God in loving intimacy has to be the most wonderful thing in the world. To know Him. To love Him. To fellowship with Him as friend with friend. To know He cares for every little thing about you and that He is entirely capable of caring for every need you can ever have.

This has to be beyond compare the greatest thing in the whole world.

While we may find great delight in enjoying this greatest thing in all the world, it doesn't start with us, or with concern for ourselves. It starts with God's concern for us and leads to our responsive concern for God.

Nor can it long survive on any selfish concern for ourselves. It survives only on a God-generated concern for Him and His eternal glory.

And it is this that most Christians miss. They put their concerns first and wonder why their relationship with God never grows into the loving intimacy that their redeemed spirit so instinctively longs for.

When they pray, it's about themselves and their needs. If they do pray for others, it's very often out of a sense of obligation.

The Most Beautiful Lesson On Worship Prayer

One of Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. And, oh what He taught them! But it seems most of us have missed what He so gloriously taught, missed it virtually altogether!

Let's look at it for a moment.

Our Father . . . We're coming to the One Who is our Father. We're leaving our self-centered selves and coming to the One Who cares for us as a Loving Father, One in Whom we can place entire confidence.

Who art in heaven . . . Our attention is leaving the things of time and space, the temporal and physical and going to what is eternal and spiritual.

Hallowed be thy name. . . Our very first concern is that God be seen by all the world as the awesome God He is, to be venerated, honored and worshiped by all.

Thy kingdom come... We want God to reign supreme over us individually and personally and over every other person and thing in His creation, and we want this to happen as soon and as fully as possible.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven . . . We want what God wants to be done in us and everywhere as completely as possible. And we want the day to come as quickly as possible when it will be done absolutely.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever . . . We worshipfully and gladly acknowledge that God alone is worthy to reign in power and glory for all the ages to come and to be praised for the perfection and eternity of His wisdom, power, and glory.

This is true Worship Prayer, and guess Who taught it first? Our Lord taught it first, of course. And He taught it at the hungry-hearted request of his poor earthly disciples.

And you and I, following in their train, can profitably pray this same prayer in the same spirit day after day for years to come.

But you say, "Hold it right there. You left out the prayers of petition."

Oh, you noticed, did you?

"I sure did," you say, "and this seriously distorts the Lord's teaching on prayer."

A New Look at His Teaching on Petition Praying

Let's look at the missing petitions.

Give us this day our daily bread. . . We look to our heavenly Father, Lord, and God for the supply of our real temporal needs as long as He leaves us here. We look to Him alone, not to our strong right arm, our job, our bank account, our accumulated wealth, nor to insurance, or government welfare or security programs. We look to none of these but to God alone that He might be praised for supplying our need even in the most impossible of circumstances. Yes and the reason is indeed and alone that He might be praised.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ... Surely this cannot be considered a demand. A demand on the part of the debtor against his creditor? Hardly. Surely rather a recognition of our deep neediness. A plea certainly, but a plea asked in the deepest humility and sense of unworthiness and need. Still a plea asked also in the fullest confidence in the loving character of the Person of Whom it is asked, and in His willingness and ability to forgive, cleanse, and make whole.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. . . Keep us out of the path of temptation to which we would succumb. Now, why would we pray such a prayer? Because we're so pure and holy that we don't ever want to be tempted or to succumb? If we think so, we don't know ourselves very well, do we? Why, then? Because God has put it in our hearts to want not to displease Him, but to give Him pleasure. And this is what we're really asking- that we might please Him and give Him pleasure, now and forever.

Surely I understand if you want to interpret this prayer otherwise. But I wonder if you're not, in doing so, depriving yourself of some of the wonders of Worship Prayer and of that moment by moment intimate, loving fellowship and communion with Almighty God that is the heart's desire of every redeemed child of God.

I wonder if you're not depriving yourself of some of the joy of The Greatest Thing In All The World.

It's Not Yours nor a Result of Your Efforts

In conclusion let me remind you that The Greatest Thing In All The World is not something that is yours. It's not something that you can produce. It is God's. It's His alone. And He can give it only to His blood-bought children who know it is His to dispense when He will as He will.

And He gives this gift of His sensed and loving presence only to those who will benefit from it eternally. He loves them far too much to have it otherwise.

And only those who are willing to be poor and needy will truly benefit, only those who are brokenhearted over their sin, only those who are willing to be humbled and made meek and lowly. Only those who are willing to be made like the lowly Christ of the stinking stable, the manger bed, the carpenter's shop, the despised city, the cursed cross, and the guarded tomb.

So, the next time you come to God in Worship Prayer, come to Him alone for Himself alone. But come willing to be the needy sinful failure He reveals you to be. Be gladly that, so He may make you otherwise by His undeserved grace and love.

If you come in self-dependence, self-confidence, or just plain self-centeredness, you're not really coming at all.

Welcome His revelation of your sin, your shame, your need. Let it cast you wonderfully hopelessly on Him Who alone is your hope.

Jesus Christ - the King of kings and Lord of lords!