



Sunday, September 21, 2014

ZWTF

Zapping-you Whenever Thoughts Flow

Volume 3, Issue 35

MZQA

Thank you for allowing me this brief respite from the Romans series. I am currently back in Pennsylvania and Ohio for about eight days, having arrived here from the conference in Vancouver, Washington, having arrived there from Sao Paulo, Brazil. The conference was really something; Aaron Locker is working overtime to get the videos to you. Clyde Pilkington and I delivered five messages each to the eager saints there in Vancouver. What a mature, hungry group. I could have spoken to them all day. (Oh, wait. I did.) Thanks again to Dennis Glavin and Alice Johnson for sponsoring an unforgettable time of fellowship.

Here are some Q&A's from my collection. I hope these answer some of the questions that maybe you have asked as well. I hope to be back with the Romans series next weekend, starting chapter 5.

Thanks to everyone who has helped to keep this ministry going financially. As always, I literally could not do it without you. I am sorry I have been slow with the personal thank-you's, but please accept this note as an acknowledgment of your generosity. I never take your love or sacrifice for granted.

THANK YOU.

Will We Remember the Pain and Trauma of This Life?

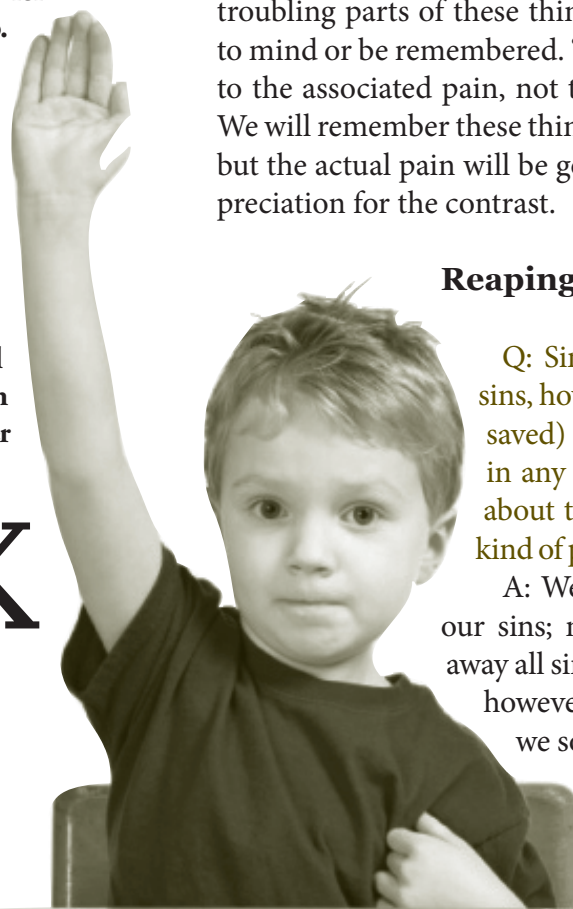
Q: I've had a problem with this verse for a while.. In Isaiah 65:17, God says that He will make a new heavens and Earth, and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. So, if nothing of this Earth is going to be remembered (and I assume that the lessons learned here are important for everyone, for eternity), then why are we here?

A: The last part of verse 17 is the key: "And they will not ascend any more onto the heart." Things of this life will be forgotten in the sense that all the angst and trauma will be forgotten; this is the sense of "ascend any more onto the heart." It is the troubling parts of these things that will not come to mind or be remembered. "Former things" refers to the associated pain, not the things themselves. We will remember these things, and that they hurt, but the actual pain will be gone, replaced with appreciation for the contrast.

Reaping and sowing

Q: Since Jesus died for our sins, how can we (saved or unsaved) be punished for them in any way? I am not talking about the hell idea, but some kind of punishment from God.

A: We are not punished for our sins; not at all. Christ took away all sin at the cross. It is true, however, that we reap what we sow in the flesh. That is, if we sin by overeat-



ing, we'll get fat. But obesity is not punishment from God; it's a natural consequence of doing wrong.

God sees us through the sacrifice of Christ. It is true that we will appear at the dais of Christ ("judgment seat" in the KJV), but this is not punishment, it is requital for things done in the body, whether good or bad. It will be for our ultimate benefit. I think of it as an adjustment, where all will be made well with us. It is nothing even remotely close to punishment.

God-Given Free Will?

Q: Humans are made in God's image according to the Bible (Gen. 1:26–27). If God has free will then wouldn't humans also reflect a degree of free will - having the ability to accept or reject their own God given conscience?

A: To follow your logic, then we would also be omnipresent and omniscient.

As I understand it, we are made in the image of God in that we are subjectors of the lower order, that is, the animals. The word God is "El," which means, "Subjector." God subjects us, and we subject the lower orders.

There cannot be two free wills in the universe, let alone 8 billion. No, we have absolutely zero—none, zip, nada—free will. It only seems like it.

"God gives to all, life and breath and all." (Acts 17:25). That pretty much sums things up. Now—can we believe it?

Israel Will Rejoice

Q: Why will we (the Body of Christ) miss the indignation while Israel has to go through it and continue (after such a slog through history) to have a hard time of war/suffering? Why has God chosen me for a higher purpose than Israel? Somehow I know that it's true what you write about in *The First Idiot in Heaven*, but I have trouble with my feelings because of my love for Israel.

A: Don't feel bad for Israel; God will fulfill His promises to that nation, to the letter. They will be glorying in their glory on Earth. They never expected anything more than ruling the Earth, and this is just what God will give them. How can they be disappointed when their fondest dream is realized?

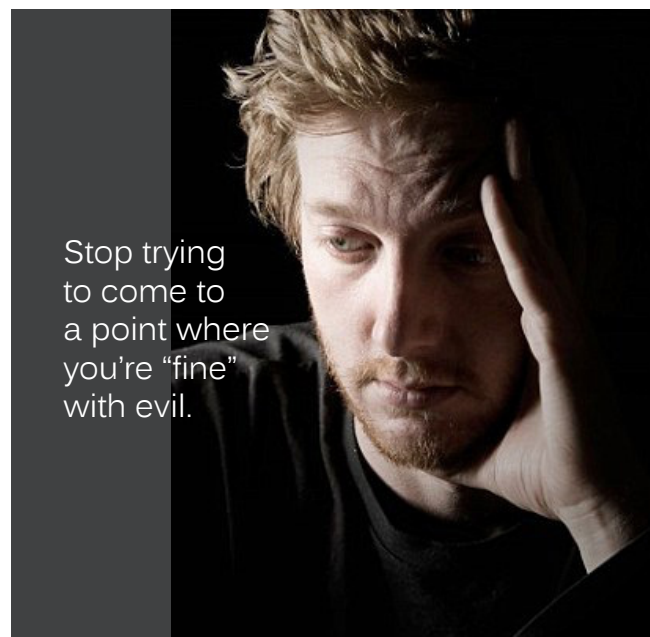
God has granted you something higher, simply because He likes you. There is nothing worthy about either you or me. We have been chosen beforehand for a place at God's right hand. Israel doesn't even want this.

Ephesians 1:9 says that this call of ours is God's delight. In other words, it delights God to do this for us. This is about His enjoyment, primarily. Let's not rob Him of His delight. We can be happy for Israel, as they can be happy for us—as God can be happy for all of us.

The Buck Stops ... at God's Desk

Q: I'm struggling with reconciling the concept of a loving God with a God who orchestrates evil. I am seeing a God that has a split personality.

A: God doesn't have a split personality, any more than a parent has a split personality who one minute bakes her child chocolate chip cookies, and the next minute disciplines him. You must get over the fact that you're never going to like certain horrible evils God effects in this world. I have. You're trying to come to a point where you're "fine" with evil, but that point will never come in this life; do yourself a favor and stop striving for it. You know the truth of God's absolute control, and that's good enough. Be at peace with not being at peace. God will make sense of it all for you *then*, not now. —MZ



Stop trying to come to a point where you're "fine" with evil.