

The Servant



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The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along information and ideas to help the Lord's servants as they minister to others. Feel free to use any of it in your ministry

Anointed Ministers


"I have need to be baptized of thee..." Mt. 3:14. John fully understood his need. He was famous as the baptizer. Throngs of people flocked to hear this "voice" in the wilderness. His call to repentance must have sounded to the religious in Jerusalem as a rumbling distant thunder. "Prepare ye the way of the LORD." John had been preparing all his life. From the time he kicked in his mother's womb at the sound of Mary's greeting, he was preparing to be the herald of the new and coming kingdom. Rising up out of the lethargy of a lifeless religion, like the infusing spirit in Ezekiel's dry bones, John awakened the hopes and spiritual aspirations of his generation. He was greater than Savonarola, and Whitefield, John Knox, and Billy Sunday put together, but he had no doubt about who was greater than he. He said he was not worthy to loose the sandals from the feet of this one who was "preferred before him."

Somehow today it seems we are disappointed if men do not prefer us, our group, our church, or our baptism. John was content to see his disciples leave him for Jesus. John easily recognized the Christ. Although, as he said, "I knew him not," now he knew him. And lest there be any doubt, he witnessed with his own eyes the Spirit of God alight on him as in the form of a dove. How right he was when he uttered his confession "I have need to be baptized of thee."

There by the Jordan, time took a breath. There for a moment John stood between the Old and the New. There the baptizer realized that from this moment on everything must be different. He must be baptized by this one who baptizes with fire. There in an instant he realized that he himself must repent; and that he must "decrease" and Christ must "increase." The voice stood face to face with the Word. Without the Word, the voice is nothing. Lord, before I begin a ministry or a day, I must be baptized of thee.

Worship & Celebration

Worship is the focus of faith's eye upon the greatness and goodness of God. While attempting to take it all in, it is overwhelmed with the wonder and worthiness of the Almighty. Worship is totally occupied with the source and center of all things, the fountain and the foundation of all things, the founder and father of all things, with God. Worship loses sight of all else, turning away from the dark, full faced to the light. Every attribute of the Divine strikes us as brilliant, and worthy to be praised. The best way to worship the Father is through the Son. It is through his wounds that we can glimpse the wonder of his love.

Celebration is the child of worship. It is not the same, nor is it a substitute for worship. The syllables of celebration sound like "self," and so it is meant to be. Celebration rises out of the staggering astonishment of what God has done *to us*. It is the publication and praise about what God has done *for us*. Israel singing and dancing to the song of Moses on the opposite side of the Red Sea is celebration. Overwhelmed by its good fortune, faith cannot contain itself, but must laugh, or dance, or jump for joy. Celebration must call its neighbors and announce "I have found the lost coin," or "my son who was dead, has come home." 

Voices

The voices may come and go
But the Word is still the same
Some are loud and some are low
But they spoke in Jesus name

Some were in the wilderness
And some in the court of kings
Some lived long and some lived less
But they spoke of eternal things

When this one voice is silent
Or one John should lose his head
God is not stopped by violence
But will raise more up instead

By the Book

1. The Law of the LORD is perfect.

(7) There are legislatures everywhere passing laws that are flawed and imperfect. Often times when a law is passed giving one person something, it may be necessary to take it away from someone else. Kings, Parliaments, Congress, always makes imperfect law. They mean well, but because there are so many interests, they often rob Peter to pay Paul. Tax laws are a perfect example. Should we have a flat tax, should we have a graduated income tax, should inheritance be taxed, who passed the laws that allowed the Seventh largest company in America not to pay any tax in 4 out of 5 years? Man passes imperfect law. One law is passed to protect an endangered species, and it causes the cattle farmer to lose his ranch, and his livelihood. We try to help the timber wolf, and we harm the shepherd. The Law of the LORD is *perfect*. Read God's word every day. Everything in His Law is perfect. There are no flaws, in it. Someone said "Nobody is, perfect." God is perfect, and God's Word is perfect. It is without mistake.

2. The testimony of the LORD is Sure.

(7) Testimony must be sure. If it is not sure, it is not dependable. When a witness takes the witness stand he is asked to testify as to what he saw. Then the questioning attorney will ask, "are you sure?" Testimony must be sure. The Testimony of the LORD is *sure*.

Many times we pass laws, but we are not sure they will work. Sometimes they make things worse, instead of making them better. Every day the law of the land changes. Not the law of the LORD. It is timeless and it is eternal. The song says, "Be very sure, be very sure your anchor holds and grips the solid rock." The currents of current events, and the currents of popular opinion are strong— If we don't have a sure anchor we are liable to drift. Look at that boat in the

bay- it just sits there- the waves are white capped and the wind is blowing- but it just sits there- IT HAS AN ANCHOR. The testimony of the LORD is sure. (Gen. 23:17 Abraham's deed, 2Pet. 1:10 calling and election; 1:19 "more sure word of prophecy.")

3. The Statutes of the LORD are Right.

(8) Sometimes our government, and other governments, pass laws that are –just NOT RIGHT. These kinds of laws are passed every day. Everything from legalized abortion, to legalized prostitution, and drug use- It may be legal- but it is just NOT RIGHT. The statutes of the LORD are Right. How are we supposed to know what is right? In Vermont- they say a man should be able to marry a man- THAT IS JUST NOT RIGHT. The Ancient Egyptians passed a law that all the infant boy babies were to be killed by the midwives- That is just not right. Many countries pass laws which allow a doctor to kill all the unwanted babies. I am glad I hold in my possession- Something that is RIGHT.

4. The commandment of the LORD is Pure.

(8) Often man's commandments are mixed with self-interest and selfish motives. That congressman may vote for law "A" and against law "B"- for IMPURE reasons. Maybe he holds stock in a particular company, maybe his contributors have a vested interest in the outcome. David once gave a commandment that sent Uriah to his death, because he was trying to cover his other sins. (2Sam. 11:15). John. 11:47-50. Mat. 27:15,18. The Commandments of the LORD are pure- they are not mixed.

5. The Fear of the LORD is clean.

This means God's Hatred of Evil is Clean. We live in a dirty world. We must forever be sweeping, and cleaning and washing or we will be covered and overcome by filth. Here the Psalmist is pointing out that the Standard of the LORD is Clean. Have you ever gone

into a restaurant and seen the Sanitation Grade Posted? You want it to be an "A." Someone said, "Cleanliness is next to godliness." Actually cleanliness is a part of Godliness. This world is filled with uncleanness physically, socially and morally. This book is the soap and water for the soul. The fear – Standard of the LORD is Clean.

6. The Judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

(9) Many times because the judge and jury don't know what is true, their judgments are wrong. Jesus stood in Pilate's judgment hall- false witnesses, false accusations were leveled against him. Pilate asked him what is truth- Jesus is the TRUTH. He is and so is this book, the Bible. It gives us an eye witness account of the fall of man, and the first sin in the garden. It exposes Satan as a liar and the father of lies. The judgments of the LORD are *true*.

7. The Word of God is Precious.

More valuable than Gold (10) Many a person has "come into money" only to find that it has not brought them happiness, it has brought them sorrow. Jesus called it the deceitfulness of riches. Judas, for few pieces of silver betrayed Christ. Jesus said, "what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul." Wall Street is not what made America great. Enron thought it was in the Energy Business. It had no real power to sell. Real power is not found under the earth but above it. Jesus said, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God." Those who minister with the Word work with real power. One day when God goes over the books, we will also give an account for how we kept the Book.



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