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Because He Lives ….

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Revelation 21:3-5.
LUKE 2:8-14.

BECAUSE HE LIVES
(The Battle with FEAR and PAIN)

INTRO: How many of YOU experienced an intellectual-Renaissance at age 12-13-14 as I did?
(At church building before Young People's Meeting on a Sun eve. Corner 10th & Luellen Sts. ALONE. Feeling like Plato's Tabula Raza::: Like blank sheet of paper with no marks on it. Blank about WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT. Was all QUESTIONS and almost NO ANSWERS. MY QUESTION to myself: "Will you ever understand what life is about? Little did I know at this time that I had before me: 4 years in High School. 4 years in College. and 4 years in the U. of Houston in graduate work.

I. FOUND OUT WHAT LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT IN GOD'S GREAT UNIVERSE:
A. Solomon started my education: Ecc. 1:18. (Wisdom-grief, Knowledge-Sorrow.) Found out more than I wanted to know.
B. Solomon compounded the problem in Ecc. 2:11. Vanity & Vexation!!
C. JOB then contributed his 2¢ worth. Job 14:1-2. Born, FLESH & BONE
{}{}{}{}{}\（ Like flower, cut down soon. As shadow soon gone away.）
SO FAR, found LIFE TO BE: Grief, Sorrow, Vanity and Vexations & many troubles.
D. JESUS offered His viewpoint: Matt. 5:10-12. Enemies & Persecution
E. APOSTLE PAUL sided with Jesus. II Timothy 3:12.
F. APOSTLE JAMES then ratified what Paul wrote: Jas. 1:2-5.

EVEN LOCATED THE REASON FOR THIS FORMAT FOR LIFE" I PETER 5:8-9.

G. Came to three very basic conclusions about life here & now:
1. Satan is loose and jealous of God's good & wonderful children.
2. Christians need the hide of an elephant and psyche of a Saint to make it to the glory land.
3. WHY? Because Life is composed of Joys and Happiness and FEAR & PAIN.

II. FEAR IS NEVER VERY FAR FROM ANY OF US IN DAY TO DAY LIVING:

A. FEAR IS DEFINED: "PAIN AND DREAD ARISING FROM THE ANTICIPATION OF EVIL, INJURY, HARM OR HELPlessness."

1. QUESTION: Have you ever met fear, real fear, face to face???
I HAVE!
2. III. MY NEW YORK CITY SAGA!!!
   a. Audited the ABS world-reports in NY each Nov. for 10 yrs.
   b. 1st visit: Star-struck. Wanted to ride the Subways. Did.
   c. Thought got on a Coney Island subway. 3:00 a.m.
   d. Got to the end. Got off. Went thru turnstile, up to street.
      Looked like an alley. Spooky. Shadowy. Silent as a tomb. Steam rising from manholes in street and sidewalks. Garbage everywhere. Place stunk. I had seen too many of those NY gangster movies. Sure men dressed in black with guns in their hands surrounding ME.

      I realized what a foolish thing I had done. I got into dangerous territory and "no one" on earth knew where I was. I eased back to the subway entrance and down the steps to the platform. Pushed on the turnstile. It didn't move. I was trapped! Helplessly and hopelessly trapped. Could't get back on a train till 5:00 when they started up again. AND I SURE WASN'T GOING BACK UP ON THE STREETS ABOVE. My mind went blank!!

      Then I pled with my only possible refuge: "Please God help me!" He did. He reminded me that I had purchased two extra subway tokens to take home to the boys. And too, the last train of the night was late somehow and arrived shortly after I used one of my spare tokens. "I stood up straight, my shoulders back, chin up -- as though I had finished my mission in the Bronx, and stepped lively on the train and went straight back to the Hudson Hotel on 42nd St." And I thanked God all the way home.

f. JIMMY ALLEN told me of the most frightened he had ever been when he was in the Holy Land. By himself, fearlessly, he decided to climb Mount Sinai. He just didn't know how far it was up to the top and how long it would take to get there. He got caught 3/4s of the way to the top as night fell over the desert. He couldn't see a thing and dared not move in any direction. He spent the entire night in that one spot not knowing what insects, rodents, scorpions, snakes or nocturnal beasts or poisonous-creatures were in his company. He told me one thing about the ordeal. He promised God, that if he would spare his life and save him from harm, he would never never do such a foolish thing again.

III. MY PERSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE ALSO LED ME TO THE REMEDY FOR SUCH DIS EASE and FEAR.
   A. What is it? ANS: The most-challenging exercise of your life!!
   1. JOHN 14:1-3. FEAR is faith-lessness and FAITH is taking Jesus at His word....without question.
   2. JOHN 14:27 reinforces John 14:1-3. We desire PEACE, we pray for PEACE-OF-MIND and submit to Jesus with no IFs, ANDs or DOUBTS. JUST SIMPLY BELIEVE & OBEY!!
   3. MY CONCLUSION: He who loves and reverences GOD will FEAR NOTHING, BECAUSE: "Perfect love casts out fear." "I J. 4:18. II Tim. 1:7." For God has not given us the spirit of FEAR; but of power and of love and of a sound mind." II Tim. 1:12. I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day".

   MY STAND: "He is my God and I shall not fear!"
IV. PAIN IS ALSO NEVER VERY FAR FROM ANY OF US EITHER:

1. PAIN DEFINED: "DISTRESS and SUFFERING DUE TO: ILLNESS, DISEASE, INJURY, LOSS, GRIEF, UNCERTAINTY, FAILURE or THREAT OF HARM.

   A. ILL. Bill. Wynnewood Hills Unc. Signed $80,000 worth of stock. Planning to sell it quickly for a handsome profit. At close of mkt.-called me at 5:30 in shock. "Ruined!! Bankrupt!! Disgraced!!" Stock dropped to the bottom. Worthless!!


   7:30 a.m. next morn he called again, shouting at the top of his lungs. "I'm saved! I'm free! I NEVER SIGNED THOSE STOCKS. They were NEVER mine. KNEW PAIN!!

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2. WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST SAY TO US?

   A. I Cor. 10:13. A way of escape!!
   B. Rev. 2:10. Be faithful no matter what! * JOB. 13:15 To He...
   C. ROMANS 8:18. Paul said: No comparison in Pain and Reward.

D. WHAT HAS BEEN "YOUR" HARSHEST CROSS TO BEAR????

   a. LOOS a 35 yr. old SON to lukemia at the prime of his maturity and usefulness in the kingdom of God.

   Suffered anticipatory-grief five years as medical science tried everything known on earth to cure Chronic-Mylageneous-Leukemia. The night of his passing: Taken off the Ventilator. Restored his heartbeat through extrem measures several times. Then he quit breathing. He was in a private area-alone. I went to him and visited maybe 10 minutes. Then the Good Lord blessed me in a most unusual way. A liquid or something started at the top of my head and progressed through the entire body, down to the sole of my feet. It was as if I had been submerged in a painkilling anesthetic. I didn't hurt any more. I didn't pain at all. I didn't feel anything. At home I spent the night in the den in my lounge chair. My heart beat as loud as a drum in my head. I spent the darkness of the night in the presence of God. I did not ask why! I knew God knew why. I followed divine guidance: * Phil. 4:6-7. I prayed for the STRENGTH the rest of my life so I could see God and in doing so I knew I would see Joel again forever. I adjusted my thinking from the PRESENT to the FUTURE. I went over the Reality of Forever again and again. * Rev. 21:3-5.

NO MORE FEAR! NO MORE PAIN!