

the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PCAI (PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INT'L) &
PCAI CLERGY ASSOCIATION FELLOWSHIP
FEBRUARY 2017

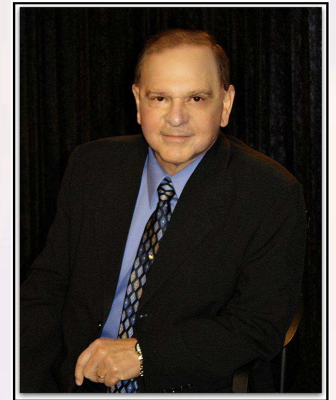
REAL TRUE LOVE

By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l President and General Overseer

Webster's dictionary defines love as "a strong liking for someone or something, or a passionate affection for another person." Notice that Webster's definition of love involves objects of the world, using the words "person" or "something." Yet Webster's definition seems incomplete because it falls short of how I would describe my love for my wife, Jan, our children, and grandchildren. Likewise, any human definition falls short in an effort to describe

"love." Human beings are somewhat limited in their attempt to properly describe things which evoke deep emotions – such as the colors of a rainbow, a beautiful sunset, autumn leaves, or the aroma of spring flowers. I don't have the vocabulary to fully express myself in such matters. And if I did, I'm not sure I have words that are descriptive or vivid enough to express what I feel.

The non-Christian Greek writer Lucian, who lived from 120-180 A.D., made an observation about Christians. He said, "It is incredible to see the fervor with which the people of that religion help each other in their wants. They spare nothing. Their first legislator (Jesus) has put it into their heads that they are brothers." Lucian said that Christians "spare nothing." Sparing nothing is an example of unconditional love. So, where can we find a definition of love that is valid and real?



We need to remember that real [true] love is of and from God; therefore, a human definition will never suffice to describe it. God is the only completely accurate source for a definition that is primarily by, or an observation of, His actions. The love that God demonstrates (and defines) is even harder to grasp, thus we call it "unconditional love." Second, unconditional love is the goal that we are [all] trying to achieve as Christians. The only way God's love is made real and complete is for people to show love to others – both inside and outside our churches. So this being the month of Valentine's Day, let's be reminded of what real true love is, not just this month but throughout the year. ♥



*MINISTRY TOPIC: Developing Church Leadership**By Pastor Lynn Burling / Pastor of Faith Christian Church / TX*

Understanding Romans 8:28 (The Good and The Bad) Through The Lens of Joseph's Life

Please follow me as we go through the “good and bad, up and down” of Joseph’s life. It’s interesting that one of the first mentions of Joseph is at age 17 and he’s feeding sheep with his brothers. Gen. 37:2 (NIV) continues with “and Joseph brought his father a BAD report about them!” This is where it STARTS...he brought a BAD report. Well that’s BAD. NO, THAT’S GOOD because Vs. 3 says, “Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his sons and made him a coat of many colors.” That’s GOOD. No! That’s BAD because vs. 3 says they hated him and could never speak a kind word to him. Well that’s BAD. No that’s GOOD because God gave Joseph a dream and he told it to his brothers. Yes that’s GOOD, no, that’s BAD because vs. 5 says, “They hated him EVEN MORE.” That’s BAD, no, that’s GOOD because his dream showed him all of his brothers were to bow down to him. Well that’s sort of GOOD. No that’s BAD, because when he told them these specific details (vs. 8 says), “They hated him more than ever.” That’s BAD. No that’s GOOD because Joseph dreamed another dream and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars (whole family) bowed down to him. Well that’s got to be GOOD. No, that’s BAD because this provoked “jealousy” in them about him. Well that’s not GOOD, it’s BAD! (Remember, Jacob made a coat of many colors for Joseph as a sign of transferring position and authority to Joseph) “...and Jacob sent his son to check on

his brothers, to check on their wellbeing and his flocks, and as he searched hard for them he finally found them, not in Shechem as was supposed but in Dothan.” Well ok, then that’s GOOD...no that’s BAD because vs. 18 reads, “When they saw him in the distance, (hard to miss that confound COAT– that made them jealous) they plotted to kill him.” (Well now that’s BAD.) “So they plotted to kill him and throw this dreamer in a pit.” Really, really, BAD! No that’s GOOD because Rueben the first born, heard this and tried to rescue him. “Don’t shed his blood.” He says this because he wanted to rescue Joseph and take him to his father. Well, way to go Rueben. (We’ll name a sandwich after you.) Oh, come on, don’t be so serious! Well that’s GOOD. Not really because when Reuben was out of sight, they stripped him of his robe, his special coat, the one and only coat that drove them to jealousy, hatred and even murder. Well that’s BAD—no that’s GOOD because a caravan of Ishmaelite’s (P.S. Remember his great-grand father’s “other son” Ishmael, hmmm, could it be this was planned for such a time as this), came by at that time. This is definitely GOOD because they sold him instead of killing him. Well here we go again. This is really BAD and it’s about to

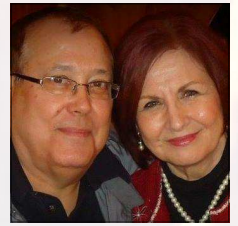
break Jacob, his father’s heart. Can you believe they contrived a lie about his favorite son? They told him that Joseph, his son, was attacked and killed by a ferocious animal. And Jacob, his father, was inconsolable and wept for him. But vs. 36 in the NIV begins with the word “meanwhile” meaning in the intervening period of time. Joseph was sold in Egypt to Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh. Well that’s GOOD, because chapter 39:2 opens with “the Lord was with Joseph and he prospered...and Potiphar entrusted everything to Joseph, personal and business.” Things are VERY GOOD but in vs. 7 Potiphar’s wife propositions Joseph, “Sleep with Me.” That’s BAD, no that’s GOOD because vs 8 records he refused because he could not do such a wicked thing and sin against God. As she continues her temptress ways in vs. 12, “She caught him by his cloak to seduce him to her bed.” OOH, that’s BAD, nope that’s GOOD cause he just let her have his coat and ran out of the house. Ok that’s GOOD, way to go Joseph! No, that’s BAD because...she started screaming, “Rape, he tried to force me.” No joke that’s BAD because Potiphar upon hearing the story burned with anger and threw him in prison. That’s

BAD! Really? Well did you think that might in some way be GOOD because it was the prison where the King’s prisoners were confined and vs. 20 says, “But while Joseph was in prison, the Lord was with him and showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.” Because of this favor Joseph was put in charge of those in the prison and he was successful in everything he had his hand on. Now that’s what I call a GOOD report. As the years wore on for Joseph, two men were imprisoned with the Pharaoh and the captain assigned them to Joseph. It seems all is going well, even in incarceration. In chapter 40, we see the dreamer Joseph (remember that particular anointing and gifting at 17 years old?) is listening to the two men, one a cupbearer and the other the baker to the King of Egypt. Incredibly, they had dreams on the same night and the next morning they both looked dejected, but Joseph, intuitive as he was, asked them why they were dejected? They told their dreams to Joseph and Joseph interpreted their dreams, one GOOD and one not so GOOD. It just so happened that Pharaoh’s birthday was in three days. And at that time he would release or executive prisoners. Joseph asked them to remember him to the King when they were free and speak on his behalf. GOOD, no! because when the baker has his head removed (as

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MINISTRY TOPIC: Preserving Your Marriage in the Ministry

By Pastor Gerald & Sister LaVerne Reliford / Pastors of New Life For The Nations /KY



Everyone Wants To Be Appreciated

1 Corinthians 16:18. “For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.”

Most of us live our lives doing basically the same thing every day. We do it because it is our choice and the responsible thing to do. Wives and mothers clean house, cook, do laundry, and some have jobs outside the home they must do. Fathers are usually busy providing the income for the family. Parents work together as a team to raise the children and maintain a healthy, Godly home.

It is so easy to take each other for granted. If you want your

home to remain spiritually refreshed and motivated, remember to take time each day to express your appreciation to each other. It makes everything so much easier when you know that what you do for your family is appreciated. The word appreciates means: to value, treasure, admire, respect, hold in high regard.

When you show your family how much you value them, it refreshes their spirits. It gives new purpose for doing those routine chores when you know the meals you cook or the laundry you do is noticed and they are grateful for you. It is very

hard to continue taking care of people when they don't appreciate it.

The spark will remain in your marriage if you don't take each other for granted. What you do for your family is important. I know that as Christians we do everything for the Lord and get our encouragement from Him. It's just good for us to have that human touch in our lives that says, "What you do for me is

important and makes me feel valuable."

Mother Teresa said, "There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread." ♥



Make Marriage Great Again

In 2016 our nation went through a long process of electing a new president of the United States. His theme was "Make America Great Again." As a pastor and happily married couple for over 48 years we are committed to letting 2017 be the year that the church makes marriage great again.

How can we do this? The church has allowed the culture of this world to take the place of what the Bible says a marriage and home should be. Romans 12:2 (Amplified), "Do not be conformed to this world (this age) (fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs), but be

transformed (changed) by the (entire) renewal of your mind, (by its new ideals and its new attitudes), so that you may prove (for yourselves) what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect (in His sight for you).

In 2017 we as pastors should first examine our own marriage and our relationship with our spouse. "What can I do to make my marriage better in 2017?" The church is stronger when the marriage of the pastor is strong and

reflects God's Word in their relationship.

Then let us make sure in our teaching and sharing of the Word that we present what God says about marriage-- that it is a good thing. Christians should never accept anything less than what the Word says about marriage. Marriage is a wonderful thing. Let's reflect this to encourage the church to make marriage great again.

As pastors and Christians we have been given the choice of two paths, and we must choose one. One path is the biblical truth

Genesis 2:24

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

and the other path is the world view and political correctness. The path of God's word brings strength and integrity to marriage and the family. The path of the world view seeks to dishonor the institution of marriage.

As servants of God the choice is clear, we must follow God's ways and obey Him rather than man's ways. ♥

Understanding Romans 8:28...continued from page 2

Joseph had interpreted), he could not and when the cupbearer was restored,(as Joseph had interpreted) he did not remember Joseph to Pharaoh. He forgot Him. Well that's BAD, no that's GOOD because after two more years in prison, one day the Pharaoh dreamed two dreams and had no interpretation. But chapter 41:9-13,states the butler (AHA! the butler), who was restored to his former position, gave a blow by blow description of how a Hebrew in prison had interpreted his dream and the baker's dream and their fates were exactly as Joseph had interpreted. So the Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph – YEA, that's GOOD because Joseph interpreted his dreams and through it 7 years of harsh famine were averted by godly planning through Joseph and Joseph was elevated to second in command next to Pharaoh. This is GOOD, GOOD for Egypt, GOOD for Joseph and as far reaching as GOOD for Jacob!

Chapter 42 begins with Jacob sending his sons to seek corn in Egypt. From here we fast forward all the trips Jacob's sons made to Egypt to get corn and all the strange encounters they had with a man who was over all the store houses.

Joseph finally demands that two sons go to bring their younger brother Benjamin, Joseph's only natural born brother. Listen, we see something very revealing because Judah goes home to plead with Israel for allowing the son, Benjamin to return to Egypt with him. Our Savior from the lineage of Judah also pled our case and became surety for us and Judah promised to Israel about the lad. (vs. 44:32) "If I do not bring him back then I will BEAR the blame." Did not our Lord bear our blame? So finally in Gen. 45:2, Joseph declares himself to his brothers, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt." Watch vs. 5 (Mess.), "Don't blame yourselves for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives." As he further explains in vs. 7-8, "God sent me... to pave the way and make sure there would be a remnant—to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance." SO YOU SEE IT WASN'T YOU WHO SENT ME HERE BUT GOD.

As we wrap this up, the GOOD and the BAD seesaw through Joseph's life was with the primary intention to preserve a nation, even a

generation by God. Final thoughts: When Jacob died, those who sold Joseph and planned evil for him, the ten brothers, sent a messenger saying "our father told us —to tell you to forgive us, for this sin and great evil. Joseph wept when he heard this, as his brothers went and fell down before him." (Remember Joseph's dreams) saying "we are thy servants." I can see the spirit of Christ and His anointing in Joseph as he replies in vs. 19-20, "Am I in the place of God? But as for you, you thought it evil, (BAD)...against me. But God meant it for GOOD to save much people." Now we can see the correlation of Joseph's life AND OUR LIVES, in the light of Rm. 8:28 (Amp.) "And we know (with great confidence) that God (who is deeply concerned about us) causes all things to work together (as a plan) for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose." (vs. 31) "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Saints of God, this could be us, family rejection and hatred, jealousy, false accusations, even incarceration. If we look close enough at the GOOD and the BAD, we can see God's hand and God's plan for our lives. ♥

Ministry Tax Dates To Remember

Jan Harbuck -
PCAI Office
Need Help?
Call 1-866-268-5600

February 10, 2017

- ◆ Churches having non-minister employees (or one or more ministers who report their federal income taxes as employees and who have elected voluntary withholding) may file their employer's quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) by this date instead of January 31 if all taxes for the fourth calendar quarter of 2016 have been deposited in full and on time.

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

- ◆ Churches file Copy A of Form 1098-C with the IRS by this date to report the sale or use of a donated vehicle.
- ◆ Applicable large employers, generally employers with 50 or more full-time employees (including full-time equivalent employees) in the previous year, must file a Form 1095-C for each employee who was a full-time employee of the employer for any month of the previous calendar year by this date.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

The INFORMER NEWSLETTER is a free monthly publication of P.C.A.I. - Paragon Christian Alliance International & PCAI Clergy Association

2149 Highway 139,
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
1-866-268-5600 -
FAX (318) 345-0350

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CHARTER RENEWAL DEADLINE MARCH 28TH

Charters under the PCAI 501(c)3 Group Exemption have been mailed their annual renewal report packet. It is also available on our website www.paragonchristianalliance.org under "Resources" tab in a PDF file.



It is important that your report be received in our

office no later than March 28th.

These reports and renewals are in compliance with the IRS code to maintain your charter's tax-exempt status under the PCAI Group Exemption.