



CAUTION! GOD AT WORK!

Ps.92:4-5 KJV “For Thou, O LORD, has made me glad through Your work: I will triumph in the work of your hands. O LORD, how great are your works! And your thoughts are very deep!”

Ps. 107:30-31 LB “Then you will send Your Spirit, and new life is born (created!) to replenish all the living of the earth. Praise God forever! How He must rejoice in all His work!

Signs are very important! The Bible is full of signs and commands for us to follow. Much of our lives are guided/ instructed by the many signs around us each day.

WARNING! DANGER! BRIDGE OUT! RETRICTED ZONES! NO TRANSPASSING! HIGH VOLTAGE! Advertisements show alluring pictures, symbols are seen in public places that people recognize even if they do not speak the language!

CONSTRUCTION SITES:

We see signs that say, “Caution! Men at work!” Not only is that a warning to stay away from the dangers of a Construction Site, but it also *gets our attention!* We look for any information about what is being erected there! Each time we pass by, we look for progress in the building. Most of us *would never think* of vandalizing the property or doing anything to hinder the work there! Sometimes the site looks messy and disorganized, but the Architect/Builder Engineer already has the blueprints, knows if the progress is exactly on schedule, and already has seen the finished product in his mind’s eye!

CAUTION! GOD IS AT WORK BUILDING UP HIS BODY!

Too often we look for perfection in ourselves or others! Or go the other extreme, seeing only our faults! Perfection in the Greek does not mean we are without any flaws, it simply means we should be mature for the place we are at now with the LORD! We must be careful what we say and how we handle His property! Ourselves as well as others! We are all in the process of growing and changing into the Image of God!

Too often, we look only at the things we can see with our eyes, and think or we even say something that hinders or hurts others! “That person sure is a mess! Is he really Christ like? I can’t understand why he isn’t more mature! All we see in some Believers is an old lump of clay!

“I don’t see any Fruit in his life!” “Did you SEE what she wore to church today?” “How dare they sit in MY pew!” CAUTION! A reminder that we sometimes look at others from our own point of view and criticize them without realizing God is at work in them, accomplishing what only what He can do! Some hammer the daylight out of others, never seeing or even caring about the harm or damage they are doing! Others catch some small mistake and want to just nail them to the wall!

If we would not do damage to some construction site in the city, WHY would we cause so much trouble for Believers in whom GOD IS AT WORK? CAUTION! GOD IS AT WORK! Don’t try to trash or vandalize His work! He is the Divine Architect! His designs are magnificent and are perfect in His eyes!

When you or others see a lump of clay, be careful! Don't set yourself up as the BENCHMARK or STANDARD that all others have to live up to! God sees the beauty of the finished product! Ps.15:1 "Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" He who lives a blameless life-truthful-doesn't slander-gossip does no harm to neighbor etc, stands forever! Since He has our blueprints, He knows we are at the exact place we are supposed to be!

He knows we are all walking in many different levels of growth. We may look "messy or disorganized" in the eyes of others, but He examines us carefully for any weakness or impurity and corrects or repairs us! He looks at each stage with satisfaction, as He checks and tests us according to His planning! Others may see or not see a lot of growth, and fail to see how pleased God is with our progress.

He has put His signature on us! We are written on the palms of His hands! His property! The Holy Spirit has placed His seal on us! We are His creation, made to glorify our God! If we are not careful, we may look at God's work much differently! Where God sees a big "AMEN" we sometimes see a mess!

How do you view yourself, a lump of clay or joy that God has chosen you as His special workmanship? Ps.139:14 "*I will praise You, for I am fearfully [awesomely] and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knows right well!*"

The enemy of your soul will try to tell you will NEVER get the victory over your problem! He will whisper to you that are not doing very well or going in the right direction in order to discourage you from discovering your real value to God! Do not listen to him! He will try anything to trash or vandalize God's property and work!

Hear the Word of the LORD!

Ep.2:10"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has ordained that we should walk in them."

God was so pleased at the time of Creation, everything He saw, He emphatically said:

"It is good!" He always smiles when He looks at His work! God is not finished with us yet! He rested after the days of Creation but the work He started in man is ongoing! We are still a work in process! Some day all will see the beauty of His finished product!

Caution! God is at work! Are we helping or hindering? If you would not trash or vandalize some Construction Site, WHY would you treat GOD'S Property with disrespect??? Are we throwing stones at other believers or are we gathering precious gems for our crowns to cast down at the feet of our Savior? How amazing! We are a valuable treasure to our Lord! Accepted in the Beloved! Look at yourself and others as God's work in progress!

CAUTION! Believers are God's work! And – He's still working on us!

Mary Mayko



“JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE IN PRAYER.”

By Mary Mayko

Matt 11:25-27 “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father; and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father: neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.’”

An examination of Jesus’ prayer life as recorded in scriptures show He did not waste time during prayer. He talked with His Father about specific situations or directions before action. He had learned from early childhood to obey and respect His earthly parents. He experienced 30 “normal” years, so to speak, before He began His public ministry. The more we talk with the Father in the Name of Jesus, the more effective our prayers will be. Do you ever check up on your prayer life to see if you are following the examples Jesus left for us?

PERSONAL EXAMINATION

Jesus was lead by the Spirit for a time of testing **before** He began His public ministry. [Mt.4:1-11] When we feel a call for ministry of any kind, do we take proper time for preparation? Seems many people rush into ministry before they have knowledge and experience. When this happens, they may do much harm to other Believers or become discouraged because they feel they failed the Lord some way.

He talked often with His Father, and did only those things His Father instructed Him to do! [John 5:19-21, 30] After we have discovered a particular area of ministry we feel the Lord has for us and have gone through a preparation time, do we continue to seek the Lord for His instructions? Don’t become impatient! God still leads His people!

Jesus went off alone for times of private prayer before His public ministry. [Mt.4] On a mountain. [Mark 6:46] He prayed in a wilderness. [Luke 5:16] He prayed all night on a

mountain before He chose the disciples as apostles [Promoted them!]. [Luke 6:12-13] For an effective ministry, we need times of private prayer. When we are faced with important decisions, we need His wisdom. What steps have you taken to assure you have quieted your spirit and are in tune with the Lord?

He prays with the Disciples privately away from crowds. [Mark 10:32b] Jesus often took the disciples aside to instruct them and open their understanding. There are some things you cannot learn in a crowd. Too many distractions! Jesus took His close associates aside for private prayer. In Leadership, some things are clearly on a “need to know” basis for the general congregation. Are you a part of an inner circle? If so, please respect whatever is shared unless or until it becomes public knowledge. We need people on our team we can trust! Do others consider you trustworthy to keep their needs confidential if asked to do so?

Forgive when you pray! [Mark 11:23-26] Jesus instructed them to forgive or they would not be forgiven! That is scary! Are we careful to deal with any hindrance in our own prayer life?

John 17 Jesus prays openly before His disciples to Father for them. V.9-26 a beautiful prayer to Father for Believers! A **definite purpose** in Jesus’ prayer for us! This is an example of prayer with a purpose that is a good guide line for us. When you are praying, are you careful to be specific? Are you willing to ask or share with the Lord clearly and briefly in front of others? Do you need to make any changes? If our prayers are vague, they are often confusing to others who hear us, and do not merit clear answers. [James 4:3]

Public prayers: Jesus often prayed in public. Mt.11:25-27 Luke 10:21-22 Remember, we are talking with the Father, not to the people. People listen and when in agreement often say “amen!” Do you focus on God or people in public prayer? (If on people, you feel self-conscious!)

Faith is important as you pray. When we are convinced we ask according to His will, we will pray with confidence. [John 15:7] If His word is abiding in us, we know the Word, the Holy Spirit can direct our prayers.[Matt 21:21-22] without doubt. **Use wisdom and ask with a purpose.** [James 1:5-6] Our Father knows our need, but the purpose in asking is it shows our reliance on His provisions for us, and reminds us to be thankful! [Luke 12:30-32] How is your faith level?

Jesus instructed His followers to pray and how to pray, both in private and in public! [Matt.6:6-13] He said don’t pray vain repetitions or to draw attention to ourselves. As we make it a point of studying the prayers of Jesus, Paul and the Apostles, it should give us more confidence in our personal or public prayers!



“THE YEAR 2008~~ NO ACCIDENT!”
By Rev. J Kehl Golding

“Luke 21:25-26a “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. MEN’S HEARTS FAILING THEM FOR FEAR, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.”

Recently our local paper [Burlington County Times July 6-2008] ran a front page article on the “bad mood of Americans” stating, “Too much is wrong”.

The following is a quote from the well written article by Pauline Arrillaga of Associated Press. She is speaking about members of the “Optimist Club” and says: “They use words such as “TERRIFIED”, “DISGUSTED”, and “SCARY” to describe what one calls “this mess” we Americans find ourselves in. Then comes the list of problems constituting the mess: A protracted war, \$4.00 a gallon gas, soaring food prices, uncertainty about jobs, an erratic stock market, a tougher housing market, and so on and so forth”.

She speaks of families stories, such as; a son serving his second term in Iraq, and a daughter who’s lost her job in the mortgage industry. A man in construction whose salary has been slashed, and others who can barely afford gas- even for work.

The above is being voiced everywhere~ a sense of helplessness. This article concludes with comments from author Gregg Easterbrook, his book “The Progress Paradox: How Life Gets Better While People Feel Worse” discusses the disconnect between better times and our feelings of despair. He uses statistics like: “A relatively low unemployment rate of 5.5 percent in June. [Employers did cut payrolls by 66,000 jobs, but consider the 10.1 rate of June 1992]. Declining rate of violent crimes, property crimes, and big city murders, declining rates of disease, higher standards of living for the middle class, and the working poor. And incomes that, for many, are rising above the rate of inflation:

Now if all that is a fact- why do we feel so helpless? Why are we unable to cause 2 and 2 to make 4?

Many years ago Billy Graham preached a sermon on “Home”. Its title, I believe, was called “HOME”. In it he made it clear, to be a happy secure individual we needed to have three homes.

1. A physical earthly place, called “home”, where we felt secure, loved, surrounded by people that loved, and watched over each other, had Godly values, and respect for one another. Wealth and size were not important.
2. A “Church Home” is needed. Where the Word is preached and taught. Where we meet regularly with familiar faces, and share like minded Godly values. Where we respect, and uphold each other. Where the Saving knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ brings integrity to our lives.
3. A “Heavenly Home”. The heart and mind knowledge of HOPE. Knowing God is in control of all, and at the end of life, we will go to meet our Friend, LORD, and Savior Jesus Christ. A Home that awaits us for all eternity.

When one is experiencing the above “3 Homes” in his life, despair, terrified, and scary, and disgusted are not clouding his every day life. We that are older are witnessing the results of: [1] Prayer being removed from schools [children not taught to look to a Higher Power- God. [2] Bible reading being removed from schools. [No matter how brief, the Holy Word was read over the children] [3] Merchandizing on Sunday, rather than closed stores, and church attendance urged. There is no hope, no knowledge of a loving, wonderful God that longs to be a part of our life.

Beloved, I bring you COMFORT, and HOPE, and Christian Friend, something WE can do for our hurting Country: “If MY PEOPLE, which are called by MY NAME, shall HUMBLE themselves, and PRAY, and SEEK My face, and turn from their WICKED WAYS; then I will hear from Heaven, and FORGIVE their SIN, and will HEAL their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

It is no accident that so much is happening all about us. As a nation we have strayed far from the faith of our Fathers, the Christian Principles upon which our nation was founded. On top of all this, we are in an election year, one like no other we have seen. I beg of you, LISTEN to what is being said. Look at the track record of the candidates. Look for the values you believe in, their associates. Remember that old adage: “Birds of a feather flock together.” A lot is said about us by the “friends [Associates] we keep.

We the people of God cannot blame “them”, “Those people” out there. If only “they” could see it my way!! No, the Word says, “If My people, which are called by My Name”- we must humble ourselves, admit our indifference to Him, His Word, His Commands, and SEEK His face!

Our next President will make appointments to the Supreme Court. Be involved in the fight concerning the cruelty of abortion. He must stand up against the homosexual agenda, be involved with legislation that could redefine marriage. And as always, that which is taught in our public school system.

Our leaders are busy fighting across the isle, the important issues go “NOWHERE”- this must stop! Look closely, EXAMINE and PRAY before you VOTE! This could be the most important thing you do this year, for your children, yourself, and your nation.

If Christ is your personal Savior, there is nothing to fear, we are living in troubled times, the last days, but our hope goes beyond this world and its' events. This year is in His hands!

Stay in prayer as you walk with Him!

Rev. J Kehl Golding