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**STRIVING TO DO  
GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY**

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Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Job 1:9 - "Will a man worship God for nothing?" This was the vile accusation that Satan made against a man, whom God called, "the most godly man of his era". The accuser of the brethren could not imagine that any human being who would worship and serve God, simply and solely because of "Who God is, in all of the majesty and glory of His being"! For Satan is so poisoned with his sinister pride, that when he observes a believer who is serving the Lord, in a life of authentic worship, he wickedly assumes that this believer must have some ulterior motives. So the "wicked one" simultaneously charged God with buying Job's worship; and accused Job of worshipping the Lord for selfish reasons. Lucifer was making the iniquitous implication that, 'Job was not worshipping the Lord, because of who He is. Rather, Satan was implying that Job was only worshipping God because of all of these benefits'. He was also insinuating that Job would not continue to worship the Lord God, if all of the physical blessings were removed. This was an accusation that Job would not continue to wholeheartedly worship, if he were to plummet into the pit of catastrophe and crisis! He advocated that in adversities, Job would prove to manifest that God was not the supreme love and preeminent treasure of his life. Since Satan could not bring any accusation against Job's character, he attempted to impugn Job's motives.

On the one hand, this is an abominable accusation against Job and a heinous insinuation against God. But on the other hand, it is also a challenging proposition to each of us today. May I ask you, "Would you worship God for nothing? Would you worship the Lord your God, for the eternal worth of His person, even if everything and everyone else was taken away?" This is always the great challenge for our lives, when we must walk through the valley of adversity. Will we continue to worship the Lord, as our preeminent treasure of our lives, throughout the trials, the tribulations and the tears? Will we be faithful to exhibit the consecration sacrifice of worship, solely because our King and Redeemer is absolutely worthy of our true and spiritual worship? Or will we prove the accusation of the enemy, that we only worship conditionally, according to the benefits, which we receive?

Dear friends, as I am writing this letter, I am reminded that 8 weeks ago today, I was in a Florida hospital suffering with diverticulitis, perforated bowels, and a stomach filled with peritonitis. If I did not have emergency surgery, I would be in a life-threatening situation. Just 24 hours previous to that, I was preaching the Word of God to a packed church, in Lake City, Florida. And now, I was in the midst of a medical emergency over 500 miles from home! As I lay in that hospital bed digesting all that was happening, I was immediately reminded of a profound truth that Dianne and I had been taught many years ago. "Every adversity that comes to my life is a 'call to worship my Lord'!" Every fiery trial, which I fall into, is a summons from my Master to put the authenticity of my faith on display to a watching world.

One of the major truths that the Book of Job teaches is that, 'the sworn enemy of our souls is on a divine chain, which is firmly held by our sovereign and omnipotent Lord'. This fallen angel could not bring any adversity to Job's life, without receiving both divine permission and divine limitations. Satan could not lay a hand on Job, unless God let down His hedge of protection. (Continued on next page)

Of course, Satan desired to use these adversities to tempt Job to exit the path of worship in the valley of adversity; contaminate his testimony for the Lord; and rob God of glory! However, God possessed a overarching purpose to these adversities, which was 'to put the authenticity and the quality of Job's faith on display'! God was going to demonstrate to the accuser of the brethren and to the entire universe, that a person who possesses saving faith in the Lord will still worship God, even when everything else has been taken away!

So God permitted the hedge of protection to come down. The omnipotent Lord allowed Satan to attack Job, with the most calamitous adversity that a man can experience. Job lost all of his possessions; he lost most of his servants to a series of vicious murders; and finally, near the conclusion of the first phase of his wicked assaults, Job lost all of his 10 children in a horrible, natural calamity. Later, Job would lose his health and suffer accusations from his wife and closest friends. Job's former life of health, wealth and prosperity had abruptly come to a dead end! How would he respond, in the midst of the fiercest possible storms? Would his faith fall to pieces? Would he curse God and die? Or would he magnify the "infinite worth of his Lord", in the midst of the valley of adversity?

Have you ever closely noticed Job's response, when the final messenger brought the tragic news of the culmination of this first series of adversities? Verse 20 declares, "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and **WORSHIPED**". The true character of a person is revealed in the hour of sudden adversity. On the one hand, Job did not attempt to hide his profound grief, for he had plummeted from prosperity to poverty. But then, upon hearing the most devastating news that a loving parent can possibly hear, he openly mourned over these disastrous heartbreaks. Oh but friends, even in his deepest anguish, he did not attack or accuse his God of wrongdoing. He did not curse his Lord. He did not turn away from his faith. Instead, he responded in the most amazing manner; for Job sanctified his mourning with worship! Yes, he was bowed down in deep grief; but he also bowed down in devoted worship of the Lord his God! Instead of allowing Satan to lure his heart away from God, Job pressed-in even closer to His God! He worshiped the One who is a very present help in time of trouble. Job's testimony teaches each of us "to worship the Lord our God", even when there are no apparent answers for the trials and troubles that we are walking through.

While Job was in this heart attitude of worship, He reminded himself of the brevity of life. And he said "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return there". Just a few hours before acknowledging this reality, Job was the wealthiest man in his nation. He had been extremely blessed with a loving family, material prosperity and good health. Now, everything is gone! However, he reminded himself that he was no poorer on the day of tragedy than on the day that he entered into this world! So Job refused to be bitter and angry with God, over the loss of the things, which he could not take with him, when he leaves this planet!

While Job was in this heart attitude of worship, he also reminded himself of the sovereignty of His Lord in his storm. "The LORD gives and the LORD takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." He did not say that, "Satan takes away"! For Job knew that it was the Sovereign Lord, which had allowed him to be a temporary steward of all this prosperity. He also knew that his children were a gift from the Lord. So since all of these gifts actually belonged to the Lord, this means that the Lord had the ownership rights to take them all back, in His wise and perfect timing.

Friends, as I lay in that hospital, with my precious wife closely by my side through this valley of adversity, the sovereignty of My Lord and Savior became the pillow on which we could lay our heads, in the midst of this most severe health crisis. The sovereign control of our Savior was our solid foundation for worship, in the midst of this great difficulty. Both Dianne and I could testify, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." Our Lord and Savior is absolutely worthy of worship, simply because of Who He is, in all of the majesty of His glory; whether we are walking on top of the mountain of blessings and the wind is at our back; or we are walking through the valley of adversity and the winds of affliction are howling in our face!

## WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!



We want to thank all of you who have been so faithful to stand with our ministry in intercessory prayer. Your love, concern, prayers and financial support, through this time, have been such an encouragement and help to us. Also, we want you to know that the Lord is using all of these outpouring of prayers and concern in many ways. These have been an incredible testimony to so many others, as they observe the love that has been exhibited to us, from the family of God. Furthermore, your faithfulness to bless our ministry with your financial support has helped to enable us to be a “channel of blessing” to the foreign missionaries, which we assist in an ongoing basis.

As you probably remember, I was scheduled to go to India this month. Unfortunately, I am still not strong enough to travel. But, it is my joy to share with you that two of the Indian nationals, which I have had the privilege to train in the ‘Christ-centered Evangelism’ workbook, will be teaching the workbook, in my stead, in Goa and Siliguri, India. I just received a note of gratitude from Raj Eleazar, who will be teaching this study to 60 pastors in northeast India. He shares, **“Thank you very much for the helping hand that your ministry has extended towards the portion of the mission work of India, which our Lord has entrusted to me. Also, my wife and I are continually praying for Bro. Ed. I Hope and pray that I will do justice with the teaching material of ‘Christ-Centered Evangelism’. I’m sincerely telling this, that I can’t fill the shoes of Bro. Ed’s teaching on this subject in Siliguri. But I will assure you that I will do my best to teach the truths which my brother has poured into me. Please pray for the pastors and I continually, as I teach them this very important subject. Love and regards.**

Then our dear brother Jaison Job, who is the Director of Dr. Herrod’s Bible Institute in Goa, India, will be teaching the “Christ-centered Evangelism” study to another group of 53 pastors! Our ministry will pay for the publication of the workbooks in both Siliguri and Goa, India. There will be pastors in attendance, from 14 different states of the nation of India. Of course, I will miss training and worshiping with these precious men of God.

For the last 3 weeks, I have re-gained enough strength to get back to studying and preparing for whatever upcoming opportunities to share God’s word. I have been able to complete the study, which hopefully, I will be able to teach in Kenya this fall. I will be teaching 12 sessions on the subject entitled, ‘Redeemed to Worship’. I have added four new sessions to this workbook, on the extremely important subject of the ‘Health and Wealth Prosperity Message’, which has literally ravaged much of the evangelical church in Africa. Please pray that our Lord will grace me with the strength to fulfill this vital mission to plant sound doctrine and obliterate this deadly erroneous message. Also, I will be teaching the “Christ-centered Discipleship” study for the Ouachita Baptist Association in Louisiana, during the week of August 21-26. I will be serving with my dear friend Craig James, who is their Director of Mission, as well as, the pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Furthermore, I am attempting to redeem this time of recuperation, by working on the completion of the ‘book edition’ of Christ-centered Evangelism. Once I complete the rough draft, it will be edited. Then upon completion, we already have requests for it to be translated into 3 additional languages! Please pray for me, as I labor in this challenging undertaking to complete this study in “book form”.

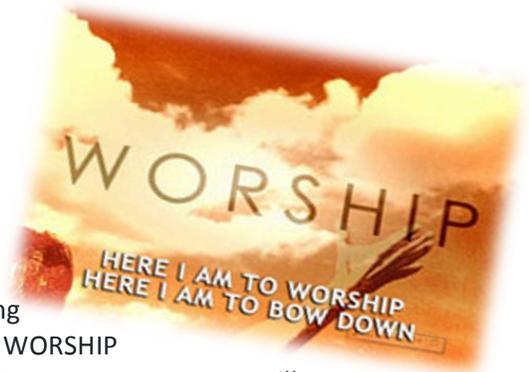
## UPCOMING SURGERY IN SEPTEMBER!

We have just received some great news, even as I write these closing remarks of this letter. The surgeon had noticed a spot on my pancreas, during the surgery in Florida, which resulted in a temporary colostomy. Both of the wonderful doctors, who cared for me in Florida, urged me to get an endoscopic ultrasound of my pancreas, once I made sufficient recovery from the surgery. A specialist in Mobile conducted that exam a few weeks ago. We have just received the results of those biopsies'. We are so grateful to report that there is no cancer, either in the pancreas or of the esophagus. They did discover another issue upon this exam, which was the reason for the additional biopsies of the esophagus. I have been diagnosed with "Barrett's Esophagus". However, this is being treated with medicine; and will be examined annually, to make certain that nothing else more serious develops!

I am now at the "half-way" point to my next surgery, to re-connect the colon. This is scheduled for the first week of September. I must have this 2nd surgery before I can begin a full schedule of preaching again. But as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, Dianne and I have purposed to worship our Lord in this next valley of adversity. If our brother Job worshipped God and accepted adversity from our loving Father, then why shouldn't we follow in his footsteps? For he was also a man of flesh and blood just like us. It was the all-sufficient grace of God, which enabled Job to walk through all of his adversities. That same mighty grace is available to my precious wife and I, during these difficult days. When we consider Job, we are reminded that he was given the assistance of our Lord and God, even when he did not have all of the answers to why all these things were happening in his life. And of course, we have available to us, far more illumination than Job had; for we can learn from Job's life testimony and God's gracious sufficiency! Our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the mighty grace of God, we have as our passion and purpose to continue to worship our Lord, in the valley of adversity.

So in closing this letter, again I want to express our gratitude and love toward you. I am praying that this newsletter will be an encouragement to you, no matter if you are living on the mountaintop; or find yourself walking in the valley of adversity. Because friends, you and I can be so very grateful that we know the answer to that accusation hurled out by Satan against Job. Yes-dear friends, this godly man, **did worship God** for nothing! He worshiped the Lord, for Who the Lord is, in some of the greatest calamities that a saint could possibly experience. And as I am walking through this present health crisis, I want to testify that, "I too will WORSHIP

GOD, no matter the crisis, the calamity or the catastrophe that comes my way. I will WORSHIP my LORD and my GOD, for WHO HE IS! For He, and He alone is absolutely worthy of worship!



Your Servant For Jesus Sake,

Ed Lacy