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DOING GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I have been meditating on Paul's doxology of worship in **Philippians 1:20-21**, which he says, "according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also CHRIST will be

MAGNIFIED in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is CHRIST, and to die is gain." It is quite amazing to me, that Paul is giving this testimony of true and spiritual worship, as a prisoner, being under Roman incarceration. Yet, Paul knows that his Sovereign Lord is in total control of his imprisonment. He has been testifying, in verses 12-13, that the Lord had placed him in prison for the purpose of orchestrating the evangelism of Caesar's elite palace guards! Paul had been shackled with a 6 foot long link of chain, to a number of Caesar's palace guards. This private force of elite soldiers were being rotated at 6 hour intervals. Obviously, from Rome's point of view, Paul was chained to the guards; but from God's point of view, the guards were chained to Paul! The wise providence of our Lord had engineered **Divine Appointments** for this fervent worshiper, enabling him to be a faithful witness to Caesar's praetorian guards. Even in the midst of great adversity, Paul consistently exhibited a purpose and passion to fulfill the 'great commandment and the great commission'! The Lord was using Paul's incarceration to orchestrate these personal evangelistic encounters for the furtherance of the gospel and the conversion of some of Caesar's personal bodyguards! We see that when Jesus is the center of your universe, even a prison cell can become a pulpit!



As Paul was testifying about these Divine appointments to plant the gospel, he suddenly broke into a doxology of worship! He gladly proclaims, "For Me to live is Christ"! He boldly testifies that His passion and purpose for living is that Jesus Christ would be magnified in the totality of his life. This is an authentic testimony of true and spiritual worship! Oh Brother and sisters, if the weeds of idolatry have been extracted from the garden of your heart, so that you have been transformed from a rebel into a worshiper, then you should respond by presenting your new heart to Jesus in absolute surrender! We are called and commanded to yield our lives as a holy sacrifice. This will certainly manifest itself in a life that is 'purposefully and passionately' set apart from our flesh's agendas; and 'purposefully and passionately' set apart unto our Lord's agendas". I submit to you that this is the only acceptable sacrifice of worship to our worthy KING! I am saying that true and spiritual worship is not something that is reserved for an hour or so on Sunday morning; but it is the deliberate placing of the totality of your life at the disposal of your Lord, Who has purchased your soul with His own blood!

Paul's life exhibited a purpose and a passion to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission!

I like to think of this reality of true and spiritual worship in this way. Prayer is a preoccupation with our needs; Praise is a preoccupation with our blessings, but Worship is a preoccupation with our Lord! It is a passion and purpose to live our lives in such a way, that Jesus would be magnified in the entirety of our lives. May I also say that this reality of worship is to be our response in every situation and circumstances of life. It is not only to be our response when we are sailing smoothly through this life and the wind is at our backs; but it is to also be our response, when we find ourselves navigating through the storms of life, and the winds of adversity are howling in our face. Remember friends, Paul is speaking from a Roman prison cell; and yet, even while imprisoned, he can sincerely say, "For me to live is Christ"! Is this the doxology of your worship?

My desire! — I want to know Him, as intimately as I possibly can; I want to worship Him as passionately as I possibly can; I want to follow Him as obediently as I possibly can; and I want to declare Him as faithfully as I possibly can!

Friends, I can sincerely testify, after 31 years of following Jesus, that when I am worshiping the Lord Jesus in this definition of worship, my Lord gives me amazing "Divine Appointments" to carry out His great mission of making disciples! When I am sincerely purposing to fulfill the "Great Commandment", as a fervent worshiper, our Sovereign King opens tremendous doors to fulfill the "Great Commission", as His faithful witness. Oh, may this be the sincere and perpetual testimony of every child of God who reads this letter. May we treasure Jesus, above all other people and things! May we cherish Jesus, as infinitely more valuable than all of the 'empty wells' of this world. May we live our lives in such a way, that it will be manifestly evident that we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good. Our God takes great delight in His worshiping children. We can be sure that our God will open amazing doors, for us to be faithful witnesses unto His Son; and we will bear much fruit. Jesus will be magnified in our bodies; and God will be glorified.



Conference in Cuba

Bro. Garry Morrison and I have recently returned from Santiago de Cuba, where the Lord gave us another tremendous 'open door' to teach at the seminary of the Eastern Baptist Convention of Cuba. There were 190 seminary professors, Bible extension teachers, seminary students, church planters and lay leaders in attendance. God gave us the joy of teaching my most recent workbook entitled, "Walking In Victory In The Reign Of Grace". Bro. Garry, as always, was graced to do an exceptional job of interpreting for me. I don't believe that he missed a single word. The gift that our Lord has given to this brother is absolutely amazing! God has graciously blessed us with such a oneness of heart, mind, passion and purpose to 'rightly divide' the Word of God; and apply it to the lives and ministries of the spiritual leaders in Eastern Cuba. We both knew in our souls, that the Holy Spirit was applying His inspired truths about the grace of God in a demonstration of His mighty power. The sessions included such themes as: Salvation By Grace Alone The Call of Grace Justified Freely By His Grace, In Union With Christ Abounding Grace and the final 5 sessions was an exposition of Romans 6:1-14.

The following are just a few of the many testimonies received concerning the precious work that the Holy Spirit accomplished in the lives of these spiritual leaders. **One pastor writes**, "The Lord has poured out His grace on me during this week, as I have learned to properly interpret and apply many Bible passages that I had misunderstood in the past. I now understand that God is in complete control of all my situations. I now know that, at all times, the abundant grace of God is available to walk through any situation in triumph! This has been very encouraging to me. During this study I have privately consecrated my life to the Lord, so that I might teach others these marvelous truths of God's amazing grace; and to teach others how to live in victory under the reign of the grace of God. God showed me that sin can no longer reign in my new heart and because of God's marvelous grace, I live in union with the King who has conquered the tyranny of sin! I also came out of this conference personally convicted to allow God to direct my life and ministry; and to study God's Word more profoundly; and to teach others about the greatness of God's grace". **Another testifies**, "Words cannot express my gratitude to you, as you came from so far, to invest so much into our ministries. I have learned so much more about how God's grace has abounded over my sin. I came to realize that even when Satan brings adversities to my life to harm me, God will work out those same circumstances for my good and His glory. From the age of 15, I was diagnosed with schizophrenia. I have prayed many times for God to deliver me, through the years. But Praise His Name, I am now free from schizophrenia and serving the Lord and making disciples. This study of the Reign of Grace has helped me to better understand what the Lord has done and is doing in my life; and the life of those new believers whom I teach. I will definitely be teaching them about God's amazing and abundant grace. Thank you for being an instrument of God, to illuminate my mind regarding the power and purpose of grace in the life of believers. May God continue to use you both in the equipping of the saints and in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God in Cuba. Please come back soon to teach us more truth". **A church planter writes**, "God has been so good to me, because I knew very little regarding the grace of God. I had so many erroneous practices and false concepts about God's grace. I praise God that now, as I prepare to go out as a missionary, I have a clear understanding of what God has given me through His Son, Jesus. Now I am going back to my home to thoroughly and repeatedly review all of the concepts, definitions and truths that I learned. My main goal is to practice what I have learned and teach other believers what I have learned.

Bro. Garry and I have been invited to return to the seminary in February 2013, to teach a study on the Holy Spirit. This is the study that I am preparing for the upcoming conference in May in Holguin, Cuba.

While in Cuba, we were also given the privilege of preaching 2 gospel evangelistic meetings at 4th Baptist Santiago de Cuba, where we have preached on many occasions in the past. This church is experiencing an extended period of awesome revival. The church is exploding in authentic conversions. It has planted 29 churches since 1996. Eleven of the 29 churches are full, and self-supporting. Eighteen of them are still in the mission-church state of development. There are also over 100 prayer cell groups that meet weekly all over the city. Senior Pastor Osbel, reminded me during one evening together, of how God gave me a precious 'Divine Appointment' to be present at 4th Baptist, when that tidal wave of revival began. As a matter of fact, I had a brief meeting with a brother who is now a pastor of one of the daughter churches. He reminded me that he was converted during that crusade many years ago. It was absolutely awesome to see what the Lord has accomplished and continues to do, through one local church in such an oppressive situation! On Sunday evening, 2 services were held, in order to seat all the lost people. Approximately 40 adults, were in the counseling areas after the message, testifying that they had come to King Jesus on His terms. Then, after returning home, I received an e-mail from a dear Cuban brother, who is now a pastor in the Bronx, New York. Pastor Cesar, was my interpreter, many years ago on my first few trips to Santiago de Cuba. He testified in this e-mail that his older sister was one of those 40 adults which had testified of conversion in our Cuba outreach. What an amazing Divine Appointment! This was a glorious confirmation of exactly what I am writing about. Pastor Cesar was the brother who was standing by my side, interpreting all of my preaching and teaching during those early days of revival in '96. Now, 16 years later, he writes from New York, to tell me that his own precious sister has been converted, almost 1500 miles away in his home country, while Garry and I were proclaiming the Gospel. Please continue to pray for the extension of the Gospel in this communist nation. Also, please continue to pray for the 20 church planters that our Lord allows us to support in the Holguin district. We are returning, Lord willing in May, to teach a new workbook entitled, "The New Covenant Ministry Of The Holy Spirit".

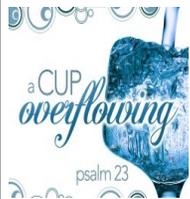
CONFERENCE IN NAKURU, KENYA

We are absolutely amazed concerning the tremendous 'open doors' that our Savior has set before us in the nation of Kenya. I spent the first 9 days of January in Kenya, where the Lord graced me with the opportunity to teach Christ-Centered Evangelism to over 280 pastors, overseers, evangelists, missionaries to other nations in Africa and prison chaplains. It was a powerful time of ministry, in which the Holy Spirit exposed error, granted repentance and filled the void with His inspired truth, concerning the vital issue of using His ordained means and message to carry out His great mission. It is always a shocking experience to realize that many things that these spiritual leaders were repenting of, were the humanistic techniques, tactics, methods, manipulations and messages that they have learned from American peddlers in the past. It is a stark reminder to me, that the church in America is in desperate need for a revival, that will bring us all the way back to the plumb-line of the Word of God. We need to return, once again, to the sufficiency of God's means and the message of Jesus Christ as Lord. I want to give you just a few testimonies from these spiritual leaders who were transformed by these truths: **Bishop Peter—(62 year old overseer)** - "Bro. Ed, there is an old American saying which says, "that you can't teach an old dog new tricks"; but I am an old dog, and I have been totally changed! I have repented of doing God's work in man's ways. I have repented of using 'felt-need' centered messages and man centered messages. I have repented of trying to bring about the new birth in my timing, by using man's manipulative techniques and tactics! I have totally returned to God's instructional manual. I have committed to do God's work; using God's message and methods; and to prayerfully wait on God's timing for the supernatural birth from above to take place! I feel like Apollos, (Acts 18), for I needed to be taken aside and taught a more excellent way! We here in Nakuru Province and all over Africa have immunized our people against the 'true gospel' and true conversion, with our diluted gospel and our humanly invented methods. We have manipulated people into making decisions, 'in our timing' instead of prayerfully waiting for God to give a supernatural birth, in His timing. For these reasons, we have produced many Ishmaels and very few Isaacs! But I have changed. I have immediately scheduled a conference with all of the pastors under my leadership. I am going to teach all of them 'Christ-Centered Evangelism.' God has used you to bring us back to reality, my brother, I love you!" **Pastor Tim writes**, "God has sent this teaching at just the right time. I believe that this teaching is God's preparations for the 'long awaited revival' which we have prayed for in the Nakuru Province. Our Lord is breaking down the walls of deception and hypocrisy, with these true gospel methods and message that we have heard from Bro. Ed. I have been personally challenged and corrected in my life and ministry. I have committed many 'spiritual abortions' in attempting to do God's work in man's ways. I have attempted to bring about the new birth in my timing; instead of waiting on God's timing! My God is calling on me to make a total change in my methods and message of evangelism; and I am ready and committed to do so. **Pastor Shulaw writes**, "I feel that God has given us an opportunity to repent and turn back to the Lord's instruction manual, for doing His work of evangelism! I believe that I am one who was wrongly trained with the wrong fundamentals; and yet, I thought that I was an expert! (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

These past teachings have caused me to do a shady job of evangelism; and to train others to do the same. But my eyes have been opened; and my mind has been fixed! I have taken a new course of ministry and evangelism. I am committed to learn and to practice to do the Lord's work, in the way that He desires for me to do it. I give God all of the glory for what He has taught me through His servant. Bro. Ed, I pray that the Lord will bring you back to us. I need to learn more through you. **Bishop P.N. Nganda writes**, "I might not have enough words to express my sincere thanks to God for sending Bro. Ed to bring such powerful Bible truths that will help me and all of the pastors which I oversee. These truths have transformed me a great deal! I believe that, from now on, many things will change in my life, my ministry and my evangelism. It is my heart's desire that these teachings will spread life a 'bush-fire' over all of the world to all gospel ministers; before more damage is done in the body of Christ. We need to take evangelism back to the Bible days! I deeply desire that Bro. Ed could teach these truths in my province. My heart feels like that rich man in hell crying out, 'Please send him to my brothers!'" **Prison Chaplain Dennis testifies**, "Bro. Ed, this is the message that we desperately need for our 220 prisons across the nation of Kenya. Would you please pray about returning to Nairobi to teach 'Christ-Centered Evangelism' to all of the 220 prison chaplains of the nation of Kenya. God will use this teaching to set 1,000's of captives free, for His glory."

These are only a small portion of the testimonies of those who were in attendance. Please pray along with me, that the Holy Spirit will multiply His truth, concerning evangelism that magnifies Jesus and glorifies God, into the lives of the thousands of church members who will be taught by these spiritual leaders.

THANK YOU



Friends, our hearts are overflowing with thanksgiving for His open doors to worldwide ministry; and your open hearts, to give to this ministry. Our Lord is using His truth to transform leaders, transform their churches, and grant many true conversions for the glory of God. We praise God for His grace in bringing you alongside with us, to be 'co-laborers' in His field. The Lord is using your faithful intercession and loving support to accomplish so much and to meet so many needs. Please continue to pray that the Lord would grant me His discernment to walk through the doors that He opens; and the wisdom to walk away from doors that may not be His open doors for me! We are so thankful for your love, your prayers, your sacrificial giving.

II Corinthians 4:5

Ed Lacy

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- March 7-11 — Mission of Hope—Bi- annual Evangelistic outreach, Mobile, AL
- March 18-21— Pleasant Grove Baptist—Jonesville, LA
- March 22 — Catahoula Correctional Facility, LA
- March 31 — Crossroads Baptist, Rogersville, AL—Ladies Bible Study—Dianne
- April 1-4 — Crossroads Baptist, Rogersville, AL
- April 15 –18 — East Philadelphia Baptist, Philadelphia, MS
- April 22-25 — Pine Lake Baptist, Van Cleave, MS
- May 4– 11 — Holguin, Cuba—Church Planters Conference
- May 20 — Grandson's Graduation—Birmingham, AL