

RICHARD HUGHES, EDITOR

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### THE PEN OF A READY WRITER

... I SPEAK OF THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE MADE TOUCHING THE KING: My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).

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# **KNOWING the LOVE of CHRIST**

What the Bible says is possible is possible. What the Bible says is so is so. There are no contradictions in God's Word. There is no conflict between the Old Testament and the New Testament. They are in agreement: the righteousness of God without the law is manifested by faith of Jesus Christ, unto all and upon all that believe (Romans 3:21-22).

God gave the Apostle Paul grace to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. To put that into perspective, the Jews contended with Peter, saying, "Thou went in to men uncircumcised, and did eat with them (Acts 11:2-3). They had no care for the gospel of Christ; their only concern was the law of Moses.

When Paul preached in the synagogues, "Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39), the Jews resented Paul and the message.

Though the Jews "put it (the gospel) from them and judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life" (Acts 13:46), the Gentiles heard the message gladly and glorified the word of the Lord by believing it (Acts 13:48).

Some may stumble at the wording in Acts 13:48 – "as many as were ordained unto eternal life believed". Recall what our Lord said, "God...gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

To whom does the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, want to give the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him (Jesus), that, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, ye may know what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints of light, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power? It is toward us who believe according to the working of his mighty power which he wrought in Christ (Ephesians 1:17-20).

God desires us to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, and to be able to comprehend what is the breath and length and depth and height of his love. He desires us to be filled with the fulness of God (Ephesians 3:18-19). And we can, by being rooted and grounded in Christ, through faith (Ephesians 3:17). Do you believe?



Vickie Wilkerson Hughes

## How Can I Fear with Jesus?

Fear is something our grand-kids face when they have to go into a dark room by themselves, and they say: "Nana, go with me. I am afraid." Fear is when we face the unknown, when we are not sure of the outcome.

As I write this today, my husband is facing a serious surgery. Without God and His strength and hope, I do not know how I can face tomorrow.

I have walked this path before, losing my first husband, Jerome. He was

taken suddenly with a heart attack. I know God brought Richard into my life and, for that, I thank Him. I want to spend much time and make many special memories with Richard.

Each chapter of our lives brings a new challenge. Sometimes, it brings very difficult challenges. Once again, I am facing a challenge; but, there is something I know. Actually, there is someone. His name is Jesus.

I think Ron Hamilton said it best when he wrote:

How can I Fear, Jesus is near! He ever watches over me. Worries all cease, He gives me peace, how can I fear with Jesus?

#### **Confident in Christ**

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (for we walk by faith, not by sight). We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

It is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

#### May is Medical Month:

- 7th Grandchild being baptized at Redemption Baptist Church, Enoree, SC.
- 14<sup>th</sup> MOTHER'S DAY with the family
- 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Sunday
- 29th MEMORIAL DAY

My personal focus for the month of May and beyond will be on recovery from open-heart surgery. We discovered that I was having a heart attack in progress on Friday evening, April 21st.

The physical difficulties I was experiencing pressed my son, Brent, to insist on an EKG before leaving on my Georgia meeting.

It was the presence of enzymes in my blood that indicated a stressed heart. A heart cath on Saturday morning revealed the four blockages. My surgery is scheduled for tomorrow morning, Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. To God be the glory!