

TRUE MEN

MINISTRIES

“Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go.” 1 Samuel 9:6

Welcome to issue number seventeen—March 2010— of the TMM Newsletter.

Here it is, already March! One of my 2010 New Year’s resolutions was to read through the Bible in a year. I’ve been using the “Chronological” reading plan from BibleGateway.com and it has been working pretty well. I’ve already read through the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Job. Working through Numbers right now. There was a nice little surprise in this morning’s reading. Psalm 90! It is a Psalm written by Moses right around the time of Number 14-15. In it, Moses puts into poetry how he feels about God. He doesn’t pull any punches. God is too awesome to understand. When God says that there are consequences to sin, to disobeying Him, He really means it.

Today, this rubs a lot of people the wrong way. God should be merciful, they reason. He shouldn’t punish people for sinning. What? Where does that come from? I suspect it comes from the parenting choices that many people are the product of today. So many parents – at best – don’t know how to discipline a child so they simply *don’t*.



There is no consequence to disobedience in a lot of homes today. That translates into a cry of “unfair” when a just and lawful society says that there are consequences to driving over the speed limit, not paying your taxes, driving drunk, cheating on your spouse, and engaging in behavior that is bad for your health.

When we do something that is against the law, against the rules, or bad for our health, there are consequences. That’s what God was telling His people who were traveling from Egypt to the Promised Land. If you do what I command – which you promised to do, by the way – then I will continue to bless you! But if you disobey my commands, then I must punish you.

Sin leads to punishment. But if you’ve heard that God is merciful, then you need to understand that God accepted the ultimate price for our sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus did what we couldn’t do. He kept God’s Law perfectly and still paid the price

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The Official True Men Ministries Web site.

www.truemen.org

We are hosted at Yahoo but we could always use help in paying for the website space. On the website are several Bible studies that I’ve put together and led at my church’s men’s and adult Bible studies. There are also recommendations of music, videos, and books that can be ordered through our Amazon.com portal.

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for transgressing the Law – in our place! That doesn't mean there are not consequences today – there certainly are. But thanks to Jesus Christ we will not pay the price eternally. Through His forgiveness, there is a new heaven and a new earth being prepared for us by Jesus Christ Himself. Today we have the opportunity to learn from our mistakes and pass on to the next generation a new way to live – in the blessing of God. But there will come a time when the consequences will be no more, and for those who have faith in Jesus Christ as savior, a time is coming where there will be no more pain or sorrow.

Lately my wife and I haven't been getting a lot of sleep. Our middle son suffers from seizures and they almost always happen while he's asleep – either within an hour of falling asleep or an hour or two before he has to get up for school.

It's a tough thing to try to sleep and listen for him at the same time. I've noticed that there are a LOT of noises in a house during the night – from wind blowing branches against the outside wall to the ice maker dumping cubes and filling up with water again.

There are a lot of things that can keep you up at night. You could be worrying about how you're going to make the next tuition payment for your child's school. You could be worrying over a failing business. You could be worrying – like me – about your kid's illness.

I'm not going to tell you not to worry. You shouldn't – the Bible says that – but I know that you will because I will and do!

But that doesn't make it right. So let me tell you this: When you are lying awake in the middle of the night, you are not alone. Jesus Christ is there with you!

In Mark 6:45-52 is the story of Jesus sending the disciples into a late night storm that He could easily have prevented. The disciples were straining at the oars most of the night. Then Jesus appeared around 3:00 a.m. and told them to take courage and not be afraid, and the wind died down. The disciples exclaimed, "Truly you are the Son of God." There are some things about Jesus that we just learn better in the middle of the night. His deity is magnified. We notice that He can see us in the dark. He sees us in our storms. Patrick Morley of Man in the Mirror Ministries says, "Yet He is just as likely to leave us in our storms longer than we would like. Why? Because He is sovereignly orchestrating all human events to bring us into right relationship with Him and right relationship with each other. When we cry out to Him, He does rescue us—but usually not in the way for which we had prayed."

That might help you sleep a little better, knowing that Christ is there with you in the middle of the night and He's working through whatever you are worrying about and "for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).



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