



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

1 Monarch Trace Ct. #106, Chesterfield, MO 63017-4618 - Ph: 636-778-9361 - rcmin2@charter.net

Paul and Gretel Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“...when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

(Luke 18:8 NASB)

Dearly Beloved,

Of course my answer to this question from Jesus is a strong *Yes, Lord!* I assume yours would be too!

But caution flags started waving in the wind of the Holy Spirit, and I have just experienced why in a most unexpected way, even though I was forewarned by the Apostle Paul: **“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived [beguiled] Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”** (2 Cor. 11:3)

A dear friend and prayer partner of mine shared with me recently how much he was being edified by reading through the whole book of Colossians each morning. I was thrilled to hear it because Colossians is one of my personal favorites. Gretel has always ribbed me about being fickle because I'd say I love John the very best—but then, come to think about it, there is Ephesians—and of course my salvation verse is in Romans...but I digress.

This morning I remembered my friend's enthusiasm about “saturation reading” Colossians and thought: *To read the whole book through in one swoop would be really great!* So I opened my Bible to Colossians (so worn out the whole signature of pages is loose and recently partially super-glued back into the binding).

Oh how sweet those opening words of greeting and praise were to my thirsty heart: **“...Grace to you and peace from God our Father...praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven...”** (Col. 1:2-5) I thought: *Thank you, Father, for writing these special blessings through Paul directly to me!*

And then I re-experienced the special anointing on the words in verses 8-10 written by my mother on the cover page of the special Bible she dedicated to me as a high school graduation gift: **“...since the day we heard of it (she added “you”), we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...”** I again rejoiced over Mom's insight to release this great blessing on me, and thanked God for the multitude of ways He has manifested that prayer of dedication in my life.

Then I chuckled as I read the following two verses (11-12) which Mom hadn't included in her blessing, because her Episcopalian world had absolutely no comprehension of the Holy Spirit realm our Lord Jesus would eventually lead us into, and so she couldn't even conceive of these blessings pertaining to me: **“...strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”**

I was soaring in the spiritual heights of the Apostle Paul's prayers for me, his assurances of God's Majesty and the release of signs and wonders through me, and his revelation of Jesus: **“He is**

the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (vs. 15) But suddenly I crashed head first into verse 16: **“For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”**

My mind went “Tilt!” I was actually momentarily stunned!

Can I really believe this verse, even though it is in my “favorite” book of my Holy Book — do I have the faith to believe?

I have always mutually declared with my mentors in the Scriptures that I believe every word in the Bible (every jot, every tittle, every line—and even the Table of Contents and Maps, as Bob Mumford jocularly adds).

But in light of all I see and hear about the topsy-turvy world around us, can I really believe that **all things in heaven and on earth...have been created through Him and for Him?**

I literally cried out loud: *Lord, how can I believe that word? How about the horrific thrones in Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Moscow, and Beijing? How about the dominion of Islam brutally expanding all around the world even into Western Europe and here in the USA? How can You possibly mean this about the anti-Christ rulers in Iran, the coming 12th Imam of Islam, or the increasingly anti-Christian authorities right here in America?*

A stunned silence followed my outburst (have you ever experienced how very quiet God gets when you’ve really blown it?).

I finally “heard”: ***Read the next four verses, and Trust in Me with all your heart [and mind]. Do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Me [as knowing what I am doing, and as saying what I mean], and I will make your paths straight [and straighten out your thinking].*** (ref. Prov. 3:5-6)

Implementing His firm, but embracing instructions (correction), I proceeded to read the following four verses.

Col. 1:17 **“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”** Therefore, I realized, all things that are not in Him will not hold together—they will fall apart!

Col. 1:18 **“He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”** This clearly declares that He *will come* to be first place in everything with His Church (that means you and me) being the instrument under His headship that will make the world acknowledge Him first in everything. Habakkuk 2:3 sprung to mind and shouted to my heart to be patient: **“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.”**

Col. 1:19-20 **“For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him [Jesus Christ], and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”** Our Heavenly Father’s plan is to reconcile all things to Himself through Christ Jesus and His Body, through the power of Christ’s Cross and Blood! I sensed “reconciliation” here makes reference to the great White Throne Judgment: **“He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”** (Rev. 21:7-8) Blessings and Death are clearly both part of God’s reconciliation!

I professed out loud: *Yes, Father, I can now see and will believe this Scripture in light of Your expressed plan to reconcile all things by the Cross and Blood of our Lord, Your Son, Jesus!*

As I made this profession, I again heard His intense admonition: ***Current events cloud your ability to believe My Word.***

Yes, Beloved, Father God is strongly warning us that too much attention to the massive ungodliness all around us can deafen us to God's Truth that He *is* in the process of reconciling all things (thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities—and all of us too) to Himself, and it can ***cloud our ability to believe His Word.*** God has a plan, but as the Apostle Paul was concerned, the enemy will try to take our minds away from our simple and pure devotion to the Lord, Jesus!

As we see His plan unfold without having His perspective, it doesn't seem to us to be very good, but because it *is* His plan, it **is** a good plan because He is good! And because it is a basic part of His plan, it will be done with the involvement of a maturing Bride, the Church!

He will be looking for, and blessed by, your faith in Him when He returns!

Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand being particularly stylized.