



Chit-Chat

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GROWING UP—THEN GOING UP ^{© 2010} by Ken Sumrall

We hear and read a lot about the rapture of the Church. Some believe that the time will be before the great tribulation spoken of in Matthew 24 and in the book of Revelation. Many others, even devout Bible teachers believe the Church will go through the great tribulation. I do not know—but we are told to be ready. According to Revelation 19, the first event to take place after the rapture of the Church will be the wedding feast of the lamb. The Bride of Christ will need to be prepared for that wonderful occasion and John wrote:

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” “The bride has made herself ready” (Rev 19: 6-9).

Jesus is coming for a grown-up beautiful and pure bride. She will mature into a lady who stands beside her groom with the full stature of Christ. Jesus is not coming back according to the clock, but according the readiness of His Church. According to God's Word, the Lord has the following agents for maturing His Bride: (I cannot in this space elaborate on these agents but will present them in outline form)

I. He Appoints Anointed Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers to mature the Church. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus:

“It was he (Jesus) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The Bible stresses the importance of the maturing of the Church again and again. As with a physical child, we are expected to grow up. Jesus told us in Rev 19 to get ready for the wedding feast in Heaven when Jesus returns. He is not coming for an immature bride. As a Church, we must grow up before we go up. In this chapter He shows the bride of Christ as having made her self ready to rule with Him over all things. The Lord has created us to reign with Him and take responsibilities as mature saints.

II. He Matures His Church Through Many Trials (1 Peter 1:7)

III. He Matures His Church through Time. We do not know the day nor the hour when the Lord finishes His work on us and comes for us. (1 Thess 4:17).



I BELIEVE GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO GIVE!!

Wanda and I have lived by faith and received no salary since we were on the payroll of Liberty Church in 1990. God has provided our needs through faithful friends who send us finances for our personal needs and money to give to missionaries. And we believe the Lord will keep His promises to every person who shares with us and helps us share with others. Thank you for loving us and believing in us as Ministers of God's love without pressure on you go give to this ministry. I know you who give do so with loving hearts and with faith in the Lord. You are not required to give to us to receive the Chit-Chat.

2 Cor 9: 6-15: *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”*

Ps 41:1-3: *“Blessed is he who considers the poor ;The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, And he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.”*

Luke 6:38: *“Give , and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

The Lord has spoken to me that my primary legacy is that I trained and sent missionaries to every continent on the earth to reap a harvest. Therefore I believe the Lord will provide more seed to support missionaries and the poor and will provide for Wanda and me enough to pay our bills and give back to Him at least 20% for His work.



FACE BOOK COMMENTS:

Kymber Palmer made a comment about Papa Ken's note "RAMBLINGS OF PAPA KEN" in which he said: "PUT UP YOUR SWORD. I CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS OKAY WITHOUT YOUR INPUT OF ANGER."

Kymber says, "I loved this... the whole blog really.. but this line in particular. I'm not typically an angry person.... but it is hard not to get flustered when you see things that you KNOW are just plain wrong. Thanks for the reminder that God's better off without me getting mad."

Something For Those Who Are Into "Wealth Redistribution" to Consider

The following quote is from the late Dr. Adrian Rogers (1931-2005) who was the pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church and founder of Love Worth Finding Ministries.

"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that, my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

An economics professor at a local college made a statement that he had never failed a single student before, but had once failed an entire class. That class had insisted that Obama's socialism worked and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich, a great equalizer.

The professor then said, "OK, we will have an experiment in this class on Obama's plan." All grades would be averaged and everyone would receive the same grade so no one would fail and no one would receive an "A"...After the first test, the grades were averaged and everyone got a "B." The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy. As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too so they studied little. The second test average was a "D!" No one was happy. When the 3rd test rolled around, the average was an "F." As the tests proceeded, the scores never increased as bickering, blame and name-calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

For period of almost three years, I have met with a group of Ministers of the Gospel for breakfast, devotional time and prayer. There are from 15 to 25 of these men and a few women who meet with us. We meet a IHOP on Hwy. 29 in Pensacola from 8 to 10 a.m. every third Thursday of each month. A few times we have postponed the meetings--but very few. If you live anywhere near Pensacola and wish to be a part of this group, just send me your email address and I will put you on the list for an invitation each month. Visiting Ministers from outside Pensacola are welcome to come. WE NEED EACH OTHER AND WE NEED TO MEET FOR PRAYER.

MANHATTEN DECLARATION

I have joined the group led by Tony Perkins of Washington, D.C. and urge every Minister of the Gospel to sign the declaration to declare truth to our generation. I include a letter from Tony: Thank You for Standing With Us for Truth

Dear Ken, Thank you for recently taking a stand for truth and joining other Christian leaders in signing the Manhattan Declaration. This important document outlines our public commitment to promote a culture of life, the sanctity of marriage, and religious liberty — no matter what rogue judges or politicians might say or do. The document marks a bold signal that the Church will not retreat from the public square.

The document has now garnered well over 250,000 signatures, (As of December 2009) assuring that the Manhattan Declaration, the truths it stands for, and your voice, will not go unnoticed.

You've signed the document hosted at FRC.org, but due to privacy concerns, we were unable to successfully transfer your name to the "official" tally. So that you can be included in this tally - which includes receiving email updates from ManhattanDeclaration.org, I would encourage you to register at their website.

Again, thank you for standing with us. Sincerely, Tony Perkins

JUNE 2010 REPORT FROM RONNIE AND DEBBIE MATHENY IN KENYA, E. AFRICA Leadership Summit

Wow! We have just completed our first East Africa Leadership Summit. Here are the numbers:

- ♦Pastors and leaders in attendance.....4000+
- ♦Nations Represented.....11.....Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, India and the U.S.
- ♦Number of churches represented.....4,138
- ♦Number of members represented in all churches....500,000+
- ♦Praise and Worship...off the charts; Speakers...powerful; Weather...perfect!



RON RICE, PASTOR OF LIBERTY CHURCH IN NAVARE, FLORIDA SENT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE.

Gator Superstar Gets God on Google

Tim Tebow, the University of Florida quarterback who led the Gators to a national championship, also made 'John 3:16' the No. 1 search term on Google. [01.15.09] University of Florida (UF) star quarterback Tim Tebow not only guided his Gators to a national championship, but also caused "John 3:16" to reach the "volcanic" reading on Google Trends, making it the No. 1 ranked search term on Google worldwide.



Skyrocketing past Obama, Oprah, deceased gangster John Gotti and other Top 100 trendy pop-culture searches, the Bible verse about God's love written in the two bars of eye-black on Tebow's face, took the top spot across the globe.

"What a wonderful message for Timmy to proclaim through his determination, enthusiasm and play," said former PGA golfer Wally Armstrong, who was roommates at UF with Tebow's father, Bob, during the 1970s. "How about having [a] cloth armband made up with HWJPF? How Would Jesus Play Football?"

Christian sports enthusiasts have been buzzing with delight ever since Tebow, the 6-foot-3-inch, 235-pound son of missionary parents to the Philippines, helped UF win the national title two years ago as a freshman.

But Tebow, whose personal testimony was featured in the October issue of Charisma, naturally and routinely uses his fame to honor God.

"In today's society, people look up to football players," Tebow said. "For me, there are people watching, so I take the opportunity to [speak], because I may be the only Jesus that they see. I may be the only person that they'll listen to. If I don't take that opportunity to share with them, maybe no one will."

Christians' excitement over Tebow's faith caused one local church in the UF hometown of Gainesville, Fla., to raise significant funds for missions work by selling hundreds of T-shirts inscribed with Tebow's most popular eye black scripture, "Phil. 4:13," which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (NKJV)

After achieving college football's unprecedented feat last year— being the first to win the prestigious Heisman Trophy as a sophomore —Tebow spoke to inmates at a Florida prison where a simple, but bold message he delivered compelled 95 prisoners to surrender to Christ.

A month after his visit to the prison, Tebow spoke to a crowd of 2,000 at a stadium in Starke, Fla., near Gainesville. "You have a choice to make right now," Tebow told the crowd. "Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart, and He wants to come in, but it is a choice that you have to make."

He added that his greatest passion in life isn't football, but rather telling as many people as possible about a relationship with Christ. "When I get to heaven I don't want Jesus Christ to look at me and say, 'Timmy, you could have told all those people, but you chose not to.'"

Tebow, who appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated, thrilled college football fans when he announced on Sunday that he would return to UF next year, ending speculation that he would forgo his senior year to sign on with the NFL.

GO AHEAD AND CRY

By David Wilkerson

When you hurt the worst—go to your secret closet and weep out all your despair! Jesus wept. Peter wept—bitterly! Peter carried with him the hurt of denying the very Son of God. Those bitter tears worked in him a sweet miracle. He came back to shake the kingdom of Satan.

Jesus never looks away from a crying heart. He said, "*A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*" (Psalm 51:17). Not once will the Lord say, "Get hold of yourself! Stand up and take your medicine! Grit your teeth and dry your tears." No! Jesus stores every tear in his eternal container. Do you hurt? Badly? Then go ahead and cry! And keep on crying, until the tears stop flowing. But let those tears originate only from hurt—and not from unbelief or self-pity.

Life goes on. You would be surprised how much you can bear with God helping you. Happiness is not living without pain or hurt. True happiness is learning how to live one day at a time, in spite of all the sorrow and pain. It is learning how to rejoice in the Lord, no matter what has happened in the past.

You may feel rejected. You may feel abandoned. Your faith may be weak. You may think you are down for the count. Sorrow, tears, pain, and emptiness may swallow you up at times, but God is still on his throne. He is still God! You can't help yourself. You can't stop the pain and hurt. But our blessed Lord will come to you, and he will place his loving hand under you and lift you up to sit again in heavenly places. He will deliver you from the fear of dying. He will reveal his endless love for you.

Look up! Encourage yourself in the Lord. When the fog surrounds you and you can't see any way out of your dilemma—lie back in the arms of Jesus and simply trust him. He wants your faith—your confidence. He wants you to cry aloud—"Jesus loves me! He is with me! He will not fail me! He is working it all out right now! I will not be cast down! I will not be defeated! I will not be a victim of Satan! God is on my side! I love him—and he loves me!"

The bottom line is faith. And faith rests on this one absolute: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper..." (Isaiah 54:17).

IN TOUCH

On July 4th, Dr. Charles Stanley spoke regarding the curse of Socialism. I recommend that each person contact "Intouch.org" and ask for the message by Dr. Stanley. He asked those who listened to his message to commit to 140 days of prayer for our nation. His text for his request was 2. Chron 7:14, a very familiar Scripture. Below is his request:

Dear Friend,

Thank you for joining me in praying for our great country. As you know, I feel it is immensely important for believers to seriously consider where we are as a nation and understand the dangerous spiritual tide that is engulfing us.

This is because, as Scripture teaches us, "The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill" (Prov. 11:11, LB). We can make a difference by taking up the mantle of prayer. It is our responsibility as the Body of Christ to stand for truth and cry out to the Lord--asking Him to turn the spiritual tide and save the people of our nation. I am so grateful you've chosen to join believers throughout the land before the throne of grace. May God richly bless you as you follow Him in obedience.

Prayerfully yours, Charles F. Stanley



SO HELP ME GOD

This is by a daughter of a murdered couple in Raytown, MO, who had a Bible and Bookstore on 63rd street.

When I had to testify at the murder trial of my parents a week ago, I was asked to raise my right hand. The bailiff started out "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?"

I stood there and waited but she said nothing. She said "Do you?"

I was so stunned I blurted out "What happened to "so help me God"?"

She came back with "Do you?" I replied yes, but I was perplexed.

Then the judge said . "You can say that if you want to."

I stopped, raised my right hand, and finished with "So help me God!"

I told my son and daughter that when it came time for them to testify, they should do the same.

It's no wonder we have so many problems in this country. If I'd had my wits about me I'd have told them that taking God out of the courtroom is only going to result in more criminals and murderers.

I don't know what can be done about it, but it's time for us to step up and DO something.

NBC had a poll on this question. They had the highest number of responses that they have ever had for one of their polls, and the percentage was the same as this:

86% to keep the words, 14% against. That is a pretty 'commanding' public response.

It is said that 86% of Americans believe in God.

Therefore, I have a very hard time understanding why there is such a mess about having "In God We Trust" on our money and having God in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Why is the world catering to this 14%?

Announcing... The 2010 Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem On Campus!

Dear Ken,

Last October, we launched our first Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem (DPPJ) On Campus. God moved mightily on seven college campuses across the United States - among those campuses were: New York University, University of Illinois, Wheaton College, Valley Forge Christian College, and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Now, we are looking for more young leaders to stand up on campuses worldwide, and to join millions of believers as part of the DPPJ this October 3rd! During these crucial times, and with the recent events of the Gaza flotilla incident, it is imperative that this October we have strong voices being lifted up to heaven on college campuses in support of Israel. Through this solidarity, students will be able to educate others and to bring awareness of the truth concerning Israel to thousands of other young people!

If you know someone that is a college student, or are one yourself, please consider participating in this powerful demonstration of truth by becoming the DPPJ representative on your campus... find out how today!

Contact us: daytoprayoncampus@gmail.com

NOTE: KSM is a non-profit ministry—wholly supported by your contributions. You are not required to give in order to receive this newsletter. If you wish to give, please print and cut out the form below to send with your contribution. Thanks so much for all you have done to keep this ministry going.



Bro. Ken, I want to help you with your ministry.

Enclosed is:

\$ _____ for your missionary travels.

\$ _____ for regular expenses.

\$ _____ for the poor and homeless.

\$ _____ for your personal needs.

Make all checks payable to KSM

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