

GOODNEWS LETTER

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NIGH, CLOSE AND NEAR UNTO GOD

(If we study the words of Jesus in the garden and, particularly, when He was on the cross, we get some truth about separation. His words filled every part of creation. His words resounded over heaven and earth and continue to reveal man's spiritual condition, even, today.

But, especially for those without salvation, the cries of Jesus grow louder and clearer. **"My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me?"** (Mt.27:46).

We love to sing, *"Nearer, My God To Thee."* We need to be as close to God as we can get so, from the top of our lungs, we sing *"Draw Me Nearer."* Every church-goer and, really everyone, thinks that God is always nearby.

We sing songs of affirmation to give comfort and make us feel that God is nigh unto us, near and close. And, we need this much more than is realized - by most, anyway.

Man even finds comfort in positive statements. We hear, *"God knows my heart"* and we get comfort. Positive words really help us when we get out of our element; like a pilot who avows, "God is my Co-Pilot." I'll admit that a co-pilot is close, near and nigh; but, really, is God staring at the controls?

Whether, songs or positive thoughts, it's clear that mankind wants God close. In fact, man would go **stark-raving** mad if God wasn't near. And, since we know that He's omnipresent, peace fills our mind, telling us that God is near, always ready to help. And, that's a good thing!

God's help means more than physical comfort, however. It's something we learn from the Bible. In God's statement, **"It's not good that the man should be alone"** (Gen 2:18), we see that man was created NOT to be alone. Here, it's just not a helpmeet that God intends, either. He created man in His image.

That means, as God is, so we are! We are triune beings! And, being so created, we are not and, cannot be, complete unless God is around. Our spirit knows this and cries for His care, constantly. It's just like the care of a Father over a son - all the time and at every moment. We are not complete without His fellowship.

And, so man sings for comfort or, he hopes for comfort. But, he wants God always near, ready to save, in this life and the next. Simply put, man is afraid. He is scared of dying. And, he has good reason for this. There's a judgment day coming.

Thus, man's first reaction is survival. Self preservation has always been number one with man. He sums up his existence with, ***"Where there's life, there's hope."*** Well, man, take a look at Jesus. He lives!

There's a reason why we seek hope; even, a false hope. In man's spiritual life, there is a truth engrained in his heart which constantly nags at him. Man always asks, ***"If I die today where will I go?"*** Thus, man needs to be saved. And, even though He knows it, he often seeks other means rather than God.

And, when we come down to our time of this century, it's like never before. Man psyches himself up, replacing God with other things. It may be friends, job or prosperity; but, it vividly reveals that man isn't as secure as he wants to be. He sings out; but, out of desperation. He doesn't know the peace that Jesus gives.

Man is separated from God and needs a Savior. Therefore, without Jesus, man cannot have peace; not, real peace. So, man cries out. Although his cries will not equal the experience of dying, nevertheless, the need of salvation remains real and true. Until peace arrives, man continues to cry out for something to sustain his life.

In Genesis, the Fall is recorded. And, when we read the Word, we see a separation from God that caused death; both, a physical and spiritual death.

Due to the Fall, man is separated from God and has no hope, at all. The Bible states that man has sinned and is separated from a Holy and Righteous Creator. Man doesn't have to die to realize this, the Bible says, ***"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,"*** Romans 3:23. Man knows this, inwardly and, man cries out because he seeks life.

What we read in the Bible is true. But man doesn't want to read what God says about his lost condition. When he does, man cries out for help and comfort; not from songs or statements. but, man seeks salvation from the Creator and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

There is such a loneliness in the heart because of the spiritual separation that man must come to Jesus, to realize peace. When he does, he finds that there is a spiritual need; one that goes beyond the physical life.

God's word is clear about man's undone condition and the loneliness that came. But, God so loved the world that He gave His Son to save man from this eternal destiny of hell (See John 3:16).

Rejection of Jesus will intensify man's cries. His doubts and restlessness will turn to wailing, once he leaves this world. Just read Luke 16! Is there any greater sense of loss or hopeless disparity than what is expressed in the life of the rich man? He cried, ***"...have mercy on me."***

The rich man was in agony. His life was not what he thought. He did not continue. Here, we have to get a hold of what's recorded. We must find out why man cries for help.

If we study the life of Jesus in the garden and, particularly, when He was on the cross, we get some truth about separation. The words which Jesus spoke, resounded over heaven and earth. Today, His words continue to be heard by dying man.

The cries of Jesus fill every person alive and, His words are even louder and clearer for anyone without salvation. **"My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me?"** (Mt.27:46).

But, Jesus was left alone for only a short time; not for eternity. However, when we listen to His cry, carefully, we get some understanding of what **Godly phobia** is about. It pricks the heart of every man. It is then that the Holy Spirit speaks the same words to fallen man.

Has God forsaken you? Do we know the meaning of trusting Jesus; or, are you still without God?

Certainly, natural man's cries are much less now, than his spiritual cries will be will he actually dies. Man's cries are, certainly, far less than those of Jesus on the cross. But, we do fear and we do cry out. We need to hear what God is teaching us that loneliness and its frightening experience. For Jesus, it was but for just a moment. But, for the rich man, forever and ever.

Thus, man has a real need to feel close to God. If only in the mind, man still seeks spiritual comfort. His has to trust in something outside of himself, whether it's real or not! What man needs is Jesus.

The next time you sing a hymn or speak positive words about life and death, make sure you have the fact that Jesus died for you. He died in your place so you do not have to die. Then, the GOODNEWS about the resurrection comes: Jesus lives and He reconciled mankind so that we can live as close to God as we want.