



SAFE HARBOR

A Publication of Cove Fellowship Ministries
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VOLUME 20.02

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A REFLECTION

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^a and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.^b ⁴ But^c God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Easter is upon us. We will find ourselves surrounded by bunnies, colored eggs, people going into church services, adds for the finery of dress and gathering of families. Maybe for a short hour

WORDS OF COMFORT

I Don't Understand...

You and I have not met but in a way I feel that I do know you as well as share in this experience that you are going through. I have put something in words that might help you to understand the question of “Why does God allow people to suffer, go through pain and eventually come to the end of their physical life.

This question has been raised and debated by philosophers, theologians, scholars and especially those who have experienced or are experiencing pain, grief and the loss of a beloved person for the history of humankind.

My first response is that God is not causing this pain. Nor is it a specific evil that is the cause. We are human beings that were originally created in the image of God to be the Kings and Queens of Creation. As created, there was to be no pain, sorrow or death. Those things are not part of the God of Creation who is the perfection of love. It was in our disobedience that these “evils” entered into the world as part of a judgment that has extended through the ages. The Church calls this original sin. As descendants of Adam, we bear this curse in a world that is full of imperfections. While this seems unfair, it is a result of actions that destroyed the perfection of Creation. Thus “thorns and thistles will rise from the ground and the task of life requires toil and sweat while the pain of childbirth was given to women. We cannot change this for this is now part of the image of humanity.

So our world is contaminated by all manner of evil and wrongdoing. We see evidence of this contamination daily. We find all manner of diseases and afflictions that populate our world and it seems that there is never a cure or an answer. The presence of hatred, wars, famine, natural phenomena that destroy sickness and death are part of the thorns and thistles. It seems as if we toil for nothing as the sweat of our brow only returns into the dust.

When we are confronted by the reality of pain, suffering and death, it is our nature to seek out someone to blame. And so we look at God. We say to ourselves that if God is so loving then why does he allow this. If He is so powerful, why didn't He stop the fall into sin before it happened?

God is so loving that when He created this world, He made humankind with the ability to make moral decisions. When we exercise that ability and turn from Him then we see the adverse effects of our actions. Whether it is a wife or husband, mother or father, sister or brother, child or a friend that lies helpless and as we look at the helplessness and reflect our own inability to save and heal the frustration mounts.

My friend, what we know as the process of dying, or the end of the physical presence of a person, begins even in the womb. As we are born, grow older and go through the various stages of life our bodies are leading us to the next stage of living that is a return to an existence of the spirit.

It is here that there is hope. For we know that Jesus was a person as we are. He knew love, joy, compassion, friendship as well as pain, sorrow, suffering and death. It is in His death that those who follow after Him in faith can hope of being restored to our Creator. The process is not easy. But in Christ might all be made alive.

As your loved one lies in the bed of affliction, there is a world waiting where the God is waiting to wipe away the tears and do away with the pain and suffering that have been gone through. So now you must have faith and trust in the mercies of God for your comfort in times of trouble.

A WORD OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 150

¹ Praise ye the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary:

praise him in the firmament of his power.

² Praise him for his mighty acts:

praise him according to his excellent greatness.

³ Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:

praise him with the psaltery and harp.

⁴ Praise him with the timbrel and dance:

praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

⁵ Praise him upon the loud cymbals:

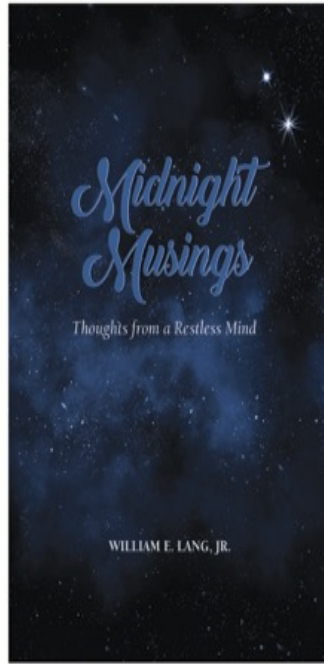
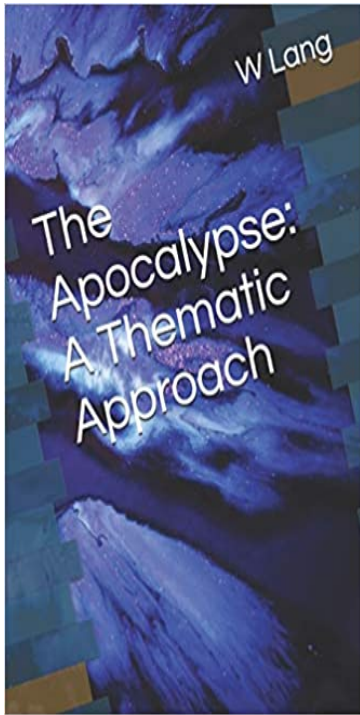
praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD.

Praise ye the LORD.

The life of the believer should be filled with praise and joy.

You can follow Cove Fellowship at www.billlangservices.com , email to covefellowship@verizon.net or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.



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