

## UP FRONT AND PERSONAL

11/12/11

*Every aspect of our relationship with God is personal, just as every aspect of his relationship with us is personal. As a result of this reality, he considers every aspect of our lives and every manner of our strengths and weaknesses. This results in a comprehensive list of advice and encouragement that allows us to make the most of the Holy Spirit, our fellowship with each other and the duties of the Gospel.*

**God's people have a very personal link... he shares both the credit and the blame for all our service.**

*Go past yourself and your thinking and consider what God wants (personalise your relationship).*

**LUK 10:16** He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. *This is the reality of our relationship with God... all of us are either for or against him... and he takes it personally. Many failings and weaknesses are the result of not taking God's directions personally... everything we do is for God.* **2COR 4:5** For we **preach not ourselves**, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. *God has given us warnings, revelations and encouragement... all of which we will investigate in principle in the following notes.*

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**\*\*Some very timely warnings based on God's wisdom that we can learn from.**

**PRO 30:7** Two things have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:

**8** Remove far from me **vanity** (*ego*) and **lies** (*deceit*): give me neither **poverty** nor **riches**; feed me with food convenient for me (*allow me to suffer what is beneficial and necessary*): **9** Lest I be **full**, and deny *thee*, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be **poor**, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*. *Solomon asked... don't give me too much or too little, because it will weaken me.*

*This warning from Revelation is very telling... too much blessing is debilitating for many saints.*

**REV 3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

**16** So then because thou art **lukewarm** (*halfhearted*), and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. **17** Because thou sayest, I am **rich**, and increased with goods, and have **need of nothing**; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: *This was Solomon's great fear and failing. People who are rich in this world have another weakness... they don't want to be reminded of the truth...* **2TIM 4:3** For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having **itching ears**;

**\*\*Revelations applicable to our modern age...**

**ROM 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and **travaileth in pain** (*like a woman delivering a baby*) together until now. **23** And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. *The collapse of this age is irreversible... one of the worst years ever is likely to be this coming year. We need to feel the Lord's sorrow and act accordingly.*

**PSA 126:5** They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. **6** He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*. *We are supposed to be strengthening each other... provoking. We are not ignorant of the times we live in.*

**\*\*Encouragement from the Lord...**

**ROM 14:8** For whether we live, we live **unto the Lord**; and whether we die, we die **unto the Lord**: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. *This is confirmation of just how personal we are with God.*

**PRO 11:30** The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. *This is our calling!*

**1THE 4:7** For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. **8** He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. *Another confirmation of how directly and personally we are connected to God.*

*We are strongly advised to come to a personal unity with each other and with God.*

**1COR 1:10** Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined **together** in the same mind and in the same judgment. *God takes everything we do... personally. Sometimes we have to give up some of our aspirations and preferences for his sake. He expects us to conform to the main principles of our calling... that is the great joy that sits before us and him and is the power that links us altogether.*