THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



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Titus 2:1 <u>You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.</u>

<u>RIGHT LIVING FOR JESUS</u> *By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma*

Dear Father in Heaven, may we all thank You, praise You, and bless You Lord, for being our A to Z. Father, when we were dead in our sins, You brought us life. Lord, when we were lost in sins darkness, You gave us Your Divine Light. Father, when we were weak, You gave us Your Strength. Father, please continue to watch over Your children, and guide us Lord down that path of Life. Also Lord, please continue to forgive us for our sinfulness. Father, I ask this prayer in Christ Jesus name......Amen. This month's inspired message, is about living the right way for God. Let me start out by saying, the Good News of salvation is that we can't be saved by living a good life; we are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ. But the gospel transforms people lives, so that they eventually perform good deeds. Our service won't save us, but we are saved to serve.

For so many years I was under the misconception, that if you were a good person and were doing good deeds, you were saved. But the Bible tells us that we are saved to serve.

What this really means is that, once we are saved, we will automatically do good works out of appreciation for God's Saving Grace.

The right living for Jesus, is to be a witness to the gospel's power. As Christians, we must have commitment and discipline to serve. We all must have self-control, spiritual and moral fitness, and Christian character. Right living and right relationships go along with right doctrine. Treat relationships with other believers as an outgrowth of your faith. How we fulfill our civic duties is a witness to the watching world. Our community life should reflect Christ's love as much as our church life does. Christians must be good citizens in society, not just in church. Believers must obey the government and work honestly. As Christians, we must be overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather we must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. We must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so we can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. No amount of law keeping, self-improvement, discipline, or religious efforts can make us right with God. Righteousness comes only from God, and we are made righteous (receive right standing with Him) by trusting in Christ. He exchanges our sins and shortcomings for His complete righteousness.

In 2 Corinthians 5:21 the Lord says; <u>God made Him who had no sin to be</u> sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Christians are brand-new people on the inside. The Holy Spirit gives them new life, and they are not the same anymore. We are not reformed, rehabilitated, or reeducated- we are re-created (new creations), living in vital union with Christ. At conversion we are not merely turning over a new leaf; we are beginning a new life under a new Master. In Colossians 2:6 it is written; So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing in thankfulness.

Having true living faith makes a difference. Make sure that your faith is more than just a statement; it should also result in action. Seek God for ways of putting your faith to work.

In the Christian life there are trials and temptations. Successfully overcoming these adversities produces maturity and strong character. Don't resent troubles when they come. Instead, pray for wisdom; God will supply all you need to face persecution or adversity. He will give you patience and keep you strong in times of trials.

We are saved by God's gracious mercy, but not by keeping the law. But Christ gave us a special command: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 19:19) We are to love and serve those around us. Keeping the law of love shows that our faith is vital and real. When we show love to others, we are overcoming our own selfishness.

Wisdom shows itself in wise speech. God holds us responsible for the results of our destructive words. The wisdom of God that helps control the tongue can help control our actions. Accepting God's wisdom will affect your speech. Your words will convey true humility and lead to peace.

Think before you speak an allow God to give you self control!

Last but not least: Christians should not compromise with worldly attitudes about wealth. Because the glory of wealth eventually fades away, Christians should up God's treasures through sincere service. Christians must not show partiality to the wealth or be prejudiced against the poor. All of us are accountable for how we use what we have. We should not hoard wealth but be generous toward others. In addition, we should not be impressed by the wealthy nor look down on those who are poor.

Here are more guidelines we should follow if we want to live right for Jesus. Our actions must be consistent with Christ's teachings. Are actions must not result from our evil thoughts. Our actions must not insult people that are made in God's image. Our actions must not be a by-product of our selfish motives. Our actions must not go against the Biblical definition of love. Our actions must not show a lack of mercy to those less fortunate. Last but not least: Our actions must not be hypocritical to the word of the Lord. Also, following a life of pleasure and giving in to every sensual desire leads to slavery. Many think freedom consists in doing anything they want. But this path leads to slavish addictions and to slavish gratifications. A person is no longer free, but is a slave to whatever his or her body dictates.

The Lord says in 2 Peter 2:19; <u>They promised them freedom, while they</u> themselves are slaves of depravity- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

In closing, try and remember always, that Christ frees us from our sinful desires, and helps us to control our sins when He saves us. We are moved from a life full of sin, to one where we are led by God's Holy Spirit! Let us pray. Father, thank You again for this inspired monthly message. Lord, may this message touch the hearts and minds of Your people. Father, may we spiritually continue to grow in Your knowledge and wisdom. Lord, helps us all to follow Your Divine Light down that narrow road to eternal life. Father, I ask this in Jesus name......Amen

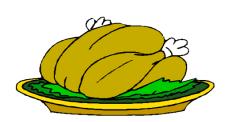


COME TO ME when you are hurting, and I will soothe your pain. Come to Me when you are joyful, and I will share your joy, multiplying it many times over. I am all you need, just when you need it. Your deepest desires find fulfillment in Me alone.

This is the age of self -help. Bookstores abound with books about "taking care of number one," making oneself the center of all things. The main goal of these methodologies is to become self-sufficient and confident. You, however, have been called to take a "road less traveled": continual dependence on Me. True confidence comes from knowing you are complete in My Presence. Everything you need has its counterpart in Me.



Please pray daily with this ministry for; Joe Lakes, Janet Neil, Jonathan Baker, Keith Regerio, Andria Arceneaux, Mike Buettner, Joy Valerie, Mom DeMatteo, Dorthy Leary, Joe Longo, Al Wilson, David Stein, Anne Palma, Johanna Tyson, Joe Longo, Greg Dubrois. *Also a prayer for;* The sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, The weary, the lost, the troubled, the hopeless, the godless, the persecuted, the lame, the broken hearted, etc. Also let us pray for all the hatred, corruption, violence, greed, fornications, wars, etc. around the world. Furthermore, a special prayer for our troubled country. May the Lord forgive us for our godless ways and restore God's blessing to our nation.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

May all of us this Thanksgiving season, extent God's blessings to the poor and less fortunate people around. May our generous hearts reflect God's love and grace to all non believer's. Also may our hope be spiritually restore through daily prayer and repentance, for the United States of America. So from the Spiritual Connection to you this holiday season, may God richly bless you and your family always!

It is my hope that this months inspired message will serve as a message of love, hope and a better understanding for the Word of the Lord. It is so important that we all continue to grow in the knowledge of God. So my brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, until next month inspired message, with God's help, I hope to talk to you again. To contact this ministry go to <u>www.makethespiritualconnection.com</u>