

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!**

A historic moment will occur on February 20<sup>th</sup> when I will be 80 years old! Most of the time I don't feel that old, but recently when I walked into Target at the mall I looked up and saw a video monitor pointed toward the entrance and saw myself on the screen, and I was shocked. Certain words came to mind: wizened, shriveled, saggy, balding, pathetic. I almost burst out laughing.

We don't get any older inside since our soul and spirit are eternal, but God plays a little trick on our bodies while we are distracted. If I hold my arms a certain way in the light of the sun, a continuous line of wrinkles appears from wrist to elbow. The backs of my hands have brown spots, and the skin is so thin that if I bump them against a Twinkie they bleed as if I had been chopped with an axe. I have had 5 major surgeries, cancer that required radiation therapy, a Staph infection that almost got me, 7 surgical procedures on my feet and toes, I have suffered with an unsightly case of Dunlop's Disease (my tummy Dunlop over my belt), I'm seeing a podiatrist, an orthopedic surgeon for advice about my knee, a dermatologist every 3 or 4 months, and I go weekly to a chiropractor and to a massage therapist. (I'm sharing this with you to you to prepare you for the time that some call, with a little wink, the "Golden Age," especially if your life to this point has been without any challenges.) Some old folks bore people to death talking about their operations and their health, and I would certainly never do that. But one final word about my health: I am in excellent shape for my age! I don't take any medications, either prescription or over-the-counter, I go to the health club and work out at least 3 times per week, play golf twice a week in warm weather and mall-walk in the winter, take trips to Mexico and to prisons, and if God will open the door plan to do much more ministry.

I am excited about my future! Recently I had another dream ("Old men will dream dreams", so I qualify) and God seems to be telling me that a time of great harvest is coming. Wow! I have not forgotten the dreams about coming judgment, but perhaps the shaking must precede the harvest.

When one becomes an elder, one should be not only wizened but wise, not only saggy but sagacious. So what wise insights do I have to share with an eager world? Permit me to share a few insights or convictions:

- The Bible is truly a miracle. The more I learn about it, the more amazed I become. Paul said that the Bible is not the word of men, but that it is really the word of God (1 Th. 1:13) Two books among a multitude that shed some light on the incredible cohesiveness of the Bible: Enmity Between the Seeds, by Bill Cloud, and Unlocking the Prophecy Code, by Bryan Cutshall.
- The God revealed through the Bible and supremely through Jesus Christ is the one and only God, and we can only dimly perceive His power, wisdom, and love. God has blessed me tremendously by opening my eyes to see a little corner of reality. All the people of the world and even many in the church are as blind as a bat, and I know this revelation is only by the grace of God.
- Life is not at all what it appears to be on the surface. Life is very, very serious, and our choices here determine our eternity. Read "23 Minutes in Hell" by Bill Wiese for a dose of uncomfortable reality. There is nothing in his book recounting his experience that is contrary to things Jesus said in the Bible. Do you believe that Jesus was truly God in flesh? The Bible says that everything

was created through Jesus Christ and that He sustains everything by His own power.(Col. 1:16-17) He said He was the Truth. Do you believe these incredible statements, or do you think that He was a fraud and a maniac? Jesus said there is a heaven and a hell and that we will go to one or the other when our brief life ends. Is that really true? The Bible says again and again that “God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”( Eccles. 12:14) Those words should make every person tremble. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” but we worry about football scores, the stock market, our health, our job, food and clothing, all of which are trivial nonsense compared to where we will spend eternity.

- Many Christians perceive the Bible as history of the past and prophecy of the future, which it is. But more importantly, the Bible is a blueprint for the way we are to live now. Two recent books that are stirring me deeply: The Reality of the Supernatural World by Todd Bentley, and There is More by Randy Clark. If you are hungering and thirsting for a breakthrough with God, you must read these two books.
- While I know a great many things about God, I don't know Him nearly as well as I should and desire to. For instance, many times I am appalled at the things God allows to happen to people, and especially to children. I silently upbraid God, “How could you allow that to happen?” Of course there are many things we will never understand in this life, but I want such a deep heart acquaintance with the God revealed by Jesus that I will always trust Him.
- I know, for instance, that there is a belief in the church (and certainly in the world) that everything that happens is God's will. Over the weekend a football player with the Denver Broncos, Darrent Williams, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant outside a nightclub. Coach Shanahan said on the news: “I don't know why God wanted him, but He certainly got a good man.” Preposterous! God didn't kill him! It was not God's will! God is not the author of evil. We have free will. St. Augustine, who was the source of much basic Roman Catholic doctrine and who incorporated into his doctrine some Platonic philosophy from the Greeks, taught that everything is God's will, that there is no evil as a separate entity but that all apparent evil contains a hidden good. Therefore, to extrapolate, the Holocaust was God's will, the murder of Darrent Williams was God's will, the physical and sexual abuse of children is God's will, cancer and starvation and war are God's will. That makes of God a monster, and who can love and trust a God like that? The Bible says that “God is not willing that any should perish,” but multitudes are perishing. Jesus said to pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!” God's will is always done in heaven, it is certainly not always done on earth; therefore, we are to pray for His will to be done here. The Bible says that God has given man free will, that there is a devil, that the days are evil, and that we are in a spiritual war every day of our lives. God has given the earth into the hands of men. We see some terrible evil and say, “God, why don't you do something?” And He says, “Why don't you do something?”
- William Carey was the father of modern missions. He was a shoe-maker in England who was converted and felt a call to go to India. A bishop scorned the

idea and said, “If God wants those people to be saved, He will do it, and He certainly doesn’t need you!” Let me present an alternate view: if William Carey had not gone to India, millions of souls would have gone to hell. If I don’t obey God and go to prisons and to Mexico, many people will continue to live in bondage, their families will not be healed, and many will go to hell for eternity. If you do not do what God has called you to do, if you do not pray for your family and others for whom you have responsibility, if you do not witness, teach, share, their blood will be on your hands when you stand before God. This makes me very uncomfortable, but I believe it is a Scriptural truth.

- God’s choice of us is a complete mystery to me. “No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him.” Why did He choose us? Not because we were good. “There is none good, no not one.” Nor are we saved by being good. “All our righteousness is as filthy rags...” It does not say that all our evil deeds are filthy, but that our goodness, our good deeds, our highest and best deeds, our righteousness, is filthy in the sight of a Holy God. We are not saved by doing good, by “good works,” we are saved only by faith in the Righteous One, Jesus Christ. And we are saved “for good works.” If we are not doing good works, serving God faithfully, it simply demonstrates that we have not been saved. Righteousness is a gift imputed to us by God because of our relation with His Son. We are saved by the grace of God simply because He wanted to save us. Read the first chapter of Ephesians. Someone who reads this may say, “I think you are too narrow, and I don’t really believe in that kind of God.” Then you have broken the first 2 Commandments, you have invented a god to please yourself, and that is called idolatry.
- And once God saves us, He is absolutely committed to us from that time on. He will not turn us loose. I used to have doubts about that, but my own life testifies to the truth of Philippians 1:6 - “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Hallelujah! If we go back into sin, we will lose our peace, we will doubt our salvation, we will be miserable, and we can cause ourselves and others great suffering, but God will pursue us, hound us, convict us, until we repent. He may have to expose us, prune us, punish us, for God corrects those whom He loves and those without correction are illegitimate and not true sons of God. What of those who do not repent? I don’t know for sure. Jesus clearly taught that there are many false Christians, many who do not bear good fruit, who will be cut off and cast into the fire.(Mt. 7:17-23) But Jesus said in John 10 that no one is able to snatch His sheep out of the Father’s hand. He said in the same place that “My sheep know My voice, and they follow Me.” I truly believe that only God knows those who are truly His. The Bible exhorts us time and again to make sure of our salvation.
- You have probably noticed that there are some contradictions in the things I believe. I admit that I don’t have a complete and full understanding of God and His ways, but I’m getting closer! Just wait another 30 or 40 years. In contradiction to what I said earlier concerning my doubts about God’s goodness, in light of my life and experience with God I know Him to be the kindest, gentlest, most patient, and most faithful Friend that I have ever known.

My highest ambition is to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master!”

### **ESCHATOLOGY: THE RAPTURE, THE SECOND COMING, ETC.**

A friend passed me a 100-page book entitled The False Prophet that he had downloaded, free of charge, from the website of Ellis Skolfield.....[www.ellisskolfield.com](http://www.ellisskolfield.com). Mr. Skolfield, who doesn't use the title of Pastor, Reverend, Doctor, etc., is an author and Bible teacher who received his theological training at Columbia (S.C.) Bible College in the early 50's, and has written 5 books on Bible Prophecy, one on Multiple Personality Disorder, and 2 on church ordinances.

Mr. Skolfield quotes copiously from the Bible to demonstrate his understanding that there will be:

- No one-world government in the future
- No 7-year tribulation
- No pre or mid-tribulation rapture
- No human anti-Christ
- No false prophet who will come on the world scene. Rather, he shows, quite convincingly in my opinion, that the false prophet was a man named Mohammed and that the final Beast or Anti-Christ is the spirit of Islam.

And Mr. Skolfield has been teaching these things for 28 years, he did not just come up with these ideas after the terrorist attacks of 911.

I will capsule some of his points and refer you to his web-site for more details:

- The Bible interprets itself, and it always interprets a day prophetically as a year. Thus, Daniel 12:11 says that from the time the regular sacrifice was abolished to the time the Abomination of Desolation will be set up will be 1290 days. The regular sacrifice was abolished during Daniel's lifetime in 583 BC. From then until the building of the Dome of the Rock (the Muslim mosque on the temple mount in Jerusalem) was exactly 1290 years (after making the slight adjustment between the Solar Year and the Hebrew Year), as the mosque was built in 688 AD. The Dome of the Rock is the Abomination of Desolation!
- Likewise, “A time, times, and half a time” (Dan. 7:25) is not three and a half years, but two and a half millennia, or 2500 years. (He explains this.)
- Rev. 11:2 says that the Gentles will tread on the holy place (the temple mount) for 42 months, or 1278 days. If days are years, that works out to 1278 years from 688 AD until 1967 AD, which was the time of the Six-Day War when Israel once again regained control of Jerusalem and the temple mount (no adjustment is necessary between the Solar and Hebrew calendars in this case since the New Testament is using the Solar calendar).
- The “Time of the Gentiles” was over as of 1967, thus we are now in the end of the end days....and the end is very near.

- The Two Witnesses are Israel and the Church (the Olive Tree represents Israel, and the Candlesticks represent the Church)..
- The beast that was wounded was Islam (that was defeated by Charles Martel in 732AD). The beast came back to life - - because of Western oil money.
- The harlot is the visible church today. Pages 68 – 80 tell us what the Bible says we are to do in this time.
- The last trumpet comes after the tribulation, at which time the rapture will occur and Christ will come back to earth. (Scriptures provided in pages 84-87.)

I have covered just a few of Mr. Skolfield's points and may have misquoted him on some of them. He goes on into some other views that I feel are pretty far out, conjectural, and unsubstantiated. But I am impressed by his basic thesis that Mohammed is the false prophet and that Islam is the final beast that will try to destroy Israel, Judaism, and Christianity. That Islam, or a violent part of Islam, is intent on doing exactly that is beyond conjecture! The prophetic days/years work out precisely, if he has not done some jiggling to prove his point. And I have given only a sampling of the many prophetic dates and other points he brings into his teaching.

I much prefer Tim LaHayes's doctrine of the Quick Exit Rapture to escape all the blood and gore of the tribulation, but I'm afraid it is not Scriptural. If we get a vote, I'm sure we will all be out of here before the excitement starts. But if Mr. Skolfield is right, we had better do what we can to get prepared. **And remember that the coming judgment is because of God's love, not a negation of it, and it will give His people a fabulous opportunity to reap a harvest, the huge harvest, the Latter Day Rain, that the Bible prophesies.** Perhaps you will download his book or read it online, check out the Scriptures, and see what you think.

### **THE STEM CELL DEBATE**

I am turned off by the political posturing of the left and the right, and I'm deeply concerned, as I'm sure you are, at the polarization and outright hatred within our government and society that is preventing our elected officials from working together for the common good. This is a dangerous and destructive situation! Much to my sorrow, I believe the church has been as much responsible for this situation as anyone. I'm not jumping into the controversy over stem cells and genetic research, but an article in the current Charisma Magazine has shed some light on this subject for me and I thought that you would be interested:

All of us have stem cells in our bodies, and if, for instance, stem cells are taken from bone marrow and put into the brain, they have the potential to turn into brain cells. In particular, stem cells are abundant in the umbilical cord and placenta, and there is no argument about using these stem cells in research. The point that amazed me was this: to date, no successes with embryo-derived stem cells have been reported. In fact, some people who have been treated with stem cells taken from embryos have had severe immunological side effects. Some have died. There is also a theoretically higher risk of cancer developing from embryonically derived stem cells.

Considering then the ethical concerns, the greater risk to the patient, and the lack of clinical success when using embryonic stem cells, who would want to use them? The answer is, primarily those motivated by survival or money. They include:

- **The desperate.** People with horrible diseases or injuries will, quite naturally, grasp at any cure.
- **The uninformed.** Many are not aware that embryonic stem cell research has never produced a cure or the other possible side effects.
- **Scientists with agendas.** Large sums of money can be made from patenting stem cell lines. (And other agendas that are suspect are listed.)
- **Abortion lobbyists.** Many who advocate abortion rights see embryonic stem cell research as an area for potential legal challenges that might later be used to defend the innocent in the womb against abortion. This multimillion-dollar industry has many powerful and high-paid lobbyists.
- **The humanist.** Many people believe that the embryo has no value. Hitler's scientists used vivisection (dissecting living people), and experimented on the unwilling, the unvalued and the despised. Yet no medical advancements came forth. Could it be that God, who created all things, created a morality or moral limitation in science that we have ignored?

Suggested things that we can do: **Pray. Educate. Write** our elected officials.

### **THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY HELPING FINANCIALLY!**

I have not written personally to several of you who have been so faithful in assisting me with offerings over the years, and I feel remiss about that. My retirement income is minimal, and except for the monthly offerings of Good Shepherd Church in Loveland, the Vineyard Church in Grand Junction, and the folks who have been regularly assisting me with personal offerings, I would not be able to travel and minister freely in the way that I have. I know that God is the One who provides, but He uses His people as His instrument, and I am grateful both to God and to you.

This is not a heart-wrenching plea for money! (But let me tell you a story that will make you cry. Ha!) I'm doing fine! God, and His little helpers, have taken wonderful care of Doris and me and our family since I left an office job with the Texas & Pacific Railroad in 1962. (By the way, I despised that job and loved the ministry, so it was not as if I went to the whipping post as a martyr.) We were a little scared. In fact, Doris was petrified, and it took great courage for her to agree to support her unrealistic husband in giving up a good job and security when we had four little kids. But it has been a tremendous adventure. Security, by the way, is an illusion. The only security in this world is being where God wants you to be.

For your information, it costs about \$100 for each member of the team when we hold prison seminars (motel and gas). Everyone pays his own way. I am in the process of scheduling 7 seminars for the next 7 months, skipping April for a trip to Mexico. It costs about \$700 to fly round trip from Grand Junction to Mexico. It is cheaper to fly to

Europe! (unfortunately I don't get any invitations to Europe). I may have some big expenses to publish my book if it ever gets to that point. (I feel like Sisyphus pushing the boulder up hill!) Thanks for your love and prayers and encouragement. Let me know if I can pray for you and yours.

Happy New Year!

Glenn