



Glenn Brown

March 2019

441 ½ Lark Drive

Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

970-434-1377

Revelation in a Beer-Joint in Buckholts

I called my beautiful wife, Doris, a “checked German” because her father, Henry Luksa, was Czech, and her mother, Toni Richter, was German. Henry and I got along great because we both loved to hunt and fish and drink beer.

Doris and I were married when I was 22 and she was 18. (Good grief!) Several years later, we went on a weekend trip with Doris’ parents from our home in Fort Worth to their hometown of Buckholts in central Texas. On a Saturday evening I went with Henry to his favorite beer-joint (In Texan-talk, a pond where cows go to drink is a “tank,” and a bar where guys go to drink is a “beer-joint.”), which was packed out with Henry’s life-long friends. We all got down to the serious business of drinking a stupid amount of beer. For most of us, that was Pearl Beer, which nearly everyone agreed was the best.

That was almost 70 years ago, and I clearly remember the revelation I had in that bar. And that was “B.C.,” since I did not accept Christ until I was 30 years old. After about an hour of drinking, I became aware of what a great time everyone was having. Everyone was talking and laughing. There was a wonderful spirit of camaraderie and love in that bar. The thought came to me: “How can anyone think what we are doing here is wrong? This is a wonderful time, and it’s not hurting anyone.” I guess you could call that, “Revelation, Part 1.”

Then, after two or three more hours of drinking, as I stood in the same bar with the same guys, I sensed a shift in the atmosphere. There was no laughing. Guys had either withdrawn into silence (anger or depression), or they were muttering to their pals in a resentful tone. There was definitely a feeling of heaviness and threat in that room. The thought came to me, “Oh, man, you had better watch yourself, you could get hurt in here if you say or do the wrong thing.” Then I had another thought, “Maybe there could be a problem with all this drinking?” I will call that, “Revelation, Part 2.”

Henry was a great guy. He was a hard worker. He worked at the Swift and Co. meat packing plant for more than 30 years. He was a friendly, likable man to everybody, except that when he had been drinking an inner anger started to surface that was always focused at his wife, partly because she argued with him about his drinking, but of course you know there are many deep roots for anger. Doris’ earliest memory was of her father pinning her mother to the wall with a knife to her throat. Doris lived all her life with a sense of impending doom, a fear that eventually her dad would kill her mother. And he did. In 1970, when Doris was 39 and I was a Methodist pastor, Henry killed Toni, and then himself, with a shotgun.

It was awful beyond explaining. Doris went into grief and depression for about six years. She never really got over it. Everybody felt guilty and partly responsible. I certainly did. Although I had become a Christian at age 30 and a pastor five years after that, I didn’t really reach out to Henry very much. Then, after I had become a pastor, I backslid into alcohol again for several years. What a great example I was! I know that the Lord has forgiven me, but it has been really hard for me to forgive myself. I can’t help wonder if the trajectory of Henry’s life, and maybe his eternal destiny, would have changed if I had been more like the New Man that Christ changed me into rather than like the Old Man that was still ruling my life much of the time.

A long-time friend who has never been high in her life recently asked me if I understood why people were drawn into alcohol and drugs. Of course, there are many reasons for addictions, but I described to her the feelings of euphoria, security, friendship and love that you feel when you get high. She said, “Love? Do you mean that people feel love when they drink or use drugs?” I said, Absolutely! You are filled to overflowing with friendliness and love for everyone. You even feel the love of God and that He is close to you and is approving what you are doing. How could you have this feeling of well being and security and peace if God was not a part of it?

People have these same feelings and thoughts with any addiction: alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, meth, opioids, sexual addictions like pornography or fornication or homosexuality, gambling, etc.

I said that they felt the love of God. No! That is not true. It is not God, it is a counterfeit. While it is certainly true that God loves us, that feeling you get from an addiction is not the real God, the God of the Bible, the God revealed by Jesus.

How could God draw near you through a practice that will destroy your health, your relationships with loved ones, and your eternal soul? It is god with a small “g” that you are experiencing, not the real God. If you believe that God approves of your addiction, you are deceived. God will not argue with you about it. It is deception. God’s ongoing love for you is as sure as the next sunrise, but He hates your sin because it will destroy you if you don’t repent.

Dear friends, sit down today and ask God to help you see the truth about your life. Think about your influence with your family, extended family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and acquaintances. We have a brief moment to love them, encourage them, and influence their life and their eternity. As you surely know by now, life is fleeting and will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.

TURN HIM OVER TO THE TORTURERS!

(Matthew 18:21-35)

Peter was getting confused about what Jesus was teaching them about forgiveness, so he decided to ask Him exactly what He expected his followers to do. Peter approached Jesus, probably very tentatively, and asked Him: *Lord, how many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times? Jesus response was totally unexpected: No, not seven times, but seventy times seven.* Peter must have been totally flabbergasted.

Then Jesus told a story, a parable, about a King who forgave one of his servants a debt that was unimaginably large, equaling millions of dollars of our money today. But it developed that this same servant was owed a small amount by another man, and he refused to have mercy and forgive him as the King had done to him, but rather had him thrown into debtors’ prison.

When the King learned about it, he was furious. He called that first servant back to him, and listen to what he said to him: ***You wicked servant!*** (Another translation says: ***You evil servant!***) Stop! Think about what Jesus is saying to us. He says that God has had mercy on us and has forgiven us a debt beyond any possibility of our repaying. Think what it cost God the Father to forgive us - - the sacrifice of His precious Son. And it was not an easy death, if there is such a thing, but a cruel death by beating and scourging and being nailed to a cross. It was a death by torture. And in return for this act of kindness God expects us – and in fact demands of us – that we forgive others.

Listen to the rest of Jesus’ surprising story: ***Then the angry King sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.***

Jesus’ teaching about forgiveness in this parable and elsewhere has been a puzzle for the church over the centuries. It raises at least two questions:

- (1) Is God’s forgiveness of us unconditional or not?
- (2) How could a loving God send someone to be tortured?

Regarding the first question, the unconditional love of God for us is central to the Good News of the Bible. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* That summarizes the Good News of the grace and unconditional love of God. But even in this verse there is a condition: that we must believe.

Ephesians 2 is another beautiful declaration of this Good News: *For by grace you have been saved through faith....the gift of God, not of works.* But the next verse says that we are God’s workmanship, and that we been “re-created” (my word) in and by Christ for good works. There are two conditions in this teaching (or they can be construed as conditions): faith as a path to forgiveness, and good works that God has prepared for us after we have been forgiven.

Some of the hyper-grace teachers (and I hope that we are all hyper-grace teachers to some extent) claim that Jesus was still teaching the law, and that after His crucifixion we entered the age of grace with the revelations given to Paul. Therefore, they suggest, we can ignore Jesus’ hard teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and just pay attention to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. Really? I’ll bet that Paul’s body is whirling in the grave if he can hear that teaching. He said in 1 Tim. 6:3-4, *Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding....*

As we ponder the unconditional love of God, consider Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son. The Father never stopped loving the son unconditionally even when the son was living in a pig-pen. His forgiveness was always extended to the son. But the only way for the son to receive his father's forgiveness was to get up out of the pig-pen and go home. (An act of faith and repentance.) What if the son had remained in the pig-pen? The father's heart would have been broken. But the Father has given to His sons and daughters free-will, and He will not come and drag us out of the pig-pen if it is our will to stay there. Be warned, sons and daughters!

Regarding the second question:

Five Ways that People are Tortured When They Don't Forgive

1. They lose their assurance that they are forgiven by God.....because according to the teaching in Jesus' parable above (Matthew 18:21-35), God's forgiveness of them has been withdrawn! Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 6:14-15: *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.* Paul taught in Colossians 2:13 – *You were dead in your sins and (because of Christ) He forgave all our sins.* Then in Colossians 3:13, Paul says, *Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.* (NLT) (Note: I think you understand that when I underline or highlight a word or a verse or a passage that it is not highlighted in the Bible, so I don't explain my emphasis every time.) So people who don't forgive others can lose their peace and suffer guilt and depression. This, too, is a grace of God as He is trying to wake them up to their dangerous condition.

2. They are tortured by the tapes and memories that play continuously in their minds. “How could he have done that to me? I was just an innocent child. He is a devil. I hope he goes to hell!” “How could she have said that about me? That hurt me so deeply. I thought she cared for me. What a two-faced goat she is!” “How could he have done that to my daughter/son? That is unforgivable!” When you try to sleep at night, that tortuous memory pops into your mind. When you wake up in the morning, there is that memory again. The Romans had a terrible torture they sometimes used on a murderer. They chained the dead, putrefying corpse to the murderer, body to body and face to face, and let them lie on the floor of the dungeon together until the murderer died.

3. They are tortured by the judgment that we are drawn to repeat the same conduct we are judging. Romans 2:1 says: *You have no excuse for condemning other people because you are just as bad. When you condemn them for their wickedness, you are condemning yourself, for you do the very same things! And God, in his justice, will punish both you and them.*

This is the spiritual law: When we judge another person, it is as if a big magnet is drawing us to do the very same thing.

Example: One time in Mexico, after I preached a woman came to the altar, weeping. She said, “Please help me, I can't love my sons.” She had two little boys, four and six years old. She told me that her mother was cold and harsh, that she constantly criticized her and frequently slapped her when she was angry. She said, “I always said that when I had children I would never act like my mother, but I'm acting the same way. I love my boys so much, but I can't say a kind word to them, and sometimes I slap them. I can see the pain in their eyes, but even though I repent and pray I continue to do the same things my mother did.”

What was wrong with her? She was caught in a spiritual trap of unforgiveness and judgment. In Matthew 7:1, Jesus said that, *If you judge and condemn others that judgment will be measured back to you.* (John Sandford taught that it would come back at us like a big boomerang.)

I led that woman to forgive her mother and to repent for judging her. She was quiet for a few moments and then started laughing out loud. She said, “I love my sons! For the first time I feel love for my sons.! Wow! How wonderful the Lord is. I told her that that lifetime pattern of judging and hating her mother would probably try to return, and that she must resist the devil and continue to forgive her mother and cling to the Lord.

Another example: One time I taught a little class at the Larimer County Jail in Ft. Collins on a Saturday evening. When I taught about honoring our father and mother and forgiving them, a big, good-looking Hispanic guy became very upset and emotional. We stopped the class and tried to minister to him. He said, “God can't expect us to forgive our father in every case, sometimes it is just not right or possible.” We talked some more, and he told us that he was in prison because of his father. He said his father was an angry, violent man.....and that when he was only seven years old his father beat his mother to death in front of him. He said he knew his own problems with anger and violence were because of his

father. The Holy Spirit was dealing powerfully with that man, and we finally were able to lead to him to forgive his father and repent for judging and hating him. He wept many tears as all that hatred and bitterness washed out of him. Several weeks later the chaplain and I talked and she told me that man's life had been radically transformed and he had become a joyful witness for Christ. Then she told me why he was in jail awaiting trial: That he had murdered his girlfriend! He had done the very thing he had been condemning his father for.

4. They are tortured by the bitter roots inside their personality that defiles others. Hebrews 12:15 says: *Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up and cause you trouble by defiling (or corrupting) many.* God is warning us that if we let unforgiveness and condemnation of others stay in our hearts that it will turn into bitterness and defile the very people we love the most. Have you ever known someone who became so bitter that they became toxic to their family? I have known of several instances like that.

Example: A certain lady in Texas was the matriarch of a large family, and they were pioneers in a large denominational church in their community. This lady had about eight or ten children, who were all grown. The baby in her family was her 22-year-old daughter who got sick and was found to have cancer. They took her to the best doctors and specialists, and they had many times of prayer for her in their church, but the girl got worse and worse and finally died. The mother was angry at God. She said, "We have been Christians and have supported this church for three generations, but if that is the way God is going to treat me, then I am through with Him! I will never enter the doors of this church again, and I will not permit my family to attend, or to have anything to do with such a God." And she followed through with that threat. I knew one of her daughters, who was an atheist, and who shared this story with me. The bitter root in that mother poisoned and defiled her whole family and may have even cost them any possibility of eternal life.

5. They are tortured by becoming spiritually, emotionally and physically sick. It has been scientifically proven that unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment increase a person's anxiety and stress level, which raises their blood pressure. This results in excess cortisol and hormones which affects their pituitary, adrenal and thyroid glands. There is a connection to high blood pressure, ulcers, colitis, migraines, arthritis, cancer, and early death.

Example: A lady asked me to pray for her. She told me that she had suffered with a sore throat most of her life, and that she also had swollen legs and feet that caused her a lot of pain. In interviewing her, I learned that when she was a teenager her father had abandoned her mother for another woman, and that when she was married and had children her husband had done the same thing. (When you don't forgive, and when you judge and condemn someone, you will be drawn to repeat the same conduct.) I led her through the steps of forgiving her dad and her husband, and broke generational curses, etc. She told me that the pain immediately left her throat, and she and I were both delighted that the swelling and pain also left her legs and feet. Glory to God! I can't tell you how many times I've seen God heal someone when we led them to forgive someone and repent of judging them.

One more example: Quite a few years ago I ministered to a lady in our church who was in her 80's. At that time I thought that was old, but now I regard people in their early 80's as being middle-aged. She asked us to pray for her hands which were terribly painful. I asked her when the problem started and what happened. She told me she knew exactly when it started – when she was seven years old. She said her older sister was riding a horse bareback and pulled her up behind her with her facing backward. Then she said that her sister raised her hands up above her head for some reason and it pushed her off the horse. She fell with hands outstretched and broke both of her wrists. She said that her hands had caused her pain all of her life and that she frequently cursed her hands and wished someone would chop them off. I asked if she had ever forgiven her sister, and she said that she never even considered forgiving her, that she had a deep resentment toward her. I led her to forgive her sister. It was a hard struggle, because she was very strong-willed and obstinate. She finally forgave her. Then I led her to repent of cursing her sister and her hands and led her to ask God's forgiveness. She did so, and was immediately healed! After more than 70 years, all pain left her hands. Glory to God!

Jesus taught that if we do not forgive others, and if we judge and condemn others, there will be terrible consequences. We will be tortured. He meant exactly what He said. We are taught to forgive to bless us, to shield us from consequences that were built into the fabric of our universe by a moral, loving God.

QUOTES FROM HARVEST ROCK CONFERENCE

(From my Ancient Files)

- Any part of your life that is hopeless shows that you are living in that area in deception. – Francis Frangipane
- Jesus is not interested in raising up followers that only obey Him when they understand. – Bill Johnson
- When Paul tells us to examine ourselves before taking Communion, it is not to see if we are worthy. We are not. It is to

see if we are repentant, surrendered, thankful. – Bill Johnson

- The church is so accustomed to powerlessness, that when God shows up people think it is the devil. – Bill Johnson
- Human Reasoning is the God of this nation. – Bill Johnson
- Che Ahn confessed to saying a terrible thing one time to his wife, Sue. (But I think he was just making a joke.) He said to her, “How could God make you so beautiful and so stupid at the same time?” She responded, “He made me beautiful so you would marry me. He made me stupid so I would marry you.”

God Bless Glenn

e-mail address casabrn441@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.glennbrownministries.com

I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry.

If any of you want to receive tax credit for your financial contributions,
you may send them to:

CANYON VIEW VINEYARD CHURCH

736 24 ½ Road Grand Junction, Co. 81505