

The Clarion

of

Christ Ministerial Fellowship

-a non-denominational communion of ministries with the purpose of mutual encouragement, like minded fellowship and love toward one another.

www.christianmaturity.com

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Mephibosheth, A Study Of Restoration

By Lou Pressman

Pastor Pablo and his wife at construction site of the new church in Bolivia with Ric Vargas and Lou Pressman.
 June 2018



In 2 Samuel 9 David asks, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" This is much more than a story; it's a testimony, an example, a foreshadowing of Christ's ability to love, accept and restore. It is important to view David as a type of Christ, the greater David who was and is to come. No wonder it is no coincidence that Matthew's Gospel, the very beginning of the NT starts this way; "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David".

Let us explore this unique covenant relationship between David and Jonathan. Let us understand the background between David and Jonathan. The Bible states "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David", 1 Samuel 18:1. They were like brothers to one another, closer than brothers to one another. When David was at one of his lowest points Jonathan "went to David" 'and encouraged him in God", 1 Samuel 23:16. We find Jonathan was faithful, obedient, humble. Jonathan interceded for David, putting himself in

harm's way for David's sake, 1 Sam. 19:4. Jonathan was brave and victorious in battle, 1 Sam. 14.

We also learn that in 1 Samuel 18:4 "Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow

and his belt.” Although Jonathan was a prince in his own rite, being King Saul’s son, he saw, he knew, the true anointing was not upon the house of Saul but upon David and God was raising a new house, the house of David from whom we get the Christ.

Although Jonathan had these exceptional qualities he was still the son of Saul and the house of Saul had to come to an end. When Jonathan died in battle, how David wept and mourned! David’s lamentation for Jonathan, his brother in the spirit, “Your love to me was more wonderful than the love of women”. There are those who have distorted and perverted this Scripture but the essence of it is that there was something divine in this love. A love that was a precursor of the greater David that was to come and demonstrated this love towards us.

David wants to show “kindness for Jonathan’s sake”, 2 Sam 9:1. The fulfillment of the covenant promise Jonathan and David made with one another, 1 Sam.18:3, 20:16, 23:18. This covenant is more than a legality. It is a commitment from the heart. David is stirred in soul and spirit as he remembers Jonathan. The same as when Christ, the greater David, thinks of us.

David learns Jonathan had a son and he dwells in Lodebar, a place meaning no pasture or pasture-less, in other words no place to be fed, no nourishment. Jonathan’s son was living a life of want. Jonathan’s son is fatherless and because there is no pasture there is no shepherd over him.

David sends for Mephibosheth and how does Mephibosheth view himself? As a dead dog, vs 8. for the Old Testament mindset to those who were lame or blind or deaf, there had to be sin in their life or their descendants. He was a cripple, without the favor of God. Living with rejection for his grandfather, Saul, wanted to kill David, the Lord’s anointed, and was rejected by God. He was fatherless and had no one.

Mephibosheth saw himself as deserving of nothing.

But how did King David see Mephibosheth? Not as Mephibosheth saw himself, certainly not as a dead dog. Which leads me to ask how do you see yourself? As compared to how does our King see you?

Mephibosheth is now before David wondering is this the end for him. He is filled with fear. But like the future Son of David, Jesus, David says “Do not fear”. For the sake of the covenant I made I will restore. Like Mephibosheth the King of kings wants to bring us from Lodebar- pasture-less to having not only green pastures, but now having a “good shepherd”.

Later on in the chapter we learn of Ziba, a man with a right attitude for he was a true servant of the king. Even more than a servant Ziba was a faithful steward who wants one day to hear the same words we want to hear “well done thou good and faithful servant”.

Maybe Mephibosheth’s father Jonathan had a prophetic sense when he named his young son. There is a great probability Mephibosheth was born lame and Jonathan knew the difficulties he would have. Thus Jonathan named his crippled son Mephibosheth meaning one who would remove shame or guilt or confusion, or disappointment. It is quite possible that because of the faith Jonathan had in David Jonathan knew his son would be watched over. Toward the end of the chapter we are informed Mephibosheth has a son. There is a very good likelihood Mephibosheth’s son was born after this initial encounter with David.

What does Mephibosheth name his son? Mica meaning who is like God! For in all this Mephibosheth sees the greatness of God. Was Mephibosheth ever healed? Not in the natural sense. But the king’s grace and lovingkindness was upon him and that alone was sufficient.

Mephibosheth went from Lodebar to Jerusalem, the city of peace, and he now “he ate at the king’s table regularly”. The old house, the house of Saul, the old order had to die. For out of death comes life. Let the old order die in our lives as well.

Mephibosheth was brought from the old house, the old order into a new house and a new order. By allowing the king to do this the reproach was gone, there was a wholeness and he had regular fellowship with the king.

We can be the recipients of an even greater covenant, greater fellowship, and a greater King because of the lovingkindness found in the greater David and the covenant the greater David made with us. Let us go from lameness to wholeness. The King of kings has a place at His table that is set for you. He is wanting to converse with you, He is desiring your fellowship. Won’t you please respond? Ω

The Gospel Trumpet - Part 3

Mark Waters



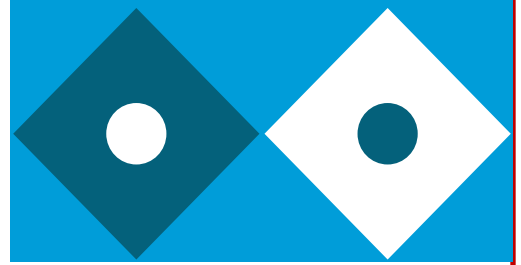
Continued from Part 2... April's Clarion

Generally speaking, Church today is all about what man gets. It is in crisis, and it's time to gather together and rend our hearts before him. Cry out to Him to grant us the corn again! Cry out to Him to restore the new wine and the oil. **These vital things are what make us who we are in God and they've been lost!** Lord make the church the place where it is about God's satisfaction again. Deliver us from man-centeredness. Apparently, God's people responded to this urgent call. It all turns in **Joel 2 vs. 18** with one word. "Then..."

3. The gospel is the call "to get the man right." Joel 2:13. You might wonder what that means; "to get the man right." The Lord says in this chapter, "turn to me..." Then **Joel brings to God's people the revelation of who God really is.** God's people needed to see God aright. If we are going to turn to Him in the depth that He is asking us to, we are going to have to see Him right to do so!. Could it be that one reason the church is in the state it is in is because it has seen God wrong? **Joel's gospel trumpet is showing us who God really is.** We often think God as nothing more than a vending machine. You put in all the right change, and push all the right buttons and you will get the candy bar you want. **We think we have to somehow have the right change if God is going to work in our lives.** We have to push all the right buttons. Then things will be all right. Is that how it is? **Is that the relationship the gospel has opened up for us?** We think we have to be good enough, that we have to earn what we get in God. "All we need to do is be good enough and smart enough and wise enough to know just what buttons to push and we will be fine, but if we don't get it right, God has nothing for us." Joel is very urgent and he's calling God's people to repentance and He is showing here why they can repent the way they need to repent. The gospel trumpet declares to us who the Lord really is. Read vs. 13 again. It is in the gracious revelation the Holy Spirit delights to give that we rediscover Jesus! **This is who He is!** It is because of God's character! **You can dare come to this kind of God** no matter what! Joel tells us He is gracious. He has grace for us in our most desperate time of need! **We can dare come to this kind of God!** This is who Joel is presenting to God's people. Joel's gospel trumpet is sounding. Come to this one. **He is calling us to get this man right!** We get to deal with this gracious One Joel is pointing us to.

There's an illustration of an old preacher who had a grandchild who on Saturday afternoon was interrupting him while he was trying to prepare for his message. Every few minutes the grandchild would come in. The man was in a dilemma. He wanted to be a good grandparent, and at the same time he was trying to prepare to preach. Finally, he said, I know what I will do. He had a big picture puzzle of the world. He took that puzzle into the other room, broke up all the pieces, scattered them out, put his arms around the grandchild and said, now listen.

Don't come to grandpa again until you put all of this back together. You understand? The grandchild said yes. So, grandpa went back into his study and thought that will take care of him. He will be busy for hours. To the shock of grandpa, a handful of minutes later the grandchild came back. Grandpa said, "Wait a minute, I thought I told you not to come back in until the puzzle is back together?" The grandchild said, "It is together!" "That's impossible", Grandpa said. All of those pieces? They all look alike. That's impossible! The grandchild



The CMF Fall Gathering

Wednesday, October 31—
Friday, November 2, 2018

Save the date

Registration form coming via email.
Tuscarora Inn & Conference
Center, Mt. Bethel, PA.

For more information call
Mark Waters 570-888-1055
or CMF7001@gmail.com

*Pastors and workers are
welcome.*

*If scholarship is needed
please, let Mark know.*

CMF Men's Retreat

September 28, 29

Valley Alliance

317 Luzern Ave.,

W. Pittston, PA 18643

*Watch for an email with the
registration attached. Cost is*

\$30. Deadline September 17. For

info contact Shane Nichols:

pastorshane@valleyalliance.church

(607) 348-8361

said, "Come and look." He went in and looked and sure enough, there it was, the picture puzzle of the world was all together. That's a hard puzzle! They all look alike. There is no way I could have done it so quick. He asked, "How did you do that so fast?" The grandchild said, "I looked on the box and it said that the puzzle had two sides to it and on the other side was the picture of a man. I just turned all the pieces over and put the man together and I found that when I put the man together, the world took care of itself."

Get the man right
and the world will
take care of itself.

This is how we think God works with us. We think that is what repentance is. "Don't come back until you get it all put back together." We think the Lord doesn't want to see us, or have time for us, until everything is back the way it should be. *We think that we need to just get it right and ascend the spiritual ladder, and that's how Zion will be saved. **The truth is that will never happen until we deal with Him.** GOD IS BRINGING US TO AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE GOD OF ALL GRACE. The gospel trumpet cries turn ye to me with all your heart.*

You get the man right, and the world will take care of itself. It's not possible to put this broken world back together again. There's no man that has the answer for what is going on out there. **We've got to deal with this One Joel is pointing us to.** It's only as we encounter "the man" that things will get right again. **Get the man right, Christ Himself, and the church will be right too!**

Restoration is a beautiful thing. We are trying to get it all together, but we will never get it together if all we are doing is staring at the world, or the church. We've got to do more than just curse the darkness. **We will never get it together if we think that what He's requiring of us to go in the other room and not bother Him until we do.** Is that who we think He is? We must gather together as a body and come to this One who is gracious, merciful, and of great kindness. There's nothing like meeting Him! **He alone can take our broken state and make it right again. Only He can do it!** It is His work alone! **The most remarkable thing happens when we turn to Him!** The rest of Joel's book comes out of this. Get the man right! If we will, this broken up church will get put back together again too.Ω

God's Glory at 13,615 Feet

Num. 21:4 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

This promise for many of us has too often been more like the dangling carrot that we see but never partake. I've come to understand that perhaps our concept of this 'glory' and how it will manifest, just might be very different from His.



Our recent trips to Bolivia have helped to open my eyes to the fulfillment of this wonderful promise. Here are a few glimpses. A widow who was left to provide for her family, launched out in a business of making Cholita sandwiches. The only food stall available was #13; the one no one else would take because of the negative superstition of that number. She rented it believing it was God's provision. The few tables outside her stall are always full and it has clearly become the favorite place to buy a Cholita sandwich. There at stall #13 a witness and a 'glory' is shining forth, revealing The Lord that cares for widows.

A young mother, whose daughter had been abused by her husband, reported him to authorities with the hope of justice. Instead, the tables were turned when the husband planted drugs on her and called the police. She was arrested and has been sitting in jail for more than 2 years. There in that women's prison a testimony and 'glory' is shining forth, revealing the truth that He will never leave nor forsake us.

A young mother of two, who with her husband is a local church leader, was suddenly stricken with a mysterious illness leaving doctors in both Bolivia and Chile baffled. It left her weak and confined to a wheelchair. From that place of weakness there is a testimony and a 'glory' shining forth, revealing that His grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness.

These three precious sisters, in spite of their difficult life experiences, have remained true to their Savior Jesus Christ. In doing so, each of them in their own unique way are revealing His glory. It has been a humbling privilege to behold His glory at 13,615 feet. May we learn to 'glory' in our infirmities, that the power of Christ might rest upon us. Ω Ric Vargas reporting on the mission trip to Bolivia, South America that he and Lou Pressman made in June.

Christ Ministerial Fellowship Website Is Up and Running

www.christianmaturity.com

The website is up and running. You will find lots of information about CMF, our last few newsletters, downloadable books, and audio messages. Check it out and spread the word.

Prayer Requests

In need of healing:

***Steve Wilber-long time mentor, friend, prophetic teacher
Phyllis Fischer-precious sister from Wisconsin, long time friend of CMF***

Upcoming Missions

- ***Colombia , Lou & Ric in October and possibly Bolivia the end of the year.***

Other Requests

Stream of God International School of Ministry.

- ***Recording sessions***
- ***Teachers***
- ***Translators***
- ***Video production assistance***

Celebrations

Maria Paula Londono was married to Alejandro Holguin on June 30 in Pereira, Colombia. Maria Paula has been our interpreter in Colombia for 6 years and we rejoice with her.



CMF Trip to Colombia, South America

For the 4th straight year, Bert and Arlene Ghilardi had a blessed time of ministry in the nation of Colombia June 19-July 2. It was a time to build old relationships and find new friends in open doors. We found a real team was raised up to aid the purpose of this mission in every detail. Cony Rojas organized our trip and drove us to every station of ministry. Carolina Diaz and our faithful friend, Maria Paula Londono were by our side for interpretation of messages. Fredy Lopez and his wonderful wife Gloria hosted us in their home in Pereira. Through them opportunities to minister in their home church called El Renuevo (The Renewing) were opened.

We had key services with two churches that consider themselves in fellowship with CMF. We ministered twice with Juan Diego Santana and his wife Ana, pastors of Salvacion y el Reino. (Salvation and The Kingdom Church). They have faced great opposition for the message they preach.

We had the opportunity to minister to Pastors Sergio and Nayibe (Maria Paul's parents) of Transformando El Mundo (Transforming the World Church). We have been mentoring this couple via Skype and find a growing desire for the Kingdom and close relationships. Last year this key couple left the Baptist denomination and have been joined in the Spirit to CMF.

We had 2 services in El Camino (The Way), church of our trusted friend, Cony Rojas. In the leadership meeting the Spirit of God moved in a very special way as the glory of the Lord was made manifest in our midst. Pastor Jaime and his wife Tatiana have a unique calling. We "happened" to meet him in the Cali airport as he was on his way to Argentina and we were on our way home.

The second half of the trip was spent in the city of Pereira, 3 hours NE of Cali in coffee country. We became joined to Pastors Julio and Esperanza, leaders of El Renuevo (the Renewal). They have a large, godly family and were celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary the week we left. Bert ministered a three part message on the Function and Calling of the Church as His Bride and His Habitation. Arlene ministered to the couples and the youth. The ministry amongst them was gladly received with open hearts.

We closed our time by joining in marriage Maria Paula and her husband Alejandro. As is the custom in Colombia, a civil marriage had already taken place June 8. The government only recognizes marriages that are performed in the Roman Catholic Church. Those who are not RC have to have a civil ceremony first and then a wedding in their own church. The wedding was bilingual and with interpretation and all, we barely said "We now pronounce you husband and wife" when the skies opened and a tremendous thunderstorm came through. Under the shelter of the villa's veranda a young man, member of Alejandro's family, was led to Christ while we waited for the reception to begin. It was a joyous event. The bride was stunningly beautiful and the groom handsome and very happy. We look forward to who they will become as a married couple. These two are teachable and really love the Lord. They will be a mighty force in the kingdom of God in the days to come.

We thank all who prayed and gave to make this trip possible. Without Him we are nothing, and without you we couldn't complete a mission such as this.

Your servants always, Bert and Arlene