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January 2000

Praise God! The old year is winding down here in Nebraska, and I want to get this last Newsletter of 1999 off to you while I am sure I still have a computer up and running. We don't know what, if anything, will be happening in the next few hours and days---but one thing we know--God is in control, and I thank Him for that! This month I would like to share with you a portion of a message I have preached, called "Are You Yoked to Your Past?" I have had to be condense it out of necessity, but I think it might be of help to some who are moving into new dimensions. New Dimensions! Cut our past! And move forward! If you would like to order the complete tape, it is \$5.00 and you can order it at P.O. Box 751, Beatrice NE 68310. God bless you richly this new year! I love you dearly.

Are You Yoked to Your Past?

I want to go to the book of Romans 8:35. Paul is writing to the Romans. Paul was a powerhouse for God. We look at people like Paul, and we think, well, they never had any problems. Well, Paul had his problems and he learned how to overcome them. Paul is saying here, beginning in verse 35, *"who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all they day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* I want you to pay special attention to verse 38, it says, *"I am persuaded that neither death, nor life,...."* And all these things he talks about. And he says *"nor thing present, nor things to come."* These things can not separate us from the love of God. I wanted to talk tonight about "Are you Yoked to your Past?" When the Lord begin to speak to me from these verses, I would always think they are beautiful. It's saying that all the death and life and all the demons and all the territorial spirits and all these things that Paul is referring to, will never separate us from the love of God. I said that is beautiful. I am glad to know that. And I am glad to know that He is always going to love me no matter what. But then I began to read a little bit more into this and my thoughts began to focus on where it says, *"nor thing present, nor things to come...."* That means the things that are going on right now and the things in the future. These things can not separate me from the love of God. Paul doesn't mention the past here. For some reason, he's silent about the past. He's silent about what effect the past can have and can that separate us from the love of God. Then I begin to say no, I'm just reading something into that, because God is never going to stop loving us. We can put ourselves into a position where we can lose out with God, but He is always going to love us. God is love. So, I began to pray about this. God began to speak to me and to tell me that He will never stop loving us, but our love for Him can die. We have to have that love for Jesus. We have to have that relationship with Jesus. I'm telling you, things are going to come upon the face of this earth and we are going to be shaken. The Bible says if anything can be shaken, will be shaken. We're going to be shaken. The question is, will we stand?

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Mathew 24:12, Jesus is talking here about the things that are going to be coming, this is called the Olivet discourse, they are asking Him questions about when will these things be. And He's in verse 12, *"because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."* Now that's kind of a scary scripture. I use to say, Lord what does that mean, iniquity shall abound and the love of many shall wax cold? I can understand it now. It's because of the things I'm hearing, the things that I am reading in the paper and the things that are happening today to the people that I love. So a lot of us, what happens is, we will begin to harden ourselves in order to be able to cope with what's happening. For example, a lot of times with a child who has been abused, that child will learn, the physiological term is to dissociate. While the child is being hurt and being abused in its body, that child's mind, she'll let it or he'll let it drift off to think about something to totally tune out what is happening. Otherwise he or she could not cope. And so that is called dissociating. A lot of times we will do that, because the pain is so bad in what's happening and we will begin to harden ourselves. And I went through a period, where I found myself growing hard. And I found myself not having that love that I use to have for people. I didn't know what was going on. I was saying, God what is this. I can't minister if I don't have love. That's my number one thing, if I don't have it, I'm just not any good. I'm just no good for the Kingdom. So, I see in this scripture how, because of the iniquity, thy love can wax cold. Grow cold. Until finally we're just cut off and we don't even love God. This happens, it's real. Jesus tells us here in the next verse, *"but he that, shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."* I want to be saved, don't you? So we see that our past and living in the past and being yoked with the past, can cause us to eventually lose out. You can't stand still in a walk with God. You are either going forward or you are going backwards. When you try to stand still, you are going to fall. So you would have to learn that we have got to do something to move forward. How are we going to do that if we've got a yoke on us?

Do you know what a yoke is? A yoke is something that attaches you to something else so that you become hooked up with it. Paul, when he speaks about not being unequally yoked with unbelievers, he is saying there, that if we marry or get together with unbelievers or really have friendship or close association with them, it's an unequal balance there and it is going to go one way or another. That yoke ties you with that unbeliever or it ties you with that situation. And so I want to go to Ezekiel 16. Here we get into the harlotry of Jerusalem where God is coming and talking through Ezekiel to Jerusalem. Ezekiel 16:3 begins, *"and say, Thus saith the Lord God unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all."* So, He is saying here, He is comparing Israel to a baby that is born. One of the first things that has to be done is to clip that cord for that child. Then you have to nurture by swaddling it. Taking care of it. Wrapping a blanket around it. Cleaning it up. And so He goes on and says, *"When I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.... Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine."*

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And that is what He has done for us, we are His. All my life I wanted to belong to somebody. I wanted to belong somewhere. It's like I never really belonged anywhere. I remember when I would go to church and here about Jesus, and I loved that, that was the best place for me to be. But I really didn't feel like I belonged there. But that's where I met Jesus and fell in love with Him. But I didn't really belong and I didn't belong at home. I was in the way all the time there. My mother had me when she was up in years. I was what was called an accident. And that is all told in my story, "Lord, why am I crying?" And so I learned that really I kind of got in the way. And so I always wanted to belong somewhere or to somebody. I'd read these romance stories. I'd hear these things at school about these sweet hearts. And I didn't really have a sweetheart at school. And I would say, boy, I want to belong to somebody. I want one of those class rings around my neck. You know, that meant that, I would be possessed by somebody. And that I would belong. When I finally came to know Jesus, I became His.

And He says here, "that He passed by me and looked upon me and He had pity upon me. He found me in all my filth and He had pity on me. If I had of been Jesus and has seen something as dirty as I was and as messy as I was and as bloody, I would have just wanted to pass on by. He gives us the story of the good Samaritan. He took care of the hurting. And that's what we need to do. We need to be able to go out into the streets in our town. We need to go out there and we need to find those who are wounded, who are bloody, who are stinking, who are decaying and dead. We need to find them and bring them to the house of God, to the hospital of God, where they can be revived, where they can get to know somebody who can deliver them, somebody who can pick them up out of that mud, somebody who cares, somebody who loves them, somebody who is willing to work with them, somebody who is willing to care.

And He said, "thou became as mine." Finally, I belonged to somebody. Oh, it is beautiful when you belong to somebody. And then He said, "I wash thee with water." I was baptized in the name of Jesus. I was washed. My sins were all remitted. They were washed away. When I went to God in repentance and confessed all my sins, He forgave me, but the sin still had to be washed away. They when I was baptized in Jesus name, there they went and I was clean. And He said, "Then I washed thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil." He filled me with the Holy Ghost! He washed me and He filled me with the Holy Ghost. But you see this has to happen, because back here this navel was not cut. The Holy Ghost has to cut this navel. What it does, it links us, it connects us to our past. It connects us to something that should be put away.

What are we going to do with our yoke? Are we yoked to I was in bondage to alcohol. I was in bondage to prescription drugs. I was in bondage to cigarettes. I was in all kind of bondage, but now I am free, praise God, and I intend to stay free. I have cut that yoke to my past and I am not hanging on to it. When we receive the Holy Ghost, we are actually receiving the Spirit of Christ. God gives the Holy Ghost to break every yoke that is connecting us to something else. The yokes are broken only when we will totally allow the Holy Ghost to work through us. And we've talked about that to, how we need to pray through until the Holy Ghost just come through us and over flows us and we're speaking in that other language.

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The apostle Paul instructed in Romans 12:2, "and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,.." We've talked about how we come to God, we get the Holy Ghost we've been baptized in His name, we started that walk with Him, we have just begun. But we talk about sometimes how our mind does not get renewed and it's saying in the word that, that's true because he was talking to people who have already gone through that experience. And yet he is saying here but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. So the lifeline connecting us to the past, has got to be severed if we are to experience that transformation, because that lifeline to the past is causing all kinds of ungodly thinking inside of our mind, because we're in bondage and somebody in bondage can't think clearly. We are want to be so small, I want to decrease to the point that when they look at me, they don't see Sis. Doty, but they see Him. and when we get to that point, that is when He can do miracles, that is when He can work, that is when He can use you in a way like you have never been used before.

John 12:24 tells us, "*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone.*" We have to let some things die, so that other things can be born. We've got to let them die. Paul talks about mortifying the works of the flesh. Kill it. The violent take it by force. Sometimes we have to be violent, we have to kill it. That corn of wheat, when it falls into the ground, we need to become broken before God. God is not going to break you, unless He can fix you. He is not going to break you, unless He knows that you can handle it. We have to understand that the corn of wheat has to die so that some thing new can be born. And that rose pedal has to be crushed, in order to smell the fragrance. We have to be crushed so that the Holy Ghost can come out and minister. God is so good. God is an awesome God and a wonderful God and I thank Him from the bottom of my heart, for what He has done for my life. I love God.

How do we decrease ourself? How so we become decreased? We have to slay our yoke. As Elisha did in 1 Kings 19:19-21. We have to kill that thing. Kill that oxen in our life, the thing that we are bound to, the thing we are in bondage to, that thing we are connected to. We have to kill it. We have to decrease so that He can increase, we have to kill that yoke, we have to kill that ox. And we can do it, through the power of the precious Holy Ghost, the Spirit of the living God that dwells within us. --

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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