

# The Invitation Newsletter-

*an outreach of Jerry Liversage Ministries, Inc.*



www.jerryliversageministries.org  
www.respondingrecoveryministries.org

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this website)*

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016

"Go to the  
street corners  
and invite to  
the banquet  
anyone you  
Find."  
-Jesus

## RECENT USA NEWS –

- Six terrorist attacks to date on US soil since all 50 states recognize same sex marriage in June 2015 to present.
- Every 84 hours a terrorist attack worldwide
- UK dropping out of EU
- First time ever FBI investigation of a presidential runner
- First time ever a potential "first man" in the Whitehouse
- A transvestite takes center stage at the DNC
- 20 trillion in debt and yet we're told our economy is strong and safe.
- Presumptive Republican nominee states "I am the law and order candidate, I can fix it."

The list goes on and on. The purpose of even mentioning some of the above is NOT to persuade you, the reader, what side of the aisle you should support/vote. However, reading today's headlines, we learn of constant challenges to our liberty. Terrorist threats against our nation, economic turmoil, and political struggles are on our minds. But hasn't that been a constant thought in the history of our country? From the very beginning of our nation's birth, our forefathers revealed their resolve of liberty, founded upon Biblical principles. But there has come a steady stream of trials and tribulations to our nation that has been undermining these principles like never before. We forget that 27 of our 50 plus founding fathers were ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We forget we are in a spiritual battle.

"We the people" must never forget the incredible price Jesus paid for our sin debt to restore our spiritual freedom. He sacrificed His liberty for ours, even to His death on a cross. Now we have liberty in Jesus Christ, eternal life that no man or devil in hell can take from us. When we respond to the grace of Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we are free, even in the midst of tyranny. But to do nothing is not an option for those who are in Christ.

If you're feeling overwhelmed as I have in the past, by God's grace, our only hope is to press in and respond to the call of Jesus. These are uncharted days in which we live. There are things happening around us that have NEVER occurred in history. We must live out and speak up the clear unadulterated message of the cross, while there is still time!

## Jerry's New Biblical Study entitled "Excelling in the Storm."

I have recently returned to the incredible letter to the Colossians. I have been captivated by the power of the Word and its depth of revelation concerning the person and deity of Jesus Christ. I would encourage you to spend time in investigation of what some Bible scholars call "The Declaration of Independence for the Christian." If we ever needed to be students of God's Word, it is now! I'm not necessarily talking about academic study but rather a mentality of seeking the person of Jesus. The Apostle Paul opens with encouraging words in chapter 1:1-11, but seems to site a prayer of godly increase due to the Colossian heresy, which was taking place. Some background concerning this letter is as follows:

### **Outline to Colossians**

1. What Christ has done (chap.1-2) - Doctrinal 2. How Christians should respond (chap. 3-4) - Practical

To whom written: The church at Colosse, a city in Asia Minor, and believers everywhere.

Date written: About A.D. 60, during Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Setting: The city of Colosse was about 100 miles east of Ephesus on the Lycus River, and over one thousand miles from Rome, where Paul was writing this letter.

Colosse had been a stopover along the main road from the east on the way to Ephesus. However, under the Roman Empire, the preferred route was through Laodicea, so Colosse declined in importance although it was still a large and busy city. As a trading center it was a crossroads for various ideas, concepts and religions.

Colosse had become the home of many Jews who had fled there when they were forced out of Jerusalem under the persecutions of Antiochus III and IV, about 200 years before Christ.

The church in Colosse had been founded by Epaphras (1:7), one of Paul's converts. Although Paul had not yet visited this church, he wanted to write this letter to refute heretical teachings about Christ that were confusing many of the Christians there. The church had been infiltrated by religious relativism, with some believers attempting to combine elements of Gnostic paganism and secular philosophy with Christian doctrine. Paul confronts these false teachings and affirms the sufficiency of Christ.

Purpose: To combat errors in the church and to show that believers have everything they need in Jesus. As the first century church had begun to expand, an assortment of counterfeit truths were pressing upon the early church, which were causing confusion, weakness, and undermining of the main thing, which was the main thing, Jesus. In this study, I have recently identified a large family I call "the Isms." The "Isms" family is an age old family with many counterfeit facets. Let's briefly look at some of those "Isms" that still exist to this day.

**Gnosticism-** Comes from the Greek word *gnosis* meaning "knowledge." This idea basically taught a revelation of God came via man's own knowledge. **Docetism-** comes from the Greek word *doceo* which means to "seem." A belief in early Christianity that Christ only *seemed* to have a human body and to suffer and die on the cross. **Asceticism-** One must deny the body in the strictest form to include even cutting the body to bring subjection. **Deism-** denying the interference of God with the laws of the universe. It is very much the same relation to the universe that a clock-maker does to his timepiece. Having made his clock, and wound it up, he does not interfere with it, and the longer it can run without the maker's intervention the greater the evidence of wisdom and skill on the part of the maker. **Syncretism-** a blending of truths.

What is important about these various heresies and viewpoints are the manifestations of counterfeit truth it brings. In Merriam-Webster's dictionary, counterfeit is defined as: Made in imitation of something else with intent to deceive or made to look like an exact copy of something in order to trick people.

Counterfeit is the powerful ploy used of the enemy in attempting to establish its rule. More recently, nations have used counterfeiting as a means of warfare. The idea is to overflow the enemy's economy with fake bank notes, so that the real value of the money plummets.

This is exactly the motive of the devil and demonic spirits since the beginning of mankind. It began in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve and continues to this very day. It appears to look like, sound like, and presented in a way as to be true. As the USA continues to distance itself from Biblical values and move in the direction and path of counterfeit truth, we continue to be bombarded by a secular form of truth, which accelerates towards destruction. For an example; in 1961 when this subtle, cunning, crafty and deceitful explanation of truth gained momentum, it reached the Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court cited "Secular Humanism" as a religion in the 1961 in the case of *Torcaso v. Watkins*. Roy Torcaso, the appellant, a practicing Humanist in Maryland, had refused to declare his belief in Almighty God, as then required by State law in order for him to be commissioned as a notary public. The Court held that the requirement for such an oath "invades appellant's freedom of belief and religion." By the way, tax credit is awarded to those who organize and practice Secular Humanism. Unfortunately, secularistic ideas and humanistic concepts have infiltrated the church under the guise of spiritual relativism, tolerance and superficial substance, which has further watered down the clear message of the cross. In a recent statement, Rev. Franklin Graham stated; "I am not politically correct—never have been and never will be. Was the Apostle Paul politically correct? He spent more time in prison than anywhere else. In Romans 1:16 he said *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."* Mr. Graham said 'Political Correctness Gone Amok' and added "Wishing to offend no one, our nation's leaders now stand for absolutely nothing".....Amok means: too wildly; without self-control.

Returning back to our brief review of Colossians chapter one - this is why the Apostle Paul made the following statement in verse 9. He said; *"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."* NKJV

What is interesting about v.9 is Paul was NOT speaking of earthly knowledge as we mentioned above with the Greeks. Such knowledge believed by the Greeks comes from the word *gnosis* meaning "knowledge."

This type of knowledge is rooted in the sufficiency of man. In the original language, Paul used the greek word, *epignosis* for our English word for knowledge. Epi-(a primary preposition) gnosis means- full discernment, acknowledgement: a higher form that only comes from God Himself. Paul also used our English word for Wisdom in the same verse. In the original language the word is *sophia* which means the knowledge of how to regulate ones relationship with God. Both come from one supernatural place. Paul's admonishment to the church at Colosse was a reminder to them that he was praying for supernatural increase to the church as their only hope of an offensive and defensive weapon against counterfeit truth. Paul staked his very life on this thought. For an example, in Ephesians 1:15-23 he further said; "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. NKJV

Though much more could be said, I believe the Biblical evidence is clear and direct concerning our "Excelling in the Storm." An intimate relationship with JESUS is our ONLY HOPE! He is peace in the midst of life's storm.

### Announcing a New YouTube Channel

Responding Recovery Ministries, which is part of Jerry Liversage Ministries, Inc., will soon be operating their first Internet channel via YouTube. This new addition will require much set-up and other resources but we believe this is a new low cost extension to this ministry.

We are thankful for Kurt Masdea who is a new volunteer staff member to this ministry. Kurt is knowledgeable in both computer technology and cutting edge media sources. Kurt will be responsible for the upstart of Responding Recovery Ministries own YouTube Channel. We believe God has lead Kurt to be a vital part concerning the distribution of Jesus Christ over the air waves. He will be working with Ken Seiffert who currently operates one of the cameras at the Time Warner Studio where **Responding Recovery Television** is recorded. Ken is part of **Transformed Productions** and is the program video editor for Responding Recovery Television. Ken has diligently worked hard at this God ordained ministry and welcomes the assistance of Kurt who will be working with him in this new endeavor. Please continue to pray for this God ordained portion of ministry.



*We are in gratitude for your continued support to this ministry. Your commitment to prayer has impacted many hearts and lives. Also, your financial support literally enables us to preach the Word of God to local communities, local cable television, and facilitates Bible based materials to those in need in our immediate area and across the USA. This little ministry would not exist without you!!*

### New Uploads soon to appear on [www.respondingrecoveryministries.org](http://www.respondingrecoveryministries.org)

In the very near future, new uploads from **Responding Recovery Television** will be placed on our ministry web page for those who do not have access to Time Warner Cable. We will make a few recordings available on this ministry website for those who cannot tune into the Monday thru Friday broadcast on channel #39 through Time Warner Cable based in Costa Mesa, Ca.

Because of the staff addition mentioned above, we are in hope of a long awaited vision to increase our media message of the cross to include training classes in the arena of Biblical Deliverance from drug and alcohol addiction, taught by Jerry Liversage.

**Romans 10:14-15** - *But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? NLT*

Please continue to pray for this ministry. As you do, please remember: • Responding Recovery Television • A new Responding Recovery Center/Vision in the Inland Empire • the preaching ministry in various churches/venues • Responding Recovery small group national meeting locations.