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PAPERS (3014)**

BOX 24

FOLDER 20

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW

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1988 -- SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW

CHRISTMAS TIME HAS COME AND GONE, AND MANY PERSONS MAY BE SAYING WITH A SIGH, 'WELL, IT'S ALL OVER UNTIL NEXT YEAR.E' BUT WE NEED TO ASK, 'WHAT HAS COME AND GONE?' IF WE CAN SIMPLY PICK IT UP AND LAY IT DOWN, THEN THE WHOLE THING HAS LITTLE RELEVANCE IN OUR LIVES. THE TRUE SPIRIT THAT IS CHRISTMAS DOESN'T COME AND GO. IT IS AN INEXORABLE PRINCIPLE, THE LAW OF THE CHRIST OF OUR BEING.

BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR SUCH QUESTIONS, FOR WE ARE ALREADY INTO ANOTHER SEASON THAT FOR MANY PERSONS COMES AND GOES. BEFORE THE WEEK IS OUT THE WORDS 'HAPPY NEW YEAR!' WILL BE HEARD HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF TIMES IN AMERICA - A SINCERE AND HEART-FELT BLESSING.

BUT I WONDER IF THERE IS NOT AS LOT OF DELUSION IN THIS 'HAPPY NEW YEAR' BUSINESS, BECAUSE

CERTAINLY, FOR MOST PERSONS, THE NEW YEAR WILL BRING NO NEW HAPPINESS. IT WILL BE LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE YEAR JUST PAST, UNLESS THE PERSON IS DIFFERENT. THE NEW YEAR WILL BE BUT A CONTINUAL OCCURRENCE OF THE NOW, AND IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY NOW, IF YOU ARE NOT HEALTHY NOW, IF YOU ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL NOW, THINGS WILL NOT BE BETTER EXCEPT AS YOU GET BETTER IN YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR VISION OF LIFE, IN YOUR SELF-IMAGE, IN SHORT, IN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS.

THE SEGMENT OF ETERNITY WHICH WE ARE NAMING 1988 IS NOT OF ITSELF NEW. THUS, I AM NOT SIMPLY BEING FACETIOUS WHEN I SAY -- 1988, SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? FOR THE YEAR FOR YOU CAN ONLY BE NEW IF YOU OPEN YOUR EYES TO A NEW DEPTH OF PERCEPTION, IF YOU DREAM NEW DREAMS, AND REACH FORWARD WITH NEW EXPECTATIONS.

SO, THE FINEST BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR, IS NOT 'HAPPEY NEW YEAR!' BUT 'HAPPY NEW YOU' IT IS THE ONLY SALUTATION THAT MAKES ANY SENSE.

AT THIS TIME MANY PERSONS VOICE TDHE QUESTION, 'WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HAVE IN STORE FOR ME?' LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS FUTURE THING.

THE FUTURE IS SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE REQACHES AT THE RATE OF 60 MINUTES AN HOUR, WHATEVER HE DOES, WHOEVER HE IS.; IN OØHER 'THEFUTURE' IS NOT SOME FATE-DESTINED PACKAGE OF EXPERIENCES OR A GRAB-BAG OF TIME WHICH YOU HOPE YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO DRAW THE GOOD.

AGAIN, THE CHARACTER OF YOUR FUTURE WILL DEPEND CHIEFLY UPON THE CHARACTER OF YOUR THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW AND UPON ALL THE INFINITY OF NOWS ALONG LIFE'S WAY.

THOMAS MANN - 'TIME HAS NO DIVISIONS TO MARK ITS PASSAGE. THERE IS NEVER A THUNDERSTORM OR BLARE OF TRUMPETS TO ANNOUNCE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW

MONTH OR A NEWYEAR. EVEN WHEN A NEW CENTURY BEGINS, IT IS ONLY WE MORTALS WHO RING BELLS AND FIRE OFF PSISTOLS.'

IN A SENSE WHEN CONSIDERED HISTORICALLY, ASTRONOMICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, OR EVEN LOGICALLY, JANUARY 1ST IS NOT THE CORRECT TIME TO BEGIN THE YEAR. AND ACTUALLY BEGINNING THE YEAR ON JANUARY 1ST IS COMPARATIVELY RECENT..THE ROMANS BEGAN THEIR YEAR IN MARCH. IT WASM NOT UNTIL THE 16TH CENTURY THAT JANUARY 1ST WAS ARBITRARILY NAMED NEW YEAR'S DAY. RVEN THEN, THE CIVIL AND LEGAL HOLIDAYS CONTINUED TO BE MARCH 15TH FOR ANOTHER 200 YEARS.

TO BEGIN THE YEAR IN THE SPRING MAKES MUCH MORE SENSE - WHEN NATURE IS REAWAKENING TO A NEW CYCLE OF GROWTH AND BLOSSOMING - WHILE JANUARY 1ST IS JUST ANOTHER GRIM WINTER'S DAY.

ON FRIDAY, AT THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WE CALL 1988, IT IS AN EXTREMELY RELEVANTTIME TO REALIZE/ANEW,

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE BY ALTERING YOUR THOUGHTS.

CERTAINLY EVERYONE WANTS TO CHANGE., BUT A TYPICAL RESPONSE TO THAT STATEMENT I MAKE EVERY MORNING ON THE RADIO IS, 'IF ONLY I COULD CHANGE, BUT IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE... YOU CAN'T REALLY CHANGE HUMAN NATURE!.

ACTUALLY, THIS PROCESS OF CHANGE IS THE KEYNOTE OF ANY RELIGION THAT IS RELEVANT, AND IT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEAL OF THIS 'NEW INSIGHT IN TRUTH..

IN THE GOSPELS JOHN CAME PREACHING, 'REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.' AND JESUS PROCLAIMED, 'YOU MUST BE BORN ANEW.' AND PAUL SAID, 'BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.' ALL SAYING THE SAME THING, DEALING WITH THE SAME PROCESS.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY HAS ERRONEOUSLY CENTERED ON THE WORD 'REPENT'

THE WORD HAS BEEN POORLY TRANSLATED. 'REPENT' COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD 'PENITARE', MEANING TO FEEL SORRY OR REGRET. ONE MAY SAY OF A MISTAKE, 'SORRY ABOUT THAT.' HE MAY ACTUALLY FEEL PAIN IN THEREGRET. BUT THIS DOES NOT KEEP HIM FROM MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN AND AGAIN...HE IS STILL ON THE SAME LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY HAS PRESENTED THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE AS DEALING WITH A COMMITMENT TO A NEW MORAL KIND OF LIFE. THE THEME OF THE CHURCH PREACHING CENTERS ON 'BEING GOOD', ~~AND~~ AND GOODNESS USUALLY MEANS PIETY -- GOING TO CHURCH, READING THE BIBLE, AND KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS IN A LITERAL SENSE..

I HAVE HEARD PEOPLESAYING, THEY HAVE FOUND A RELIGION THAT IS BROAD-MINDED, MEANING IT WILL TAKE THEM AS THEY ARE AND MAKE NO EFFORT TO CHANGE THEM. BUT RELIGION THAT DOES NOT PROMOTE

TRANSFORMATION IS NOT WORTH THE TIME. IT IS LIKE SAYING, 'I HAVE FOUND A GREAT ENGINEERING SCHOOL THAT IS BROAD-MINDED. THEY WILL MAKE NO EFFORT TO CHANGE ME.' OR MUSIC SCHOOL OR MEDICAL SCHOOL. REPENTANCE HAS HAD A STRONG CONNOTATION TOWARD SOFTENING THE EFFECT OF GOD'S JUDGMENT. IT WAS 'REPENT OR GOD WILL PUNISH YOU.' THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT RELIGIOUS CONFUSIONS, THE BELIEF IN A FLUCTUATION OF THE DIVINE INTENTION, OR WILL OF GOD. IN AN ORDERLY UNIVERSE GOD'S WILL IS THE PRINCIPLE OF CREATIVE ACTIVITY, THE CREATIVE INTENTION TO EVOLVE THAT WHICH IS INVOLVED.

PEOPLE TEND TO START FROM THE WRONG END IN TALKING ABOUT GOD, LOOKING AT THE EXTERNAL WORLD AS THE FIRST THEATER OF DIVINE VENGEANCE, AND AS THEY SEE IN EVENTS OF THE DAYS NEWS THE HAND OF GOD PUNISHING OR REWARDING PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THEIR BEHAVIOR.

AFTER AN AIRPLANE CRASH OR AN EARTHQUAKE, WITH GREAT LOSS OF LIFE, OR AN INNOCENT VICTIM SHOT DOWN ON THE STREET. THEY CRY OUT, 'HOW COULD GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN?' AND THEN THE RELIGIOUS 'COMFORTERS'. ARE QUICK TO SAY, 'OURS IS NOT TO QUESTION GOD'S WAYS. HE IS PUNISHING US FOR OUR SINS.'

IN THE 13TH CHAPTER OF LUKE, THE DISCIPLES REPORTED THAT PILATE HAD MURDERED SOME GALILEANS. JESUS SAID, 'DO YOU IMAGINE THAT BECAUSE THESE GALILEANS HAVE SUFFERED THIS FATE THAT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN GREAT SINNERS, AND THAT THEREFORE GOD WAS PUNISHING THEM? I TELL YOU THIS WASN'T THE CASE...AND UNLESS YOU REPENT, YOU WILL COME TO THE SAME END.'

THE PROBLEM HERE IS WITH THE TRANSLATION OF THE WORD 'REPENT'..IT IS A POOR TRANSLATION. THE GREEK WORD IS 'METANOIA'.S WHILE 'REPENT' IS A DARK WORD, A DOWNBEAT TERM... 'METANOIA' IS

ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST WORDS IN THE BIBLE. THE GREEK
'META' MEANS TRANSFORMATION, OR BEYONDNESS. THE
GREEK 'NOIA' COMES FROM A ROOT WORD MEANING 'MIND'.
SO THE WORD 'METANOIA' ACTUALLY MEANS 'THE TRANS-
FORMATION OF THE MIND.'

SO IN THE LUKE STORY, JESUS IS SAYING THAT GOD
IS NOT PUNISHING THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR SINS., BUT
THAT UNLESS YOU EXPERIENCE METANOIA OR GET INTO
A HIGHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, YOU WILL ALL
EXPERIENCE THE SAME THING AS THE GALILEANS.

ACTUALLY JESUS DEALS WITH TWO DIMENSIONS OF LIFE..
HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL. HE SAYS, 'IN THE WORLD
YOU HAVE TRIBULATIONS, BUT I HAVE OVERCOME THE
WORLD.' IN THE WORLD OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS YOU
HAVE THE CEASELESS WORK OF CAUSE AND EFFECT, THE
KARMIC LAW, AND ITS INFLUENCE ROLLS ON INEXORABLY.
AND ON THIS LEVEL YOU REALLY CAN'T CHANGE HUMAN
NATURE.

BUT YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE IF YOU ALTER YOUR THOUGHTS, WHICH MEANS TO ELEVATE YOUR LEVEL OF THINKING ABOUT LIFE. WHEN JOHN CAME PREACHING, 'REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.' HE IS GIVING THE EXCITING GOOD NEWS THAT THE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR BETTERMENT OF THE PERSON IS NOT A MATTER OF TIME OR A REWARD IN SOME FAR-OFF ETERNITY...IT IS NOW.' THUS THE CALL TO REPENT METANOIA, MEANS TO LIFT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS TO A NEW AWARENESS OF YOUR WHOLE SELF. IT IS NOT TO CHANGE THE HUMAN, BUT TO TRANSCEND IT.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WITHIN MEANS THAT EVERY PERSON IS BORN IN THE WORLD WITH AN UNBORN POSSIBILITY OF LIMITLESS LIFE WITHIN HIM, AND HE CAN BE TRANSFORMED, AS THE GRUB CAN BECOME A BUTTERFLY, BY BEING BORN AGAIN, BY ~~BEING~~ WAKING UP THE SLEEPING POSSIBILITIES OF THE DIVINITY WITHIN.

THIS IS A KIND OF WAKING UP

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE ILLUSION THAT LIFE IS A MATTER OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. ON THE HORIZONTAL LEVEL, WE THINK OF THE INEXORABLE MOVEMENT OF TIME... WE THINK THAT TIME IS PROGRESS, THAT THE MERE PASSAGE OF DAYS AND YEARS WILL LEAD TO BETTER CONDITIONS. WE HAVE THE CLICHE, 'TIME HEALS ALL THINGS.' THERE IS ALWAYS THE HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR EVERYTHING WILL BE DIFFERENT. THE PLAIN TRUTH IS... ONLY IF THERE IS SOME CHANGE ON THE VERTICAL LEVEL WILL 1988 BE ANY DIFFERENT.

YOU ARE ALWAYS LIVING IN TIME, IN THE WORLD, IN HUMAN EXPERIENCE, BUT YOU ARE NOT OF IT. WHEN YOU KNOW THAT, THEN AT ANY TIME YOU CAN ALTER YOUR THOUGHTS, BECOME SYNCHRONIZED WITH HIGHER VIBRATIONS, AND LIFT UP THE LEVEL AT WHICH YOU EXPERIENCE THE HORIZONTAL. THIS IS METANOIA. ACTUALLY IT IS A KIND OF WAKING UP TO THE REALITY OF LIFE

AND THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF. WE SEE THIS IN JESUS' PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON WHO, AFTER HIS 'FAR COUNTRY' EXPERIENCE OF WANT AND FRUSTRATION AND SHAME, 'CAME TO HIMSELF.' THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE WAS WORRIED FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE SO HE WENT PENITENTLY CRAWLING HOME TO BEG HIS FATHER'S FORGIVENESS. IT MEANS HE AWAKENED FROM THE DREAM-SLEEP OF SELF-REJECTION AND ACHIEVED A SENSE OF WORTH-SHIP. HE WAS REBORN INTO A HIGHER SELF-IMAGE, AND WENT HOME TO CLAIM HIS OWN.

THE PRODIGAL SON IS AN ENIGMA TO SOME PERSONS WHO SAY, 'HOW COULD A WAYWARD YOUTH CHANGE SO DRAMATICALLY?' ONCE A PRODIGAL, ALWAYS A PRODIGAL' BUT IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED THAT, THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE OF GROWTH OR ADVANCEMENT OF ANY KIND FOR ANYONE. YOU SEE, THE KEY IS YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE HUMAN NATURE, AND ACTUALLY THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN DO SO...YOU NEED ONLY TRANSCEND IT.

AND...EVERY PERSON HAS THE POWER AND POTENTIAL . . .
SELF-TRANSCENDENCE.

RECALL THE STORY OF THE MAN WHO RECEIVED A NOTE
IN HIS PAY ENVELOPE TELLING HIM HE WAS GOING TO
RECEIVE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN HIS SALARY.
HE WAS OVERJOYED, AND IN HIS MIND PRACTICALLY HAD
THE EXTRA MONEY SPENT...HE TOOK OUT THE CHECK,
AND NOTED, SADLY, THAT THE AMOUNT WAS THE SAME
AS USUAL. READING FURTHER IN THE NOTE... 'THE
WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE WHEN YOU DO.'

SO...IT IS NOT WHAT THE NEW YEAR WILL BRING TO
YOU, BUT WHAT YOU WILL BRING TO THE NEW YEAR.

EMERSON - 'ANY TIME IS A GOOD TIME IF WE BUT
KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.' WHAT WILL YOU DO
WITH THE CLEAN SLATE OF 366 DAYS AHEAD?

NOW TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I AM GOING TO GIVE
YOU SOME HOMEWORK FOR A PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR
THE NEW YEAR 1988. ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK?

[&]
FIRST -- YOU WILL NEED A NOTEBOOK IN WHICH TO
DO SOME INVENTORY ACCOUNTING. DETERMINE SOME
GENERAL CATEGORIES BY WHICH TO APPRAISE THE
QUALITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF YOUR LIFE...WORK,
FINANCES, HEALTH, LOVE-LIFE, HOME AND FAMILY,
HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS OR ETC. TAKE ONE PAGE FOR
EACH...AND WRITE A CATEGORY AT THE HEADS OF THE
PAGE.

ON EACH PAGE, DRAW A VERTDICAL LINE DIVIDING THE
PAGES INTO TWO COLUMNS. HEAD THE FIRST COLUMN
WITH A MINUS SIGH...THE SECOND COLUMN WLITH A
PLUS SIGH.

~~601-2293~~

601-
2396

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297-9980

Eastern

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9:19 AM

Great teacher: mirror to see the person
you could become

- ... dreams
- ... habits
- ... relationships
- ... physical problems

The great frustration (challenges)

- ... & scary to let go & move ahead
want to hold on

Self-effacing

- ... isn't best, but m

Controversial

~~Defies~~ orig

Elusive - no words

Pr

In love.