

# Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks

## Why are you here?

"And they passed by and reviled him, wagging their heads and saying, thou that destroyest the temple and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."

"Likewise all the chief priests mocking him with the scribes and elders said, He saved others, himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross and we will believe him. He trusted in God, let him deliver him now, if he will have him; for he said, I am the Son of God." (Matthew 27:39-43)

The scripture tells us that Jesus trusted in God while at the bottom of the cross they gambled for his garments and they all said the same things. Their purpose was to convince Christ, the Son of the living God to come down off that cross, save thyself. Not only did those beneath the cross who were gazing up and scorners say it, but even the chief priests joined in mocking Christ. (Verse 41)

The whole purpose of this was to kill the Christ. Satan was aware no one had ever rose from the dead. Oh, he knew Christ had healed a few persons, but that was not Christ's purpose in coming. Jesus came to set people at liberty, those who were held in captivity, to heal the brokenhearted, help those who did not know what direction to take, to help those who were on that road marked nowhere going to a place called never. But the devil had his crew on the site crying come down, come down off that cross.

My friend, it would be the cross which would save him. "For this cause he declared I have come for it is written of me to do thy will, O God." (Hebrews 10:7)

St. John writes later to declare "We have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled of the word of life." (1 John 1:1)

Oh, my friend, Jesus knew why he had come to this world. He, being the son of God stood earlier to shout openly, "The spirit is upon me, the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor." (St. Luke 4:18)

And, my friend, because he preached this gospel we find folks in full agreement to take his life. It was here Pilate said unto him (Christ) "Hearst thou not how many things they witness against thee?" (Matthew 27:13) My friend, Jesus had heard their words, he was beat, spit upon, beat on the back. Isaiah said "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man and his form more than the sons of men." (Isaiah 52:14)

My friend, Jesus knew why he had come to this earth and there would not be enough of devils under the cross to stop him. They all agreed that he must come down off the cross. They had nailed his hands and feet, pierced his side, blood dropped from his body, his life was ebbing away, yet they all said the same thing, come down.

From that day to this day, any man who has been called to preach and has been anointed it has been agreed upon that he or she must come down, even at the price of death. Oh my friend, Jesus knew why he was hanging on the cross. Jesus would say "I know why I am going through with what is set before me. I know why I am hanging on this cross. For he knew that for envy they had delivered him." (Matthew 27:18)

You and I must know that we must go on. You need to say to yourselves for this reason I must go on while there are those saying why are you going through this, those people could care less about your sacrifice. My friend, when Jesus stood and cried out, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

When Jesus declared that he would build a church all hell broke out. "The chief priests gathered themselves together for envy." Jesus had a purpose. Do you have a purpose? If you do, Satan will try his best to see that it does not materialize. He has many ways to discourage you and those around you. While Jesus was hanging between heaven and earth, darkness formed around him in his darkest hour, voices rang out "Come down, come down. It's not worth it. Be like the rest of us." Jesus on that cross, his back cut to ribbons, flesh laid flayed, for hours the bugs, gnats, insects, began to cover his body, his mouth caked with blood, his eyes swollen, rolled back into his head, these folks for envy stripped him naked. Oh, my friend, embarrassment was there, shame was there. Oh my friend, you can't go through life being cute. Somewhere, some place, you too will be called upon to come down. You see, the devil wants to expose you.

Are you faced with the threat of exposure? Remember it is Satan's mission to stop us. He will strip you of your home, cars, food, he will even lie on you and get others to join. He will hang you out there for all the world to see, everybody on the street knows you have lost your job, but what is more important is that you have got a purpose. It may be hell itself, but God will resurrect you up from death itself. Like Jesus, all your flesh is exposed to this world, all your stuff, things you thought were secret, Satan will see to it. The high priest and his demons will hang you for envy. But no matter what you've got to hang there. Don't cry for someone to come and anoint you with oil. Stay there. Jesus never calls on any faith healer, no sir, he dug with the hill of faith and declared "I come to do thy will." You need to say to yourself, I'm coming out and I'm coming out naked. I'm going to have the promises of God. You need to say to yourself this ain't about me, but it is about God bringing me through. I know all those around me are saying the same things. People have died cursing, but not you, that nail of shame that has been driven in thy feet, step up on it, get you another breath, scream into the ears of the devil "Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked I will return thither. The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21) Now that you are up there, get you another breath and say "Devil, if I do die, you ain't going to get me. I belong to Jesus. I have come to do the will of my father." (Amen)

Let me say this, because of envy and because Preachers are afraid of envy, not knowing God said "The Lord is with you, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him he will forsake you." (11 Chronicles 15:2)

When Azariah confronted Asa he spoke the above words to him, and he went on to say, for a long season Israel hath been without a true God and without a teaching priest and with out law.

Is that not the case of today's churches? No forsaking, no confession, no repentance, no burden for prayer, no passion for righteousness and no sincere commitment of truth?

My friend, something is wrong and I believe we have preached it (envy) jealousy and because of that the real issue facing the church has not been dealt with, the hearts, pain of the body have not been fully expressed nor been embraced and until they are dealt with there will be no renewal.

Formality and ritualism will always eventually lead to being bored, sad, tired churches which can never be a channel for fresh out-pouring of the Holy Ghost.

Most of what preaching is heard today is along the line of getting our act together, and she has lost the thought that she has become apathetic, no longer burdened for others. We no longer seem to care. Someone said anyone who can read a newspaper or operate a remote control knows that something is wrong, something is slowly destroying America. There is some kind of hideous virus, some sort of deadly disease racing through our cultural blood stream. Let me tell you of a few, seeing I've been permitted to catch another breath, standing on a nail that feels like it wants to come loose, but whether I die or live I'll do it unto my God.

Let me share with you some symptoms of a sick society. It is a society that legally authorizes the killing of its young before they are born. A generation of young men drowning in their own blood on the streets of our cities. Even here at home, the suicide rate is up. Another sickness in our society is that of a culture that permits profit over justice and mercy. A nation that allowed entertainment to establish or to promote moral bankruptcy. Our churches today have fallen victim to a disease called spiritual polluted blood. She has no law, is set to do as the pleases, doesn't care what anybody says, she does as she pleases. She loaded herself with a deadly virus called lawlessness. She is on a road marked tomorrow which ends up at a place called never.

If I can I will attempt one more spiritual breath. You can't blame all this on the politician. The tragedy is not the sinner's sins. That is expected of them. You see they were shaped in iniquity. (Psalm 51:5)

The church, as Christians, has failed to live out our lives as Christians. Somebody said about the condition that it was because Satan is busy. Notice with me again, when Azariah went to Asa he said be careful now if you seek the Lord he can be found, but if ye forsake him he will forsake you. Well, the scripture tells us for a long time they were without the true God, without teaching and without law.

Then in verse 6 of chapter 15 it tells us it was God who vexed them with all adversity. Now let me ask you this question, are you sure what you are going

through with is of God? Remember, he has promised us to save our families, if we remain faithful. When was the last time you were hung out to dry? Folks wagging their head because you took a moral stand for what was right, not for what you could gain, but something with a godly purpose, something that you were willing to die for? Something that got nailed hands and feet with a whisper in the ear "It is written of me to do thy will, O God."

I would only consider a pastoral position if you desire one who believes sin is not to be blotted from the sermons.

## Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxending

[Some Questions I've been pondering]

Oliver North --- (WHAT would have HAPPENED if the SANDINISTAS had NOT been RESTRAINED, at least to SOME EXTENT?)

CHINA & RUSSIA --- considered (for decades) by the WEST to be ENEMIES. But, have they REALLY remained ALLIES all these years? ONE CHINA? (CHINA & TAIWAN)

WHERE is the "TRUE" CHINA? (IS TAIWAN now SUPPOSED to just ROLL OVER AND GIVE UP THEIR WAY OF LIFE to COMMUNIST LEADERS ON THE MAINLAND? (FORMER LEADER CHIANG KAI-SHEK and other NON-Communists left the mainland in 1949, as Mao and his Communist comrades were taking control of that land. It's AMAZING the way Communists expect to force their beliefs, or at least their way of life, onto EVERYONE in their extended neighborhood. And THEN act like they can't believe it when SOME individuals and/or groups REFUSE to go along!)

Remember the article I shared, describing COMMUNIST PLANS for the future, as explained to a missionary in China whose house had been LITERALLY taken over by Communist Party leaders? (Years later, after returning to the U.S., that same missionary described the ordeal he and his wife had suffered, in their personal story for CHRISTIAN HERALD readers. He also reported the International Communist Party's SECRET plans to use various methods to DESTROY our culture in this country. My research has led me to believe that many Marxist-Leninist groups have had a part in the destruction of our nation's moral standards over the past four or five decades.)

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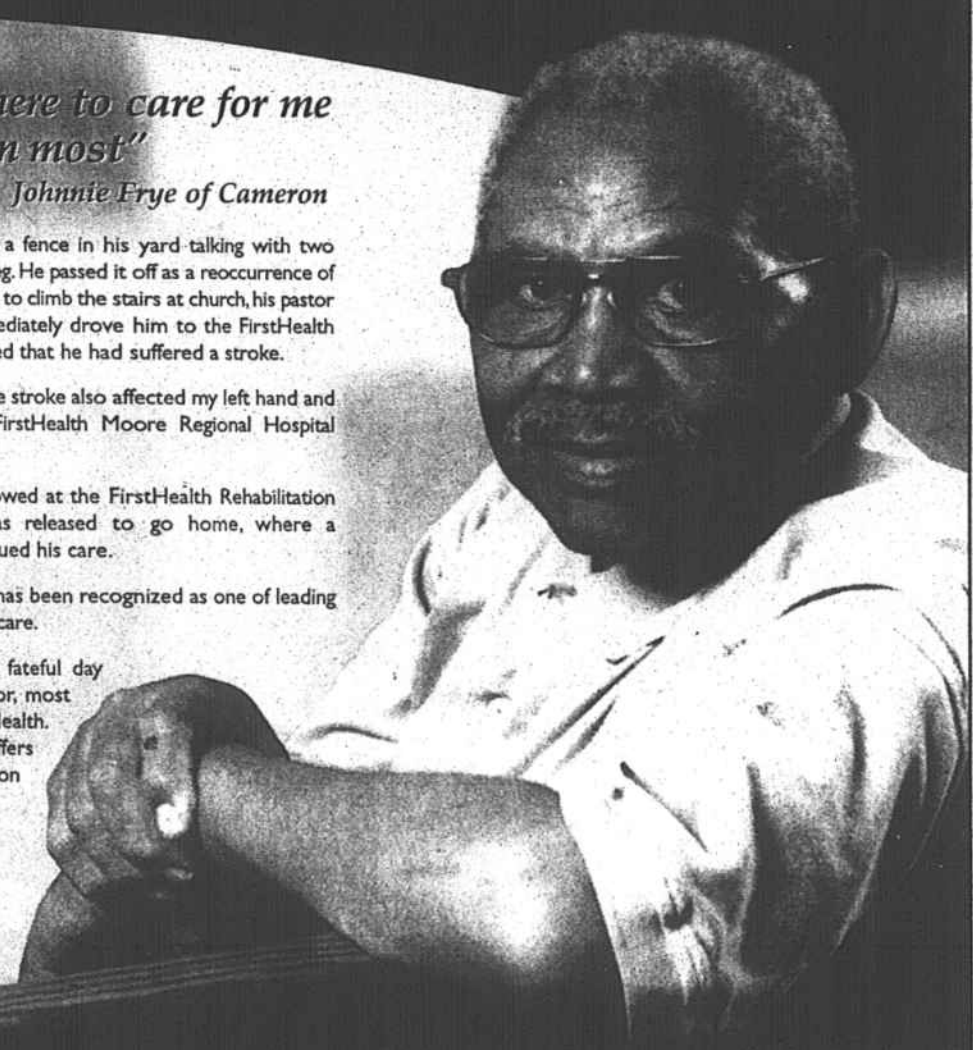
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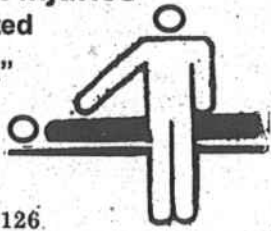
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