

# *the Real News-Review*

Chronicles, Editorials, Epistles

Unity, In Christ, Through the Holy Spirit • actsministry@sbcglobal.net • www.actsministry.org

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**May 2010**

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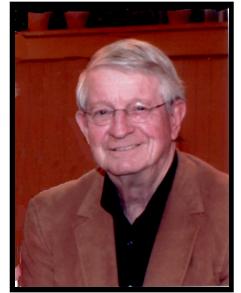
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*Around My World*  
Dr. Paul Collins



Dr. Paul Collins

## My Observations

Little is much if God is in it. Much is little if God isn't in it. The finest, biggest, most expensive church building is just a building if God isn't in it. It is just another building if the people who sit in it are not genuine Christians. If the people sit, dance, sing, shout, or meditate, it is still just a building if they do not truly know God, in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Little is much if God is in it. Much is little if God isn't in it. The large income does little without the blessings of God. A small cash flow is plentiful with the blessings of God. The fanciest automobile is just a machine if God never rides in it. The humblest little, old car is a wonderful chariot when the Holy Spirit sits next to the driver.

Another observation is that there is eternal value in looking at your life to see the position of God. He should be the one you worship as your sovereign Lord. As Holy Spirit, he is to be your guide in every detail of living.

When I observe myself and my life, I quickly recognize that I have to continue growing in order to be an adequate minister of the Gospel on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ. ☐

- **Services in Springfield, MO** the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month at 2 PM in the chapel at Maranatha Village on East Norton
- **Greater Is He Gospel Sing** the 1st Saturday night of every month in Springfield at 7 :00 in Springfield Community Church on East Battlefield
- **ACTSFEST IN SPRINGFIELD ON AUGUST 5, 6, 7, AND 8**



Nancy Collins

# Peace in the Valley

by Nancy Collins

My life has been one experience after another. Some people might say that is the definition of life—one big experience after another rolling like waves through your day. You are barely able to get a breath before another wave rolls you over and under.

Many years ago, I went through a horrendous problem. After many months of trying to work things out on my own, I finally gave up. There was nothing left within me. On my knees, I gave this situation to Jesus totally and completely. Literally, every minute was a battle for my mind and spirit. Before three weeks had passed, there was peace and victory. Because of that horrid year, I am able to go through what has come my way in various ways. This worked as a Romans 8:28 experience and victory.

Who did I have to look to? To the One that makes it possible for Romans 8:28 to become a reality. What Jesus said in Luke 22:42, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” He said this in his garden experience. Recently, this has been said when praying for others. This has worked together for good for me in that if I had not prayed as the above verse says, I would not have known any peace in the situations for which I was praying. As with the disciples, Jesus asked them to pray that they not enter into temptation. When he has finished praying, he found them sleeping. He said to them, why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The disciples were self-confident and disregarded Jesus warnings. He knew that later in the day they would do things that earlier in the day they were resolved not to do. He was training them for what was ahead.

The cost must be counted and the consequences faced as much as possible. Jesus knew and the disciples did not—yet—that they were going to be sifted by temptation. Read Mark 14: 26-50 and Luke 22:7-62. Read also Matthew 18:1-5 and 19: 13-15 then 20:17-28. Lastly, read Luke 9: 18-48, 57-62. Peter, James, and John had boasted about their ability and willingness to suffer with Jesus. He took them with Him to witness the struggle, to convince them that they knew not about what they said. Someone has said that those who are the most confident should get some sense about what they have said. We have Jesus’ description of what He went through for us and we are not greater than He is. In praying for any situation, my will and way has to be out of the way. I have to get to the end of my rope. There have been times when thoughts and feelings rise up causing concern and doubt. These have shown what is on

the inside that needs to be changed or thrown out. I have to know that He knows what is best and that He knows the best way to work out a situation. I literally have to give up; there has to be nothing left. Oh, such a peace when that time is reached. You could wait an eternity for the answer and it would be fine. After all, your Father is taking care of everything. Sometimes, the problem gets worse before it gets better. Jesus went to the cross and the disciples had to wait. There is the waiting time. It is the testing time for both sides of the situation. It is the seasoning time. It is a time of finding out what you are made of, how much you do not know, and how much resolve and faith to stand on the Word until whatever happens. You do not get the option to say how long something is going to take—unless the Holy Spirit informs you. God is working all things together for good on both sides of the situation. The people on both sides will be changed.

As a result, I still have the peace that came from two past problems. This peace has not left and has not wavered. The lessons I have learned from scripture and experience continue to stand me in good stead when I pray for others. I invite you to come to the end of your rope and find the sweet release of peace that awaits you in your valley. ☐

## MANY OPINIONS

- What makes you think you are right about what you believe?
- Can you write a list of the books of the Bible in their order? Can you spell them correctly?
- What is the major difference between the major denominations?
- What is your reason for being independent?
- What is your definition of “church?”
- What is your definition of “Christian?”

## POWER OF FORTY

- Study the account of the years the Israelites spent in wandering in the desert after their escape from Egypt. The power of God was demonstrated in several ways.
- Study the story of Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness. Jesus used scripture to powerfully and effectively rebuke Satan.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- God reigns
- Jesus is Lord



LeAnn Kennedy, President

# Mother's Day

by LeAnn Kennedy

My mom was the first person I ever knew; my dad was an extremely close second, but my mom was the first person I had intimate contact with when I first arrived on the planet. Nourishment and touch first came from my mother.

Created in the image of God, women who become mothers have the capability to give us glimpses into the multifaceted character of our God. What qualities do you cherish most about your mother? Undoubtedly, the ones that come to your mind are probably among those on my own list: my mom has a never ending reservoir of love, she is a comforter, a teacher, an encourager, and is compassionate and long-suffering. The longer I live and the more I get to know my God, I realize that He expresses himself in ways we really can experience, by allowing me to see in those around me a taste of what he is like.

Mothers have been given a sacred trust in bearing and raising children. Not only do they meet the physical needs of young ones created and knit together by God himself, but they are held accountable (along with their husbands) to train their children in the way of the Lord and to teach them to fear and love the Lord God above all else.

In Jewish history, the training of children in the way of the Lord was done IN THE HOME. I wonder how much IN HOME TEACHING and TRAINING of children occurs in the 21st century "Christian" home. Moms and dads have a tremendous responsibility.

Several Scriptures that are worth pondering are the following taken from the New Living Translation:

Proverbs 22:6 "Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it."

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 "So commit yourselves completely to these words of mine ... Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again..."

Proverbs 29:18 "To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child."

The response to mothers (and fathers) should be respect from their children.

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 'Honor your father and mother.' This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, you will live a long life, full of blessing."

Proverbs 1:8-9 "Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor."

Proverbs 23: 19-25 "My child, listen and be wise ... don't despise your mother's experience when she is old. Get the truth and don't ever sell it; also get wisdom, discipline and discernment ... What a pleasure it is to have wise children. So give your parents joy! May she who gave you birth be happy."

Let us be full of thanksgiving to our God and express deep love and appreciation to our mothers this Mother's Day. I am so blessed to be able to say that my mom has also given me a living portrait of the Proverbs 31 woman. She is a woman of noble character and is more precious than rubies. Her husband trusted her and she greatly enriched his life. She did not hinder him, but helped him all of his life ... She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. She watches for bargains ... She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy ... She has no fear of winter for her household because all of them have warm clothes ... She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs with no fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions. She carefully watches all that goes on in her household and does not have to bear the consequences of laziness ... and I stand and bless her. And my dad praised her. 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!'

As we give proper respect and honor to our mothers this May, let us remember the words of Jesus, the One to whom our parents are to lead us to, who in turn is our only way to the Father ...

"If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine." Matthew 10:37

As we love our mothers, let's love our God more; in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. □

## PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FOR PREACHERS AND OTHER MINISTERS

- Remember that the ministry should be a calling and never a career.
- You must be in the employ of Jesus.
- Manage time wisely.
- Work diligently.
- Be a giver.
- Stay clean.
- Be honest.

## PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FOR LAYMEN

- Develop your faith and do not expect someone else to do it for you.
- Study the scripture and do not depend totally on the pulpit.
- Learn to prioritize your plans.
- Be a willing worker.
- Be a giver.
- Stay clean.
- Be honest.

## **Some Current Challenges and Our Options**

*By Dr. Paul Collins*

There are newscasts carrying reports of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, tornadoes, terrorism, wars, rumors of more wars, political strife, hunger, murder, illegal drugs, bankruptcies, unemployment, bank failures, oil spills, vehicle recalls, over the counter medicine recalls, food recalls, health issues, and ponzi schemes. Had enough? I could give you more bad news, but I think you have a grasp of the truth concerning current challenges. What are our options? We can choose to live in the Kingdom of God first and in the kingdom of man second.

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is within us. He also promised that we will someday rule and reign with him in a visible kingdom.

If you want to know more about the Kingdom of God, contact me by e-mail. I will do my best to answer your questions, give some guidance, and agree with you in prayer.

### ACTS MINISTRY PRAYER CIRCLE

Contact Rev. O.K. Neal at [okneal49@gmail.com](mailto:okneal49@gmail.com) for prayer or to join ... or both.

## **On The Light Side**

*By Audrey West*

“Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies.” Proverbs 31:10 KJV

## **Who Can Find Her**

My aim in this article is to honor motherhood and in this way glorify Jesus Christ. Our Lord's final concern was the care of His mother. One of the most beautiful acts of love was His instruction, while hanging on the cross in agony, to “Behold thy mother.” (John 19:27) This assures us that Jesus had great respect and admiration for His Mother.

Motherhood is not merely a biological function; but also a sacred calling. It's through mothers that God chose to continue life through the natural process of procreation. Scriptures show the exalted place a godly woman has in the thoughts of God. Mothers are by God's design, created to do what only they can do. The mother passes the blessing of life unto her children. The truly special mother will be concerned for the physical as well as the spiritual welfare of her offspring, teaching and training them in the ways of the Lord. Mothers seem to want the very best, all things good, for their children. It could be that at the birthing the mother instinctively dedicates the child to God either consciously or unconsciously because God is Good. She leaves the child there in the hope that life's perils will not break that bond when it is called by God.

Being a mother is a very high and holy and crucial calling that many hold dear and have little understanding and encouragement from the world. There is a need in our culture today to understand the question, what is a good mother? We have managed to devalue motherhood. It has been verbally desecrated by filthy slang language. We have allowed T.V. sit-coms to define for us an acceptable structured family lifestyle. The feminist movement has convinced many women that they are trapped in an unrewarding domestic life should they choose to be a stay at home mom. A good mother is one who has heard Titus 2:4-5 not as oppression but as liberating. You have heard the calling and been obedient of your heart's longing to help reshape a God-centered culture.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, millions of mothers will be given a card, flowers, a special meal, pretty gifts and shown many other acts and expressions of love. Mothers, we are held accountable for being awarded such favors. When you give your children the gift of your love, and living your life by the principles found in the Bible, training them in family values and self-value, and teaching them right from wrong to the best of your ability, then they may rightly exclaim “**eureka**” – I have found her, a virtuous woman, the one I call **Mom!**

***Reminder: When praises go up,  
blessings come down.***