



Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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God's Word... His Gift to Us

Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

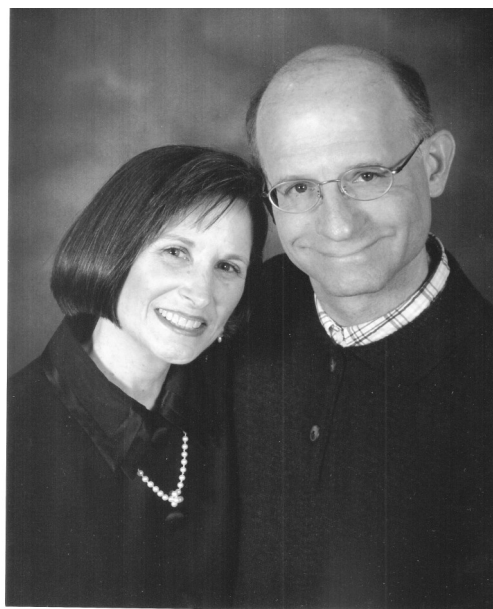
***May God richly
bless you!***

Tom & Debbie

This is Christmas 2017... travel... family... overspending... overeating, too many pounds gained, too many dollars spent in the vain attempt to find peace and joy in things attained, in stuff collected... then comes the letdown of January 2. The dieting begins... that is until it stops itself... the only thing left in life to hope for is the Superbowl, and even that, not so much anymore...

What is the most enduring memory for most of us... the Christmas tree with so many brightly wrapped packages... whether the gifts are large or small, expensive or not, useful or not, whether there is one or several for *me*... and as we get older, even if there are none for *me*, we become content to watch the younger ones enjoy what they've received, while we remember that they, the young ones, the older ones... Family... that is the best of gifts we've ever received.

We often forget that the very best gift anyone could ever receive is the gift of God... the Word of God. Oh, but you say, isn't Jesus Christ, Who came at Christmas, the very best gift of God? Long before Jesus Christ came in flesh as a baby in Bethlehem, He was with man. Jesus Christ ***is the Word of God***... and He has been active and powerful among us since He first spoke creation into existence. He is the Word made flesh Who dwelt among us, but Jesus Himself, in the flesh, is the gift we must wait to receive until we stand before Him one day soon. The best gift any of us can receive now is God's free gift of Eternal Life, His Salvation, the knowledge of which comes



*For a child will be born to us, a
son will be give to us; and the
government will rest on His
shoulders; and His name will
be called*

***WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR
MIGHTY GOD
ETERNAL FATHER
PRINCE OF PEACE
Isaiah 9:6***

only through the written or spoken Word of God.

God's Word should be precious to us because it is first and foremost precious to Him. Psalm 138, 'I will ... praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.'

God has given us the gift of His Word to lead and guide us, to protect and keep us from sin and from harm, to give us wisdom and understanding and to reveal Himself to us. In His Word He has told us all that He wants us to know about Himself and His Salvation, while we are here on earth.

Peter wrote in 1 Pet. 2, '**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow**'... (into maturity.) In Chap 6, the writer of Hebrews writes, '**Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to maturity.** In 2Pet 3 we read, '**consider that the patience of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand.**'

Paul, in 1Cor 3:2 is indicating that those who have gone on to maturity should be feeding on the 'meat of the Word.' He wrote, '**I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able.**' He was admonishing the Corinthians because they chose to remain in spiritual immaturity, not addressing and removing sin from within their church body.

The spiritually *immature* leave God's Word on the coffee table or they merely hopscotch around reading a verse here and there, believing they are knowing God's Word. The spiritually *mature* love God's Word... they read it, they meditate on it... they consume and digest it and most importantly, they *do what it says*. James wrote, '**But be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**' James 2:22

The best example of loving God's Word in all of Scripture is David's Psalm 119. He wrote...

11. Thy word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

18. Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Thy law.

105. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

114. You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in Your Word.

160. The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

162 I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure.

165. Great peace have those who love Your Law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

168. I keep Your Precepts and Your Testimonies, for all my ways are before You.

In studying and knowing God's Word, by obeying and doing God's Word, we can learn to 'Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we've been called.' Eph 4:1 What is our calling? The King James renders it as 'vocation.' What is our calling, our vocation? It is a holy calling as ambassadors of Christ, ambassadors of light in the kingdom of darkness. Our individual callings are the framework within which our common vocation is carried out. Some of us are plumbers, which means we are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ, disguised as plumbers. Some are doctors or teachers... ambassadors to the lost, in the kingdom of darkness, disguised as doctors or teachers. The same is true of housewives, retired persons, disabled ones, or any other child of God. We are called to the

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same calling and vocation... the framework, within which we work, is the only difference... but we can only be effective in that calling if we know and understand what it is and how to do it correctly.

If you received an iPhone as a gift, would you use it only to see what time it is, or would you study the instructions and learn to use it as the powerful, hand held computer that it is? If you received a Piper Cub airplane as a gift, would you be content to just taxi up and down the runway or would you want to study the manual and learn how to fly above the clouds, to use it to its fullest capacity? If you received a new house as a gift, would you then open the back door and just live in the mudroom, or would you want to explore all the rooms, to fill every place with your own stuff, to make it all your special place to live?

If you received some letters, 66 to be exact, from the God Almighty, the One Who knows everything, Who created and sustains everything, Who has promised to give you wisdom and understanding more than all your teachers and elders, wouldn't you think those letters were very special

and important? Wouldn't you want to read them over and over, studying to understand them fully? Well, wouldn't you? Or would you leave them scattered on the coffee table gathering dust? That wouldn't be very wise, now would it!

Psalm 119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your Testimonies are my meditation. 100. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your Precepts.

God's greatest gift to us is the Word of God, His Bible, given to us freely to study and understand. In it we can find Him and His great, Eternal Salvation. In it's pages we can learn and know how to effectively walk as children of God in this lost and dying world. Do you despise His wonderful free gift, or do you cherish it, studying and consuming it, allowing it to produce His fruit in your life? **Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15**

Wrap that in a bow if you can!

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We work hard in Hearts of Love first, as unto the Lord, but also for you. We care about you and we care about the lost. We are doing our best to minister the Gospel to as many as possible until He returns for us. Our goal, our mission, our prayer has always been, "Father, when we stand before You, let us have been faithful to have completely poured ourselves out for You, with nothing left." We hope and pray that is your prayer, also. Thank you and may God bless you richly now and forever more.

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The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38***

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