

# Hearts of Love

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

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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

## What're You Gonna Do?

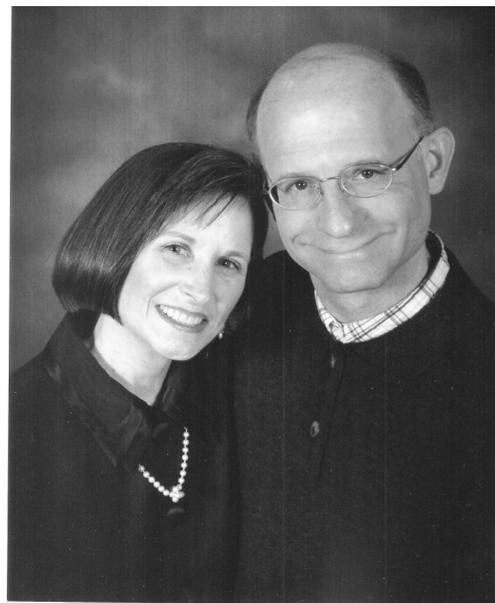
Way, way back when... Phil Everly wrote a song, some of the lyrics of which are:

I've been cheated  
Been mistreated  
When will I be loved?  
I've been put down  
I've been pushed 'round  
When will I be loved?  
I've been made blue  
I've been lied to  
When will I be loved?

Have you ever felt like that? We will often be mistreated, misunderstood, maligned and abused by others. Why is that, do you suppose? Is it because we are bad? Are 'they' bad?

Well... the first thing we must establish is: who is in control? Who is causing our mistreatment? Who can we blame? How can we fix it?

We all go through times and experiences that seem very unfair. But, perhaps we should first ask, 'Do I really want life to be fair?' Do you? The truth is, life is not fair; it never will be and, in fact, **God is not fair; He never has been.** Did you ever think about that? Usually, when the World talks about 'justice,' what they really mean is, 'fairness,' that life should be fair, that God should be fair. But God is not fair; would you really want Him to be fair; would you want justice from God? I wouldn't! I wouldn't want God to be fair with me... would you... really? If God operated on the basis of fairness... I would have died a long time ago and been sent straight to



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*He has committed to  
us the word of  
Reconciliation.  
Therefore, we are  
Ambassadors for Christ.*

*2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

hell and I think you'd admit the same, if you were being honest. So, the fact that I haven't been killed, and sent directly to hell, makes every day a gift and a blessing because He, in His *unfair grace*, has given me the opportunity to, every day and every hour, gain unimaginable eternal rewards to be received from His hand when I finally stand before Him.

How do we gain those fabulous, eternal rewards? We gain eternal rewards when we are faithful to trust Him and to 'rest' in Him when we are being mistreated.

In fact, this is exactly why He causes trials in my life... nonstop. He never lets up; He is always pushing and prodding and twisting me in order to more and more, day by day, form me and shape me into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. How I respond to every trial, He causes, determines whether or not that particular trial and response gains, for me, or loses eternal rewards. And that's another area where He is unfair because the trial itself is always far, far less of a burden than is the corresponding glorious richness of the eternal

reward I can gain by a right response.

If the trial is coming through people, the first question is: 'Is this something I deserve because of something I've done or is it something that really is unjust and undeserved?' If the trial is the 'valid' result of something I've done, then the best thing I can do is acknowledge that and repent. If, on the other hand, I am innocent, then my response is equally important. Peter wrote: 'For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.' 1 Pet 2:20 And: 'But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,

yet with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.<sup>17</sup> For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.' 1 Pet 3:14

There are few things more valuable than the honor of being persecuted because of Jesus Christ or for standing firm on His Word. Imagine if your child or grandchild is persecuted for declaring her love for you? Two things: one, how great would your response and reward be for her! And, how significant your response would be toward those persecuting her! Both of these things we should always keep in mind.

God is in control at all times, in all places and in all things; He is never not in complete Almighty control, and He is working all things according to His plan and purpose. And His number one plan and purpose in all of time and eternity is: the Glory of God. When we can finally come to understand this truth, then we can rest in Him, knowing that He is in 'this thing' we are going through and He is using it, and us, for His Glory; He will be glorified before all humans and before all angels. When we respond to trials with patience and endurance, God is glorified before all who see it; it is the evidence that God is at work within us both to will and to do for His good pleasure and He said: 'For I am God, and *there is* no other; I am God, and *there is* none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.' Isa 46:9

We are God's pleasure; we are the ones in whom He delights. Now, for a short time, we are being trained and disciplined; sometimes it seems hard and unfair but He is doing it all because He loves us and is preparing us for the unimaginable destiny He has prepared for us as we, very soon, rule and reign

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with the Lord Jesus Christ, at His side, as His Bride.

'My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons... Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.' Heb 12:6

Here is what we must remember and never forget: we are in the last days; we are now living in the last hours before the Lord Jesus Christ comes down, in the clouds, and calls us up to Himself in what is commonly called, the Rapture. Many, today, deny the truth of the Rapture, a doctrine clearly taught by Paul throughout his letters, and they are even willing to mock and persecute those who hold to the truth of all of Paul's doctrinal teachings for the Church. Persecution is building around the World in these last days, and it will only get worse, even here, in this country.

The World's hatred for true Christians is

growing stronger by the day; Jesus warned us that the World will hate us because it hates Him and all who trust in Him.

Beyond that, we are also warned in God's Word that there will be a terrible falling away from the truth, even within the Church, that even a great number within the Church would begin to hate the truth of God's Word which we can see clearly happening throughout the Church, even now. False teachers are leading many away from the truth and into the darkness of lies and deception.

Sadly, what we see happening throughout the Church, today, is that false teachers and illegitimate leaders care more for what the World thinks than what God thinks; they care more for the approval of the World than they do the approval of God.

We each have the responsibility, before God, to love Him, first, with all our hearts and then, secondly, to love and care for each other, within the Body of Christ, and finally, to love our enemies and neighbors in the World. As we began: as children of God, we will always undergo trials; some will be major and some will be minor but they will always be in our lives, and

they will always be from the hand of God. We can trust Him and gain eternal rewards or we can resist Him and suffer through with no benefit at all. The choice will always be ours to make but this we can always know: God loves us and everything He brings into our lives is intended for our good and our growth.

People may not always desire good for us, but God always will.

We are in the Last Days. Everything will continue to grow worse and worse, and darker and darker. Times of persecution and tribulation are coming. The only hope for anyone is to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the only way we can help anyone come to faith is if we know and understand the true Gospel and are able to explain it; learn it!

Go forth as Salt and Light of the World.

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