

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

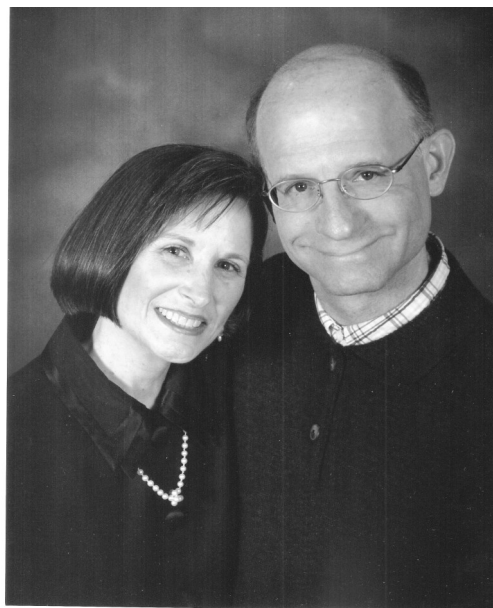
IMPORTANT REMINDER: **NOTHING CHANGES** **WHO GOD IS!**

It has been said that *Life is what happens when you're making other plans*. We have certainly all experienced enough in the year we just gladly left behind to agree to this fact! For some of us, life in 2020 brought tragedy or surprise, good or bad news, a forgotten promise fulfilled or our worst fears played out but for all of us, plans were upended with no promises in sight of returning to what we embraced as *normal*.

Life has always been, and always will be, full of the unexpected, presenting challenges that we would rather not have to deal with—some are truly excruciating while others are just inconvenient, irritating or mind-boggling. Whatever adjective seems to describe *life* as it comes to us, our one and only certainty is God who never changes. He alone is our solid foundation when the earth shakes beneath our feet, when the storm blasts our plans, when we are flooded with grief, when *life* happens.

Life happening is why we have remained on the radio for almost 29 years. In the midst of life is the need for both perspective and community (the body of Christ), and the weekly radio program purposes to address and meet those needs. From our own experiences, and sometimes those of our radio listeners, we are able to share God's Truth, His certainty, His hope throughout the happenings of life.

Tom has said it before, and it bears



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

repeating, “Nothing catches God by surprise!” He is all-knowing, and He knows the beginning from the end of every matter. What is hard for us, however, is understanding the *why’s* of life—how can this possibly be a part of God’s ‘good plans’ for me, for my family or for my country when I feel like this will destroy or hinder my/our life?

The fact is, we don’t get to choose our trials. Sometimes life is a result of the choices we have made but there are, oftentimes, when the path we are walking makes an abrupt turn that we couldn’t see or plan for on our map. The good news is, God is there—in, through and at the end of every turn.

2020 was a year of twists and turns (no need to regurgitate the life-altering happenings!) that has left many with a sense of foreboding despair, dread and looking for answers from science and governments. Sadly, this includes too many Christians who are not recognizing the signs of the times we live in...the end times! These are the times, during which, we are challenged to be bold and to be strong because the Lord, our God, is with us wherever God takes us.

God has not granted any of us immunity from life’s ailments or challenges but “His divine power has granted us, His children, everything we need pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” 2 Pet 1:3 In other words, He has provided EVERYTHING we need to confidently maneuver the uncharted waters of 2021 as we seek Him—His perspective, His will, His strength—in the midst of life in our unstable world.

In Psalms 59:10, David wrote, “*My God in His lovingkindness will meet me.*” He was surrounded with trouble and needed not only God’s protection but also His perspective. It is, understandably, very easy to focus on our pain and/or trouble, at which point, our perspective can cloud with depression, despair and despondency.

Again, using David as our role model, he cried out to God in verse 4, “*Arouse Thyself to help me, and see!*” He chose to refocus his attention and returned to God in prayer which immediately transformed his

perspective as we saw in verse 10. Unforeseen turns are very often challenges that can translate into opportunities to trust that God has His purposes and our welfare in the forefront of His plan. Challenges also present the opportunity to enlarge our testimony regarding God’s faithfulness, and THAT brings Him glory.

David finishes Psalms 59 with his expanded testimony of God’s faithfulness which, by the way, he declared based on Who he had come to know God is (no matter what!) BEFORE he ever saw his current situation resolved: “But as for me, I shall sing of Thy strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Thy lovingkindness in the morning for Thou hast been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to Thee; for God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.” vs 16,17.

We are very aware that there are many whose trials are very critical and on-going. We want to encourage you to join us in thanking the Lord for His faithful lovingkindness throughout this past year and to freshly entrust our lives to Him through this new year. We are instructed to “rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1Thess 5:16-18. We admit, this isn’t always easy to do in the throws of life and may not sound like very compassionate advice. However, studies show that attitude (especially our spiritual attitude) plays a huge role in our meeting the challenges of life. We can trust His sovereignty because He loves us with His everlasting love that nurtures us, refines us, sustains us and, ultimately, presents us faultless before His throne of grace.

The following are some reasons we are thankful and choose, therefore, to thank the Lord that He will faithfully meet us in 2021 and

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beyond.

GOD'S PRESENCE: "I have called you by name; you are Mine" When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." Isa 43:1-3

GOD'S POWER: "How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God; Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow but He thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever." Psm 146:5-10

GOD'S PROVISION: "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." Eph 1:4-6

GOD'S PROTECTION: "He who dwells

in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways." Psm 91:1,2,11

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Josh 1:9

Not a single moment in time has ever changed who God is and always will be, and this should cause us both to tremble and humble ourselves before Him in complete adoration and dependency.

A new year and a vaccine will not cure the heart and needs of anyone. Only the love of God poured out through the life, death and resurrection of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, can bring the true joy, hope, peace and love that every individual is desperate to have! Proclaim & show God's love in the new year with His boldness, with grace and in His Spirit.

Nothing can thwart God's plans for us.

NOTHING CHANGES

WHO GOD IS!

Want more of Tom's teaching?

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning from 10:30—11:30 PST via Zoom. Send us an email with 'Zoom teaching' in the subject line, and we will email you the Zoom link and Tom's weekly teaching notes. You would be part of a group called the Bereans who are a wonderful bunch of people at Grace-Pointe Church in Milwaukie, Oregon. All are welcome!

About Our Website:

We are moving along and are getting close to going live! We appreciate your prayers and financial support, and we believe this will increase our sphere of influence to *touch the world for Jesus Christ!*

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

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