



I Sure Could Use A Little Good News Today

Compiled by God and Recorded by the Phoenix
"The Lion King"

www.phoenixseven.org

R L passed away this morning.

"I Sure Could Use A Little Good New Today".

It is now 5:44 pm, the 13th day of August, in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2006. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

A Little Good News

I rolled out this morning
Kids had the mornin' news show on
Bryant Gumbel was talkin' 'bout the fighting in Lebanon
Some senator was squawkin' 'bout the bad economy
It's gonna get worse you see, we need a change in policy

There's a local paper rolled up in a rubber band
One more sad story's one more than I can stand

Just once how I'd like to see the headline say
"Not much to print today, can't find nothin' bad to say", because

Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody OD'ed, nobody burned a single buildin' down
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today

I'll come home this evenin'
I'll bet that the news will be the same
Somebody takes a hostage, somebody steals a plane
How I wanna hear the anchor man talk about a county fair
And how we cleaned up the air, how everybody learned to care
Whoa, tell me

Nobody was assassinated in the whole Third World today
And in the streets of Ireland, all the children had to do was play
And everybody loves everybody in the good old USA
We sure could use a little good news today

Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody OD'ed, nobody burned a single buildin' down

Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today

"We Could Sure Use A Little Good News Today".

It is now 4:20 am, the fourth watch, the 14th day of August, in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2006. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

R L was an elderly gentlemen that I became acquainted with a little over two or three years ago. We had met and become quite acquainted through a series of fishing trips. RL loved to fish. It was one of his passions of life.

Ever since his death yesterday, off and on I have had the chance to sit back and reflect upon those hours spent with RL. On the banks of the nearby lake, or as we cast our hooks in the shaded soft current of the stream. And how our reflections seemed to dance upon the water.

All reflecting, perhaps on some of the conversations we had. Like, does it really make a difference if you spit on your hook first, and how you may get a bite; if you cross your fingers, hold real still, and hold your mouth just right.

Some of the conversations we had. And yes, even on some of the deeper things in life, like true “Matter’s of the Heart”, On God, And On Jesus Christ.

You know dear reader, that really “Good News” of the Full Gospel, of God the Son of His great sacrifice; and “The Way, The Truth, And the Life”.

R L passed away yesterday morning.

He never did accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

You see it was what He didn’t want to give up, that kept him from taking that step. Perhaps dear reader it may be easier to understand this way; RL had seen the need for a savior in his life, but had real problem with “Lord”, giving “his life” with out condition or reservation to Jesus Christ. Giving up the World. Oh he may have referred to Jesus Christ as “The Lord” in manner of conversation, a time or two, but stopped short of giving himself fully, as the “Full True Gospel” says that we must do.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? - The “Full Gospel” According to Matthew 16:24-26

What shall a man give in exchange for his own soul? The World?

What would you give dear reader? Give in exchange for your own soul? Your life? Just what would you give?

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. - The "Full Gospel" According to Matthew 16:25

How often I set upon my watch, looking out over the world, and yes YOU dear reader, and wonder just what you are giving in exchange? For your life. For your soul....

The last time I spoke to RL was several weeks ago, he was in the hospital due to failing health, and when I visited him I asked him to consider once more giving his life fully to Christ. He told me he was too worried about other things in his life right then to think about it. He had other things on his mind.

R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle of physical life.

And I lost too. Yes, I lost someone to fish with every now and then, but more vastly important, I lost a soul to the "Dark One", to Satan, and trust dear reader... "I Hate To Lose".

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your "Loss". And this "loss" is never gain for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Nor for Jesus Christ.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. - The "Full Gospel" According to Matthew 16:25

Ah the above verse... where "loss" is true gain. Less is abundantly more.

"Whosoever Will Lose His Life For My Sake Shall Find It".

R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle of eternal life.

And I lost too. Yes, I lost someone to fish with every now and then, but more vastly important, I lost a soul to the “Dark One”, to Satan, and trust dear reader.... **“I Hate To Lose”**.

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your “Loss”.

Now to those in the Church, listen carefully now to what I am saying. Reflecting back on those moments spent with RL, he would have possibly accepted Jesus Christ by complacent “lukewarm” church standards, if I would have given him these verses:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - The Gospel According to John 3:14-16

And most of you are familiar with John 3:16. And what a beautiful truth it is. But the truth doesn't stop there. Not just at those verses. “The Truth doesn't stop there”.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. - The Gospel According to Matthew 10:38

And he said to *them* all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? - The Gospel According to Luke 9:23-25

Much Much more... than just John 3:16.

As is this verse:

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. - James 4:4-10

Much Much more... than just John 3:16.

R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle of eternal life.

Hear me Church, hear what I am saying. I could have got RL to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior, when I spoke to him, by using John 3:16. And he along with perhaps millions or billions of other, would have felt secure.

“Felt Secure”.

But I didn't use just John 3:16. And yes, RL lost the battle of physical life and eternal life yesterday. And yes, I lost as well. And **“I Hate To Lose”**.

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your “Loss”.

Are you “hearing” what I am saying Church, and about the message a great number of you are sending?

“And most of you are familiar with John 3:16. And what a beautiful truth it is. But the truth doesn’t stop there. Not just at those verses. “The Truth doesn’t stop there”.”

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

I would like to pause for just a moment and acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ, and His input of the above line to the text this morning. Glory to Him and God the Father, “For God sure doesn’t miss a lick”. (And as to the above text, trust it was just one more of the “God Things” that just happen here at Phoenix Seven”)

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. - Hebrews 5:8-14

Yes, I could have used just John 3:16, when I spoke to RL. But that would have done a great “injustice” to him. And would have been “A Reflection” on me.

Are you “hearing” what I am saying Church, and about the message a great number of you are sending?

Yes, you will have losses. Just as I lost. But you will not end up with “A Great Mystery of an Empty Net”. (If You have not done so, read “Mystery of the Empty Net” located in archive three of our site).

Yes, I could have used just John 3:16, when I spoke to RL. But that would have done a great “injustice” to him. And would have been “A Reflection” on me. And trust that is one “Reflection” that I myself will not allow. As one held accountable, just as you are. Just as YOU ARE.

“R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle of physical life.

And I lost too. Yes, I lost someone to fish with every now and then, but more vastly important, I lost a soul to the “Dark One”, to Satan, and trust dear reader.... “I Hate To Lose”.

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your “Loss”. And this “loss” is never gain for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Nor for Jesus Christ.”

“R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle for eternal life.”

Now just briefly, as The Lord so directs, as to “He Became the Author of Eternal Salvation To All That Obey Him”, and once more to a great mystery, “The Mystery of An Empty Net”.

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; - Hebrews 5:9

There are perhaps a great number within the fallen Church, would argue that RL could have accepted Christ, the moment before he died, not unlike I suppose as some of you might say, the thief upon the cross.

But there is a vast difference here, then one that rejects obedience to the full Gospel, of separation from the World and pleasures of this

life, of bearing one's cross; vs the Thief, embracing the Lord. Reflect upon it. There is a difference. Know it.

Many in the fallen Church today would tell you it is never to late to accept Jesus Christ. Would that be truth or a lie?

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it . In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again. - Amos 8:11-14

Know the Word. The Relationship of The Logos. Which is Jesus Christ. And The Word made Flesh.

And what of conviction? The "Pricks" of the Spirit to your hearts. For there is no salvation apart from conviction. None.

Many in the fallen Church today would tell you it is never to late to accept Jesus Christ. Would that be truth or a lie?

"You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today".

*RL lost the battle of physical life and eternal life yesterday. And yes, I lost as well. And **"I Hate To Lose"**. I lost a soul to the "Dark One", to Satan, and*

"I Hate To Lose".

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your "Loss".

Are you "hearing" what I am saying Church, and about the message a great number of you are sending?

Many in the fallen Church today would tell you it is never to late to accept Jesus Christ. I myself would tell you one cannot begin to early in life, to embrace the Gospel, and “The Way, The Truth, And The Life”.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. - The Gospel According to John 14:6

RL passed away yesterday. He thought he could make a decision “later”.

Many in the fallen Church today would tell you it is never to late to accept Jesus Christ. Are you “hearing” what I am saying Church, and about the message a great number of you are sending?

Ray Boltz, who a number of you are quite familiar with sang a line of his song “The Altar” that went something like this:

“Go Quickly Now Before They Close The Door”.

Such is conviction by God, The Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I myself would tell you one cannot begin to early in life, to embrace the Gospel, and “The Way, The Truth, And The Life”.”

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. - The Gospel According to Matthew 10:38

And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? - The Gospel According to Luke 9:23-25

This all brings to remembrance of a sad joke I heard once while I was in the Baptist ranks.

It went something like this:

A certain man, was caught in a flood.

And while sitting upon his housetop. A boat came by to rescue him. And he declined to go with the people in the boat, for he stated the Lord was going to save him. So the boat went along it's way, and the man still sat there upon his roof.

The water kept rising and rising.

Along came a helicopter. And the man declined to be rescued, saying "The Lord Promised He is Going To Save Me".

Well to make the story short, the water crested over the roof top and the man drowned.

Upon appearing before the judgment seat of Christ, the man asked the Lord, why didn't you save me?

The Lord replied, I sent both the boat and the helicopter. What more did you want?

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. - The Gospel According to Matthew 7:23-27

Think of this message and all the writings of Phoenix Seven, as that boat. As that boat.

"I myself would tell you one cannot begin to early in life, to embrace the Gospel, and "The Way, The Truth, And The Life"."

Like right now, this very instant. This very moment dear reader.

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The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies. - Nahum 1:5-8

"You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today".

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. - James 4:4-10

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me,

ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: - The Gospel According to Matthew 7:21-28

Much Much more than just John 3:16. And the “Once Saved Always Saved”. Remember the man on the rooftop.

The Lord replied, I sent both the boat and the helicopter. What more did you want?

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; - Hebrews 5:9

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. - The Gospel According to Matthew 10:38

And he said to *them* all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

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For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? - The Gospel According to Luke 9:23-25

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. - The “Full Gospel” According to Matthew 16:25

Now in closing...

“R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle of physical life.

And I lost too. Yes, I lost someone to fish with every now and then, but more vastly important, I lost a soul to the “Dark One”, to Satan, and trust dear reader.... “I Hate To Lose”.

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your “Loss”. And this “loss” is never gain for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Nor for Jesus Christ.”

“R L passed away yesterday morning. He lost the battle for eternal life.”

Don't you lose too, dear reader. Don't you lose too.

Did I ever tell you “**I Hate To Lose**”?

And I lost too. Yes, I lost someone to fish with every now and then, but more vastly important, I lost a soul to the “Dark One”, to Satan, and trust dear reader.... “I Hate To Lose”.

For when I lose, it really is dear reader you that are losing... it is your “Loss”. And this “loss” is never gain for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Nor for Jesus Christ.”

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

“Now You Know The Rest of The Story”.

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

Amen.

This all brings to remembrance of a sad joke I heard once while I was in the Baptist ranks.

It went something like this:

A certain man, was caught in a flood.

And while sitting upon his housetop. A boat came by to rescue him. And he declined to go with the people in the boat, for he stated the Lord was going to save him. So the boat went along it's way, and the man still sat there upon his roof.

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Like right now, this very instant. This very moment dear reader.

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By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. - Hebrews 11:7

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. - The Gospel According to Luke 17:26

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, - Romans 4:16

Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not requite man according to his work? - - Proverbs 24:10-12 RSV

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. - Acts 3:19-21

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. - James 5:19-20

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns

a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. - James 5:19-20 (NIV)

Save a Soul From Death. Save You from A Physical Death. Both.

For our God *is* a consuming fire. - Hebrews 12:29

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

R L was an elderly gentlemen that I became acquainted with a little over two or three years ago. We had met and become quite acquainted through a series of fishing trips. RL loved to fish. It was one of his passions of life.

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All reflecting, perhaps on some of the conversations we had. Like, does it really make a difference if you spit on your hook first, and how you may get a bite; if you cross your fingers, hold real still, and hold your mouth just right.

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Ever since his death yesterday, off and on I have had the chance to sit back and reflect upon those hours spent with RL. On the banks of the nearby lake, or as we cast our hooks in the shaded soft current of the stream. And how our reflections seemed to dance upon the water.

Such where just many mirrored reflections.

To go deep beloved reader, you must dip below the surface.

The Logos.

You have to go deep.

“You Have To Go Deep”.

It is now 3:47 am, the fourth watch, the 15th day of August, in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2006. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

“Deeper Reflections”

“You Could Sure Use, A Little Good News Today”.

(This message will be continued in “Deeper Reflections” located in archive three of our web site)