THOUGHTS OF FEBRUARY, 2011

1. I am still being blessed by a Thought from last month: The basis for every Jewish festival is, “They tried to kill us; we won; let’s eat.” Yes, the Jews have a feast-ival for every victory, it seems. The enemy planned to annihilate them, God intervened, they did what they could and sometimes what they should, and they were delivered out of the snare of their and God’s enemy.
2. As I occasionally say, “if you are like me [and you are]” -- here are a few little verses that the Holy Spirit uses to scrub on your soul as often as needed. I’ll type them from my mom’s Amplified Bible.

 “These six things the Lord hates; indeed, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look [the spirit that makes one overestimate himself and underestimate others], a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that manufactures wicked thoughts and plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies [even under oath], and he who sows discord among his brethren.”

 Enjoy the bath. It’s Proverbs 6:16-19.

1. Another delightful set of verses is found in Psalm 105:16-24. Those verses show the Lord’s hands upon His people, Israel, especially Joseph. That whole Psalm emphasizes the Lord’s total authority and majestic design on lives and conditions of empires, tribes and persons. It seems to me that we should relax into His hands, trusting and obeying Him as He works out our lives. It is our part to do just that. He is the Majesty.
2. Psalms 51-55 are called the Messianic Psalms. If you have read them, you know why. They speak of [Jesus] the Messiah and are quoted as such in the New Testament by those writers, with the inspiration and certification of the Holy Spirit. The Psalms are quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament book. That constitutes part of the irrefutable testimony to the divine inspiration of Scripture.
3. The traditional [and probably correct] understanding of Ezekiel 39 and 40 leave us with some apparent inconsistencies and contradictions. With the increasing tensions between Israel and Iran [et. al.], it is reasonable that those 2 chapters continue in conversations and writings. Here are some questions that challenge our non-traditional understandings:
4. Walls are being built around Israel and its divisions. It can hardly be called “without walls.”
5. Israel is hardly “dwelling in safety” with missiles falling daily and suicide murderers blowing up citizens.
6. The list of nations that come against Israel does not include those which border Israel, those currently giving Israel its grief. Where are the Palestinians, the Lebanese, the Syrians, the Iraqis, the Jordanians, and the Egyptians?
7. We know that God is love because He wrote us a note saying so. Also, He is patience, as shown by His patience with Nineveh, the pagan world’s capital. We all remember that He sent Jonah there with a message that produced city/region-wide repentance. We don’t know how long the effect of that message lasted, but 100 years later they needed a repentance refresher message. This time a man named Nahum was sent, but this time they did not repent. Judgment followed.

 Ask the Lord for help if you have difficulty applying that history lesson to yourself, to some extent.

1. There is nothing quite as painful and incongruent as being responsible for something but not in charge – not having the power and authority to accomplish that for which you are responsible. Yet, is that not the position in which the Lord Jesus found Himself during His stay here? The power and authority in His life was exercised by His Father and the Holy Spirit. His earthly type of power, that which we usually like to work for our benefit, He continually laid aside. He could have used it, but its source was from the enemy and its results would have been spiritual death. His power resided in His ability to lay down His life and to take it up again. He did.
2. How about some pointers for you guys on that which the girls would call “love language:” 1) affirmation, 2) quality time, 3) gifts, 4) service, and 5) physical touch. Nope; these points have not arrived on your computer too late.
3. Now for some temporal sobriety. The acknowledged debt of the U. S. government, for which the American people and their property are the sole collateral, has reached $14 **t**rillion. With at least an additional $50 **t**rillion more in non-funded liabilities including Social Security, Medicare, and public employee pensions, the debt is $640,000. per American family. Even if the U. S. economy revived spectacularly – unlikely in this political climate – it would take two generations of saving and self-denial by American families to pay this debt.

 Confiscating the assets of wealthy Americans is not the answer to our national debt problem. The result of such an action would be the destruction of the remaining capital – that which is keeping our crippled nation alive.

 The course our politicians have long followed to solve our financial problem may be called “creative destruction.” One of those solutions is to rev-up the printing presses, print more money, and buy $**b**illions of its own debt. To see the effect of that “solution,” watch the price of gold. It is the only real money and its value is always stable, but the values of different countries’ currencies go up or down according to gold. If gold is worth $300. an ounce one year and a few years later it is worth $1,000. an ounce, it is not gold that has gone up in price, but that country’s money that has gone down in value in relation to gold. That’s “creative destruction” of the value of a nation’s money.

 Such a scenario is deceptive. The politicians, who used our money to do things government should not have done, plus used it to buy votes, resort to that sort of deception to “get us out of our financial troubles.” But, when our money is worth less in relation to gold, and we buy something from another country whose money is worth more in relation to gold than is our money, we have to pay more of our money for their products. Their prices did not go up – the value of our money went down.

 While thinking about and dealing with the world and its systems, keep looking up.

1. More: Will American physicians quit practice in the wake of Obamacare? Yes; but the real question is: How many will quit? England had 44,000 physicians in 1948 before instituting socialized medicine, but by 1971 it had only 23,000 doctors. England now has about 60,000. That is just another painful process that, in some way we, too, must go through.

 While thinking about and dealing with the world and its systems, don’t be surprised. What do you expect from the world?

1. And more: As our government continues to tell the doctors and patients how medicine is to be practiced, and to blame the doctors when its instructions do not work as they were thought to have worked, take a look at these stats. The government publishes instructions on how to diagnosis and treat all sorts of conditions – one instruction treats all with a particular problem profile. This is the stat: in one year, 15% of 100 instructions were reversed; in 2 years, 23% were reversed; and by 5 years, 50% were reversed. When you consider that no two patients are alike in body, mind, or life situation, and that available diagnostics and medications and techniques are forever evolving – remember that the soon result is an apparent dumbing down and scarcity of medical personnel, less new and available diagnostics and medications, and a general degradation of medical care – except for the selected ones [the elite and those determined to be more essential to the system]. The weaker and those with less political clout suffer loss.

 Remember that while all of this is going on, and we are dealing with it as we should, that life for the faithful saint only gets better, no matter the conditions of temporal life and body.

1. I don’t know about this very important bit of information in your other nations, but here in America remember that potting mix and potting soil are different things. Here we use potting mix in flower/veggie pots because the mix is 100% of what is needed in the pot. It has everything needed to keep itself aerated, etc. Potting soil is used in pots or flower/veggie beds on the ground but it must be mixed with soil, etc. to be a whole soil. If you use potting soil alone in your pots, it will harden and give you poor results.

 So, in the church it is not enough to have people of all types, having all personalities and ministries and social classes. We must also have those situations that keep us tilled, stirred up, and aerated. The two most effective life-ingredients used by the Lord are, 1) persecution from without, and 2) tares from within. Those will keep life within the body fertile [or composted, from dying to self] and aerated [by the Holy Spirit’s all-permeating presence].

 But, outside the church, when the church and the world interface, it is our responsibility to mix well with our society. The church in the world is like leaven in a lump of dough put into some dough that has no leaven – it leavens the whole new loaf. If we do not get out there and mix with the world, we will become set and hardened, and will have no life within us – even though we had it in the beginning. We will be bad news instead of Good News.

1. Part of the strain put on the American financial system over the past couple of years has been that some businesses were deemed “too big to (allow to) fail.” That meant that if a large enough corporation failed, the effect on individuals, companies, and the nation would be disastrous. So, you know the story. The federal government bailed out banks and companies with hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars.

 I will not get over my head by going into that which could be said about those failures, that move, and the results. Let me say that some businesses are “too big to succeed.” Some are so large that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. There are many businesses, plus the federal government, of course, that are too big to be run from the center [one corporate head]. Our market system requires a large number of small or intermediate-size organizations – not large super organizations. The small or intermediate sized ones can do virtually any transaction, but do not create systemic risk.

 If you want an outstanding example of that which I’m saying, look at Medicare. There is a clear recognition that Medicare is our problem, and that size is its problem.

1. This is information-gathering. The Lord is de-secularizing the church in and around Corpus Christi. Also, the enemy’s manipulation of the church is being corrected. At the same time, there is a better walking out of our talking out. That seems to have something to do with being given more authority and responsibility, which comes from a better perspective on the kingdom. All of the above comes with a measure of correction, rebuke, and pain, which contributes to maturity. Have you noticed Him doing that elsewhere? Thanks.

 A reader’s subsequent report from A. H. in Scotland: “Over here the secularized or established church is dying a slow, public and painful death. It is being ridiculed by the unbeliever with good cause. It is anaemic and impotent. Outside that there is the church of true believers who are growing steadily and are being prepared (some more, some less) for the coming fight.” Thanks, A. K.

1. We can exercise our authority, and serve at the same time.
2. One truth does not eradicate another truth that appears to be the opposite. Compare: The Trinity is one person and 3 people; God’s chosen ones exercised free will in order to become His. We have old ways which the Truth will change. He is putting us in places and situations so He/we can introduce changes without eradicating the old.
3. In efforts to be faithful, God’s people expose themselves to a fault. We become doggedly faithful, determined to believe that the Lord will be faithful to us in our course of action. That’s wonderful when we are on course; otherwise we are in trouble – in that fault. The Pharisees were like that with John the Baptist and Jesus. Israel was like that with Jeremiah and others. There must be a humble faithfulness that is genuinely open to correction of our course because the Lord will always warn us of our waywardness. If we “watch lest we fall,” we will do well. The pain of correction when we go astray, especially in our strong points, will develop us.
4. Our wives are our equals, so we are to walk side by side.
5. Our wives are not our equals, so they are to walk under our arms. Yes, you guys can see that that means we are to embrace and protect them, laying our lives down for them [not simply “doing what they want.”].
6. The way the Lord is doing things here in Corpus Christi in His spiritual outpouring, it would not surprise me if the main presentation of revival in the public sector were not “righteousness,” which pleases the Lord so much that He exalts nations [Prov. 14:34] and individuals over their peers according to our righteousness. That would be a christianization of the public arena, sometimes called developing the world around the church into “Christendom” – behaving as Christians and even agreeing to be labeled a part of a Christian nation. Alive Christians can see the inherent danger of that behavior and agreement, but it is their/our responsibility to keep a clear and distinct presentation of “what it means to be a Christian” before the masses of Christendom.

 The other major area of revival should be within the church, which we see in progress. That shows as a de-secularization of the church, clearing of deception, walls coming down, a walking out of our talk, widening of minds, an acceptance of new things, common strategy for action, acceptance of spiritual responsibility and authority, a clearer perspective on the kingdom, acceptance of correction [which develops maturity and leads to power], insight into that which the Lord is doing, an ability to follow the Lord [including into places where we have not been before], and an increased capacity for “more” of Him.

1. If you already know this, you automatically get elevated into the category of “those who know everything.” “Gung-Ho” is Chinese for “work together.” That’s where the U. S. Marines got the term. It has spread into common usage, generally meaning someone who is enthusiastic, or it is used as a shout of encouragement to “become spirited.”
2. Evolutionists believe that the earth is about 4.7 billion years old. A lot of speculation and a little, if any, science supports that idea. Real science demonstrates the accuracy of the biblical position of a) a creation week about 6,000 years ago and b) a global year-long flood about 4,500 years ago. Some of that real science is called geochronometers, or earth-clocks, which all point to a young earth in the neighborhood of the biblical record. There are over 100 geochronometers, all of which may be studied at [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org). Here are a few of them:
3. Erosion causes over 20 billion tons of sediment per year to flow into streams, rivers, and eventually into oceans. [The Mississippi River delivers 80,000 tons of sediment per hour into the Gulf of Mexico.] Yet, the global average depth of mud is only about a quarter mile deep on the oceans’ bottom, most of which could have come from Noah’s flood as water drained off of land masses -- erosion, being a one-way process. If Earth were billions of years old, the land would have already been eroded to sea level.
4. The ocean is not salty enough to be billions of years old. Salt is being dissolved and deposited into the ocean at a known rate, and it matches the biblical time frame.
5. Sharp, angular mountain peaks would have been worn smooth in millions of years of high winds. They must not be that old.
6. The moon is drifting away from Earth about 2 inches each year [haven’t you noticed?]. If that had been happening for 4.7 billion years, the moon would have started out 148,358 miles closer to Earth. That would have caused catastrophic flooding twice a day, due to the moon’s gravitational pull. However, if the world-moon system is 6,000 years old, then the moon started out only 0.2 miles closer to Earth than it is now.

 As far as I am concerned, no one or several of the geochronometers are solid proof of the biblical account of creation, but when we look at over 100 of them they produce a heavy body of scientific evidence. Evolutionists reject any evidence that indicates a creation, which is a very unscientific stance for them to assume.

 I don’t understand enough about most of the geochronometers. They deal with desert sprawl, shrinking sun, genetic entropy, stalactites, cave formation, few Stone Age skeletons, short period comets, star formation, magnetic field decay, lack of atmospheric helium equilibrium, etc. That’s another reason for me to believe the biblical account. It takes too much “faith” to believe contra-biblical science.

 Anyway, death entered the world after Adam sinned, not before, and certainly not billions of years before. See Romans 5.