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**THOUGHTS FROM JEREMY**

**My family loves steak. Two of my kids can eat a 10 oz. steak each. With the price of this meat, it is a luxury in our house that we do not get very often. A few weeks ago, I decided to treat the family and grill some steaks. I also bought a two-dollar pack of hotdogs for the one child who does not eat steak. I left the finished steaks resting on the counter while I took side dishes out to the picnic table. Brittani also left the room. When she came back, there was an empty plate. She assumed I took them out already. Rather, our golden retriever ate three pounds of expensive steak in a matter of seconds. So instead of steak, we all ate a pack of hotdogs. Let’s just say, I got a little hangry that evening!**

**When we have something of great value, it can be taken if left unprotected. God has given us a valuable gift in our sexuality. He intends this gift to be used in the confines of marriage. Like a steak left unattended, there are many temptations in the world that threaten our sexual purity such as, pre-marital sex, fornication, pornography, lust, etc.**

**Let’s talk about some steps we can take to protect our sexual purity. First, whether we are married or not, we must place the same value on sexual purity God does. Ephesians 5:3 says, *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.”* Sexual sins are listed in every list in the Bible that, if continued in, will keep us from the Kingdom of God.**

**Second, we must set boundaries to keep us from temptation. Married men and women need to set boundaries on what we watch, how we use our computers, our interactions, and relationships outside of the marriage, while continuing to value and work on our sexual relationship with our spouse. Single individuals must have similar boundaries on what they watch, and computer use, while also setting boundaries in their relationships. We see a great example of setting boundaries in Job 31:1, *“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.”***

**Finally, we must guard our hearts. Proverbs 4:23 tells us, *“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”* Jesus says that sexual sin begins in the heart before the action even takes place. In Matthew 5:28, *“but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* We must guard our hearts when it comes to sexual sin.**

**Let us all be diligent in guarding ourselves from sexual sin. If you have committed a sexual sin, we know that, if repented of, Jesus’ blood is faithful to forgive us of all sin. We must turn from sin and strive for God’s standard with our sexual purity.**

**Blessings,**

**Jeremy**

**Elder’s Corner**

This is My Father’s World

**Occasionally we sing the hymn, “This is My Father’s World.” This hymn reminds us that our world is God’s handiwork and that there are signs of Him everywhere around us. Built into God’s creation of our world is the understanding that our world was created with a purpose and that its existence is an integral part of God’s plan.**

**The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:1 that, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* In other places in the Bible we are reassured that God maintains control over our world. Psalm 95:4 describes God’s ownership of our world when it says, *“In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.”***

**Much of the discussion we hear today, concerning our world and the health of our world, draws conclusions as to its certain end due to our neglect. Most of the time, these discussions totally exclude God and His will for our world and His purpose behind our world’s existence. They also exclude any mention of God’s absolute ability to sustain our world, since He created it. At times, this disregard is shocking to hear, but understandable since science usually seeks to distance itself from religion.**

**So, what should a Christian’s position be regarding the care of our world? Our world, like all of our blessings, is a gift from God. Therefore, in short, we are to be thankful for it and be good stewards of it. Along with this, if we slow down long enough, we can be amazed by the great beauty of God’s creation and the intricacies of the many physical processes that operate in concert around us every day.**

**Science and the Bible agree that our world will end one day. Matthew 24:36 tells us, *“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”* The Bible also tells us that we should use that knowledge as a reminder to prepare for the end of our life here on earth because after that time, or the time of our death, there will be no more time for preparation. The unexpectedness of the end of our world is further described in 2 Peter 3:10 where it says, *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”***

**Your brother in Christ,**

**Richard Jay**

***From a Woman’s Point of View***

**PAID IN FULL**

**A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper and handed her a piece of paper. After she dried her hands she read:**

Cutting the grass: $5.00

Cleaning up my room this week: $1.00

Going to the store for you: $.50

Babysitting my kid brother while you went shopping: $.25

Taking out the garbage: $1.00

Getting a good report card: $5.00

Cleaning up and raking the yard: $2.00

Total owed: $14.75

His mother looked at him, and the boy could see memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper, and wrote:

For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me: No Charge.

For all the nights that I’ve sat up with you, doctored, and prayed for: No Charge.

For all the trying times and all the tears you’ve caused through the years; No Charge.

For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No Charge.

For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: No Charge.

Son, when you add it up, the cost of my love is: No Charge.

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at her and said, “Mom, I sure do love you.” Then he took the pen and in great big letters wrote: “PAID IN FULL.’

-Author Unknown

*“I can do all thing through Christ.”*

 Philippians 4:13

Copied from House to House Heart to Heart

Volume 17 Number 3

TEEN NEWS

We have almost made it through 2020! It has been a wild and crazy ride. We have experienced ups and downs, but I do believe that we are coming out stronger! We just had our first family outreach (Trunk or Treat) event since the pandemic started. We planned to have about 40 children come to this event. WOW, were we blown away! We ran out of candy in the first 20 minutes of the event and had to run get more! Everyone I’ve talked to thinks we had between 300-400 people (children and adults) come through our Trunk or Treat event. It definitely gave me a boost of energy! I cannot wait to see what the rest of this year has to offer us here at University.

**Your Partner in Ministry,**

**Paul**