



Chronicles of Diversity

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The Order of Wilderness Stuff Trekking International, Lament for this time

There is another problem with writing weekly columns that I was unaware two weeks ago, when I finished our last installment. Sometimes they can be so inspiring that it takes more than a week to get your inspiration in control, to begin another message.

Our last chapter took the form of what I have been taught to call a GYST letter, Get Your Stuff Together, Nasty Letter to Follow. I was amazed when I wrote GYST that this word processor didn't highlight this word as misspelled, so I looked it up and got the above definition in the Acronym Finder. Of course, I didn't learn the S standing for Stuff, but Stuff just works exceptionally, especially in this stuff series.

In context, the piece on Gnostic Materialism stood by

itself in this format, but over the last couple of weeks, I have found its inspiration so heavy that this week, we should consider Gnostic Materialism as just the GYST installment, this week being the following nasty letter.

It all started two Sunday's ago when I mentioned to one of my compatriots in collecting the Sunday offering, how discouraging it was to me to see that the vast majority of so called offerings, were the nature of 1 20 dollars, with a minority of folded checks thrown in. The vast majority of the cash leaning heavily toward the low end of the spectrum. The total offerings of this size might support me and this ministry at the level I would like to see it developed, but with this type of giving it is impossible to run a large healthy church. More importantly, it is impossible for these offerings to

please God. This circumstance just points to the fact, that even in the best of churches, in these last days they are populated with residents of the Revelation church of Laodicea.

Before we discuss the intervening week, the topic was again part of our between service discussion this Sunday. The summary of that discussion was that, monetary abuse is so destructive in American Evangelism that there are two courses followed, one is to pound hard on the legalism and get that tithe and more, or to react and fall into the other ditch, never talking about the need for Godly financial responsibility. Or to put it another way, to let blind members of Laodicea maintain there smug blindness.

But the point of Jesus' anger with the church of Laodicea has really nothing to do, with show me your money, it has everything to do with "Show me your heart." Evangelical finances suck, because the hearts of the people are lukewarm, and it has nothing again to do with the money, but more to do with how they spend there time. Two hours a week passively with God in Sunday, and or Wednesday church and you will give, 1 20 bucks, it isn't rocket science, it is a degenerative disease.

Established Christian teaching would say, as the Holy Spirit changes the heart, then giving will increase. However, that thought doesn't understand the nature and the context of Jesus standing at the door and knocking. Perhaps, the old story about hitting the mule along side the head to get his attention, would be well served for ministers within the person's cheap, degenerate, internalized cloister.

I really was too busy last week to write a message, I had the opportunity to work at a real job. During my normal writing days, I was filled with about nine hours of doing hardwood floors. Being miffed with stiffed collection encounters really continued my inspiration from what I felt from writing Gnostic Materialism. Therefore, anything that I wrote would not come from inspiration, but a tired, angry flesh. Isn't it great what a few days will do? The tired is gone, and so is the anger, again I'm filled with just inspired lament?

It was a real blessing to get some money over about a two week period. Something that really has not happened that much since my mother died, and not at all after my operation last February. The great thing about this wasn't the money however, it was how good I felt doing this hard physical work, that most cannot do at any age. This was related to the blessing of the operation that replaced my aortic valve and my ascending aorta. In short, I felt better than I could ever imagine, younger, and stronger than I have ever known. Something that money can not provide, only a gift that God can give.

I am getting too old to do hardwood floors on a consistent basis, but the money is good. At least it is something I can get paid for doing. It would be nice to be able to put together a means by which you could spend about half your productive hours in brain work, and the other time doing some physical labor. Together they would keep you physically and mentally fit. Employers don't think too highly about this. Specialization has meant that you are a specialist at one task that over time becomes mundane, unless you are dealing continually with deeply disturbed personalities, and then it just becomes overwhelming.

Keeping this article in some way related to stuff trekking, friday after things became more normal, I had the opportunity to visit a new store which recently opened in Renton. I had some stuff I wanted to look at, since they were the company that purchased Outpost.com where I used to purchase my computer stuff, I figured they would have what I was looking for.

What a worldly stuff bonanza, all the way from adult videos, through appliances and electronics, to regulated DC power supplies. A toy store for guys, but not too bad for women either. While I didn't buy the power supply for less than 200, I was amazed at their selection of these items. Where was Fry's when I needed them.

Now the segue from DC power supplies to the church of Laodicea is not as obtuse as you might think, because both relate to refining gold. There are a few ways to refine gold, none of which use fire as we would now consider fire, but that does not mean they are simple and mundane.

The most common commercial technique is the Miller process, in which impure gold bars are

melted and pure chlorine gas is bubbled through the liquid. The impurities in the gold react with chlorine forming a layer of dross on the top of the molten gold, when this dross is removed you are left with gold metal having a purity of about 99.5 .

The amateur process uses aqua regia, a mixture of one part concentrated nitric acid and two parts concentrated hydrochloric acid. The nitric acid oxidizes the gold to form a gold chloride solution. Gold chloride chemistry is such that the gold is the last metal to go into solution and consequently the first to come out. Silver is also dissolved by the acid, but silver chloride is insoluble, so it precipitates out as a relatively pure white powder. Simply, the liquid portion is separated from the silver chloride and the insoluble materials. The solution is diluted with water, the gold forming a brown precipitate that looks like ground Cinnamon. You can store this powder safely in your spice cabinet in this form, or you could melt it into bars, or ingots to make you feel rich. This process depending on the skill of the chemist and the purity of the starting material can produce gold purity of up to 99.9 .

Another commercial process called the Wohlwill process places the gold in a bath of gold chloride and hydrochloric acid and refines the gold by electrolysis, hence the need for a regulated dc power supply, producing a gold purity of 99.99 . Hence, my interest in the power supply at Fry's and the segue to the refined gold of Laodicea.

Since the church of Laodicea is the segue into the modern evangelical teaching of the rapture beginning in Revelation Chapter 4, it is not all that hard to imply that many of the lukewarm members of the church of Laodicea, and other Revelation churches that continue to exist until that day, may indeed receive that refining fire that Jesus speaks, in the following period known as the Great Tribulation. Those not beckoned with John to "Come up here" can be refined in a number of ways, none of them, as we have seen, being at all a pleasant experience.

So how can you refine Christians without taking them through the Great Tribulation, or

the fire, or these extremely severe trying chemical processes? The biblical answer is of course through persecutions and plain tribulation. The problem is that there is not a natural stuff refining process for this, not that this matters to the biblical expositor. "Only the Spirit knows, Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus!"

But there is such a process, sort of a combination of the three processes above. It was researched by the South Africans prior to WWII and abandoned because of the war and the need to have lots of gold in a hurry, to fund the war to end all wars. How do I know this? God is so good, I learned it by just one of those coincidences of my life, that God arranged, just because he is God, and he loves to bless his kids. So on the record the process exists, it is just as rare as obedient Christians, because most abandon their love for Jesus just as the war heats up and they need to raise some capital.

The process really isn't rocket science, but it is a significant change in the way things are currently done. To relate this to evangelicalism, it is similar to taking a bath in salty grape juice, and then plating out the pure gold using that power supply available at Fry's. It is just not as trying as that heavy refining in the processes listed above. Does anyone else know about this? There are some other aqueous refining processes out there, probably variations on the Wohlwill process, but their marketers never give out any specifics, and neither will I. So only a few really know their proprietary nature. And so this follows the nature of the blessings of God's Holy Spirit.

As a side line, did you know that during the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will reestablish the gold standard? You have heard the saying, "He who has the gold rules." Through out all time, gold has been the source of wealth in turbulent times. Just because it makes no sense in our enlightened era, does not change human nature, or the fact that a lot of the gold produced at this time is being hoarded by wealthy individuals in China and third world countries. Of course those people are just so backward, they just don't understand our western view of evolved peace and harmony based on free trade, open markets, and global electronic fund transfers. But then again, the real bankers of this

world aren't that stupid either.

So this is the point of this week's lament. No child of God needs to behold to his employer or anyone else, for his substance and his raiment. The words of Psalm 37 are true, especially verse 25 which I have for my own testimony: I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

But the problem is that the people in the pews are not able to walk the walk of faith, because in much of the evangelical church it is a question if even the pastors are saved, little alone have them understand the deeper truths of walking by faith.

Is it a question of vision? "We are so poor, hoping we can just hang on till the rapture, God willing." Or is there really truth in that brief line in the middle of Jeremiah's Lamentation:

Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed,

Because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning;

Great is Your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,

"Therefore I hope in Him!"

We make the LORD our portion through our conscious choice to walk in faithful obedience to His written word. Miracles occur on the trek, not normally praising God around the camp fire. Definitely not in the merits of our rich but poor Cloister Clubs.

In my own case, regarding this ministry, it might mean, going down to Fry's and buying that regulated power supply and to begin again to build that gold refinery, to look for real gold to refine, the people willing to help, and a place to refine the gold. All that would be a real miracle, but considering the alternatives, a miracle is the only thing that will work for me, and for most of the church.

So what choices do you need to make in your own life and or ministry at this time, to get your gold and your heart in line with God's priceless gospel gift? After all, this is the week of the

Thanksgiving Holiday.

I have been blessed by a gift of eternal life, which all the gold and silver of this world can not purchase. But that does not mean that understanding and promoting gold refining is not something we all can understand better, for like it or not, personal refining is the reason we remain on this earth. It is the true substance of Stuff Trekking through this wilderness to the Eternal Jerusalem.

Have a Blessed time of Thanksgiving!