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¹ Finally, my Brothers and Sisters, rejoice in the Lord / Paul has a HALLELUJAH moment.... and what follows all the way to chapter 4:4... is thought the longest digression or possibly an insertion of Paul as if he was about to close the letter, and suddenly remembered the proverbial elephant in the room.



IIIDDIANS ^{1 弟兄们,我还有话说,你} **们要<mark>靠主喜乐</mark>。/**保罗有一个 哈利路亚的时刻....一直到第四章第 四节,被认为是最长的题外话,或 者可能是保罗的插入,好像他正要 结束信,突然想起了众所周知的大 象在房间里。

To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

² Beware of dogs / Paul is not talking about our tailwagging house pets; he's talking about those like wild dogs that are more like wolves, which can encircle and go for the jugular vein, and destroy you in a minute,

beware of evil workers / these words are foreign to our genius generation... a generation that isn't even sure evil exists; this vocabulary is not found in any august hall of academia... maybe in theoretical discussions, punctuated with a few jokes about those primitive thinking religious folks. Yet the incalculable destruction of communities and lives, all the smashing and destroying is (we're told) for peaceful purposes, done with lots of tax payer dollars -- so are the tax payers co-conspirators in these non-evil works? Yes.

beware of the faulty circumcision / pharisaical people who don't really love others, but they like to critically sit in judgment over others, and cut and slice up others.

³ For we are the circumcision / of the heart, who worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh.., / the only way God is approached is through our spirit where love and joy and peace are supposed to abound; some in our very scientific minded generation are not sure if heart and spirit really exist. So, can we agree: perhaps that does not exist for them, so are they heartless?

我把这话再写给你们,于我并不为难,于你 们却是妥当。

² 应当防备犬类,/保罗说的不是我们家摇尾巴 的宠物;他说的是那些像野狗更像狼的动物,它们可 以包围并攻击你的颈静脉,并在一分钟内摧毁你,

防备作恶的,/这些话对我们天才一代来说是 陌生的,他们甚至不确定邪恶是否存在;这种词汇在 任何八月的学术殿堂里都找不到…也许是在理论讨 论中,夹杂着一些关于那些原始思想的宗教人士的 笑话。然而,对社区和生命的不可估量的破坏,所 有的粉碎和破坏(我们被告知)是出于和平目的,用 纳税人的钱来完成的—那么纳税人是这些非邪恶工 作的同谋吗?是的。

防备妄自行割的。/法利赛人并不真的爱别人, 但他们喜欢批判性地坐在那里评判别人, 把别人切 成碎片。

3 因为真受割礼的/心里的, 乃是我们这以 神的灵敬拜,在基督耶稣里<mark>夸口</mark>不靠着肉 体的。/唯一接近上帝的方式是通过我们的心灵, 那里充满爱、喜乐和和平;在我们这一代具有科学头 脑的人当中,有些人并不确定心灵和精神是否真的 存在。所以,我们是否可以同意:也许对他们来说这 并不存在,所以他们是无情的?

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Next, Paul gives his credentials, a respectable resume, with a proud parentage and honorable peerage:

⁴ although I might also have confidence in the flesh / so even as Paul writes, he no longer believes the drama found in the next 2 verses. You can almost hear him laughing at himself as he writes.

If anyone else has a mind to trust in the flesh, I far more:

- Circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee / WOW! no doubt Paul was genius of immense capacity and moral character, even if misguided. Thank God he got slammed down on the Damascus road;
- ⁶ Concerning zeal, persecuting the church / this phrase is in the present tense; these words of a misguided zealot... haunted Paul all his days... as if he saw his terrible error happening; the Lord did not erase from Paul's mind destroying the faith of those he wronged. Some things we need to never forget; touching the rightness which is in the law, blameless.

Many decades ago, Jack and Sarah Coleman gave me a book by A. W. Tozer: **That Incredible Christian**. They could see I had 1,000 questions; and Sarah always had about 2,000 answers. Often, with a full schedule... when Billy Graham couldn't make an event, Sarah would go speak.

In my little apartment on Kester Avenue, Van Nuys, CA... I got up one morning and started reading, from A.W. Tozer, ©1964, Christian Publications: <u>The Inadequacy of Instant Christianity</u>:

接下来,保罗给出了他的证书,一份体面的简 历,一个自豪的家庭和尊贵的贵族:

4 其实我也可以靠肉体。/所以即使保罗写到,他也不再相信接下来两节中的戏剧。你几乎可以听到他在写作时对自己的嘲笑。

若是别人想他可以靠肉体,我更可以靠着了。

- 5 我第八天受割礼,我是以色列族,便雅 悯支派的人,是希伯来人所生的希伯来 人。就律法说,我是法利赛人。/哇!毫无疑 问,保罗是一个才华横溢、品德高尚的天才,即使他误 入歧途。谢天谢地,他在大马士革的路上摔了一跤;
- 6 就热心说,我是逼迫教会的。/这个短语用的是现在时态;这些被误导的狂热者的话…一直困扰着保罗…仿佛他看到了自己可怕的错误正在发生;主并没有从保罗的心里抹去他所冤枉之人的信心。有些事我们需要永远不忘记;就律法上的义说,我是无可指摘的。

几十年前,杰克和莎拉·科尔曼给了我一本书,作者是 a. W.托泽:**不可思议的基督徒**。他们可以看到我有 1000 个问题;莎拉总是有大约 2000 个答案。通常,由于日程排得满满的,当比利·格雷厄姆不能参加活动时,萨拉就会去演讲。

在我位于加州 Van Nuys 的 Kester 大道的小公寓里 ,一天早上我起床后开始阅读,来自 A.W. Tozer ,©1964,<u>《基督教出版物:即刻基督教的不足》</u>:

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It is hardly a matter of wonder that the country that gave the world instant tea and instant coffee should be the one to give it instant Christianity. trying to pack all of salvation into one experience, or two...

Undue preoccupation with the initial act of believing has created in some a psychology of contentment, or at least of non-expectation.

God seems too far away, the world is too near, and the flesh too powerful to resist. Others are glad to accept the assurance of automatic blessedness. It relieves them of the need to watch and fight and pray; and sets them free to enjoy this world while waiting for the next.

Instant Christianity...

I wonder if the man who wrote Philippians 3:7-16 would recognize it as the faith for which he finally died. I am afraid he would not.

Reading that last line, I wondered too! And I remember sitting at the table in the quietness of the moment... closing the book... pausing, even looking left and looking right. Wow!

And I simply prayed: Lord, would you show me, where he would recognize it as the faith for which he finally died? Well, the Lord heard my prayer that morning; And thankfully He led me, marking out 5 places... where we walked; and though at times it was a handful... I clearly learned the answer. But let's hear Paul tell the answer... because what he discovered, is what I discovered too; yet he tells it so much better:

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ / quietly moving it all, -- item by item, to the waste basket, it's okay.

Yes, without a doubt, I count it all but loss for the exceeding value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord:

这个给世界带来速溶茶和速溶咖啡的国家,应该是一个给它带来速溶基督教的国家,这一点也不奇怪。试图将所有的救赎打包到一个或两个体验中…

对最初的信仰行为的过度关注已经在一些人身上创造了一种满足的心理,或者至少是不期待的心理。

上帝似乎太遥远,世界太近,肉体太强大,无 法抗拒。另一些人则乐于接受自动获得幸福的保证 。它减轻了他们守望、战斗和祈祷的需要;让他们自 由地享受这个世界,同时等待下一个世界。

快餐基督教…

我想知道写腓立比书 3:7-16 的人是否会承认这 是他最终为之而死的信仰。恐怕他不会。

读到最后一行,我也想知道!我记得我坐在桌子旁,在那安静的一刻……合上书……停下来, 甚至左顾右盼。哇!

我只是祈祷:主啊,你能告诉我,在哪里他会认识到他最终为之而死的信仰?那天早晨,上帝听到了我的祈祷;谢天谢地,他领着我,标出了 5 个我们要走的地方;虽然有时很难,但我清楚地知道了答案。让我们听听保罗的回答,因为他的发现,和我的发现一样;但他讲得好得多:

7 <mark>只是我先前以为与我有益的,我现在因</mark> 基督都当作有损的。/静静地把这些东西,一件 一件地,放到废纸篓里,没事的。

不但如此,我也将万事当作有损的, <mark>因我以认识我主基督耶稣为至宝。</mark>

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for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung / in Greek: skybalon... only used here in the NT, as Dr. Gene Scott pointed out: bovine skybalon, you know: BS, is what we flush down the toilet.

that I may win Christ,

And be found in Him, not having my own rightness which is of the law / Isaiah wrote these beautiful words, too often overlooked: when we will make His soul, our offering for sin... He will see and be satisfied -- Isaiah 53. So, not on account of doing little rules and regulations, and checklist items, so I can say: Look at what I did! Only to hear the Lord say: I never knew you,

but that which is through the faith of Christ the righteousness which is of God by faith / the heavy lifting; what He endured for us; so it's not my little surface performance; it's radical surgery on the heart, my heart (I have one) how about you?:

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings continuously being transformed when I consider His death / He arose from the dead, according to the promise of the Father, / it's okay to carry in our minds... a cross, to daily confound my comfortable state. There is a world that suffers terribly for our Lord Jesus... cruelly tortured even today. Do you know? I need to remind myself... why He came and died; seriously folks, would you die for someone like yourself? there is a heaven to gain or lose; and we are not home yet.

I freely admit; I would not die for me! Someone who was a fool might die for me. Why the Lord did is beyond my ability to grasp. He died for me... simply I can thank Him. Why? I still can't figure that one out! I will ask Him when we sit down together... someday over there.

我为他已经丢弃万事,看作粪土,/ 希腊语: skybalon···仅在新约使用就像吉 恩·斯科特博士指出的那样: bovine skybalon, 你知道的:胡扯,就是我们冲进马桶的东西。

为要得着<mark>基督</mark>。

并且得以<mark>在他里面,不是</mark>有自己因律法 而得的义,/以赛亚书中有这样一句漂亮的话,却 常常被人忽视:<u>当我们献上他的灵魂作为赎罪祭的时候,</u> 他就看见了,就心满意足了。--以赛亚 53.所以,不是 因为做了小的规章制度和清单项目,所以我可以说:看 看我做了什么!只听见主说:我从不认识你,

乃是有信基督的义,就是<mark>因信</mark>神而来的义。/重担;又为我们忍耐了多少;所以这不是我表面上的表演;这是心脏的根治性手术,我的心脏(我有一个)你呢?:

使我认识基督,晓得他复活的大能,并且晓得和他一同受苦,效法他的死。/根据圣父的应许,他从死里复活了,/我们可以带着一个十字架,每天扰乱我舒适的状态。有一个世界在为我们的主耶稣受苦,直到今天还在受折磨。你知道吗?我需要提醒自己…他为什么来,为什么死;说真的,各位,你们会为自己这样的人而死吗?得与失皆有天壤之别;我们还没到家。

我坦率地承认;我不会为我自己而死!一个傻瓜可能会为我而死。我无法理解上帝为什么这么做。他为我而死,我要感谢他。为什么?我还是搞不懂!当我们有一天坐在一起时,我会问他。

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- If by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead / the redemptive work of Christ Jesus begins on earth... but it is not finished until the dead are resurrected; to discover... what no eye could imagine, what no thought could have considered... all that God has prepared for those who love Him.
- Not as though I had already attained, or am already perfect but I follow after if I may seize that for which also I am seized of Christ Jesus / Paul says, folks, I'm not home yet, but I'm not lagging behind; I'm running a race, leaning into the course.
- Brothers and Sisters, I count myself not to have seized it all: but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to what is ahead / forget the past; drop it; who cares about it? let it go; and leaning forward, running the race of faith; don't stop; don't quit; keep going, we'll cross the line soon, keep Christ in view,
- ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- what I'm going to tell you next / and isn't that funny?! The Spirit of God has a great sense of humor, doesn't He?! 3 verses earlier, Paul said: that ain't me! Paul is a realist, he knows there are many normal people in this congregation, like the rich young ruler who confidently came to Jesus, wanting to know what else he needed to do to inherit eternal life having kept all the commandments:
- and if in anything you have a different understanding God will reveal even this to you / Paul says, regarding what points I make next; if you who are running the race with me; who think you've already arrived, Paul let God deal with hard heads.

- " 或者我也得以从死里复活。/基督耶稣的救赎工作在地上开始,但直到死者复活才会完成;去发现… 没有眼睛能想象到的,没有思想能想到的…所有上帝为那些爱他的人所准备的。
- "这不是说,我已经得着了,已经完全了。 我乃是竭力追求,或者可以得着基督耶 稣所以得着我的。/保罗说,伙计们,我还没 有到家,但我没有落后;我在赛跑,身体向跑道倾斜。
- 13 弟兄们,我不是以为自己已经得着了。我只有一件事,就是忘记背后 努力面前的,/忘记过去;下降;谁在乎呢?放手;倾身向前,奔着信仰的赛跑;不要停止;不要放弃;继续前进,我们很快就会越过这条线,保持基督的视野,
- 向着标竿直跑,要得神在基督耶稣里从上面召我来得的奖赏。
- "所以我们中间凡是完全人,总要存这样的心。/是不是很有趣?!神的灵是很有幽默感的,不是吗?早前三节,保罗说:那不是我!保罗是一个现实主义者,他知道在这会众中有许多正常的人,就像那个年轻富有的统治者,他自信地来到耶稣面前,想知道他还需要做什么才能承受永生——因为他遵守了所有的诫命:

若在什么事上,存别样的心,神也 必以此指示你们。/保罗说,关于我接下来的观点; 如果你和我一起赛跑;那些认为你已经成功的人,保罗让上帝对 付那些顽固不化的人。

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Walk by the same rule / Paul says, this is where we are, and what is this rule? to the Corinthians Paul says, God distributed to us: the Gospel of Christ. What does this measure? the rule of God's love and love for one another seen clearest in Jesus Christ, who sought the well-being of others; Paul says, be generous,

let us consider the same / already mentioned earlier: **the mind / the understanding of Christ Jesus** who is a man's best Teacher: get to know what Christ Jesus knew, His words, His ways, His information about the kingdom of His Father.

¹⁷ Brothers and Sisters together imitate me / the word is: sym = with + mimetes = imitate... Paul says,

As far as what we accomplished learning: how we walk, what we think about, imitate me / do what I do; climb out of legalistic traditions, there were no great disciples of Jesus whose faith was tried in the fires of life, for Paul to reference: no Polycarp, no Augustine, no John Wycliffe, no Jan Hus, no John Tyndale, no Martin Luther, no John Calvin...

imitate me, and notice those who walk so as you have us for an example. / only in the letter to the Ephesians do we find a form of this word: Paul writes: imitate God... and then he spells out 2 ways:

1. how we forgive one another as God in Christ freely forgave us; and 2. as we walk in love step by step, as Christ also has loved us; that's it! No repeat after me: I know that I'm a sinner; no 4 our father's and 3 hail Mary's. No hocus pocus of any kind!

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and I now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ / Paul warned us, turn backward or forward 1 or 2 pages and see warnings of deceivers who will come; vicious as rabid wolves, which can attack and destroy you in a minute; those once thought pillars of faith and trust became peddlers of deception:

"然而我们到了什么地步,/保罗说,这就是我们所在的地方,这个规则是什么?保罗对哥林多人说,神传给我们的,是基督的福音。这衡量的是什么?上帝的爱和彼此相爱的法则,在为他人谋求幸福的耶稣基督身上表现得最清楚;保罗说,要慷慨,

就当照着什么地步行。/前面已经提到过:基督耶稣是人最好的老师的思想/理解力:去了解基督耶稣的知识,他的话语,他的方式,他关于天父国的信息。

¹⁷ 弟兄们,你们要一同<mark>效法我</mark>,/这个词: sym = with + mimetes = imitate·····保罗说,

也当留意看那些照我们榜样行的人。/做 我做的事;从正统的传统中爬出来,没有耶稣的伟大 门徒,他们的信仰在生命的火焰中经受考验,保罗 可以参考:没有波利卡普,没有奥古斯丁,没有约翰·威克里夫,没有扬·胡斯,没有约翰·廷德尔, 没有马丁·路德,没有约翰·加尔文···

你们要一同效法我,也当留意看那些照我们 榜样行的人。/只有在给以弗所书的信中,我们才找 到这样一种形式:,保罗写道:,<mark>效法上帝</mark>…,然后他说了 两种方式:

1. 我们怎样<mark>彼此饶恕</mark>,正如神在基督里白白地饶恕了我们一样。和 2.因我们是照基督爱我们的样子,一步一步地<mark>在爱中行走</mark>。就是这样!不要跟我重复,我知道我是个罪人。第四是我们父亲的,第三是圣母玛利亚的。没有任何形式的魔法!

18 因为有许多人行事,是基督十字架的仇敌。 我屡次告诉你们,现在又流泪地告诉你们。 /保罗警告我们,翻一两页,看那些将要来的骗子 的警告;凶残如狂暴的狼,能在一分钟内攻击并摧毁 你;那些曾经被认为是信仰和信任的支柱的人变成了 欺骗的兜售者:

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19 whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly and whose bragging is their shame, their mind / stuck, fixated on... earthly things. / Dr. Dallas Willard said:, some worship their flesh and feed their unruly feelings, lovers of self; and are their own master; enslaved to their appetites-- the thin wrapping paper of life, their spirit is dead.

²⁰ For our behavior is in heaven; from where we also look for the Savior / soter, deliverer; a title taken from Rome -- government playing god; the people looked to Rome... but neither Paul or Peter found their savior in Rome; all the disciples of the Lord Jesus are running a race of faith, and are not running to the hell hole of Rome. Paul says eagerly, in anticipation,

the Lord Jesus Christ

that we've all wondered greatly about: A glorious Day that we've all wondered greatly about: A glorious Day that Paul wrote about in his first letter to the Church, and says, Brothers, I would not have you ignorant... the Lord will step from heaven with a shout that sounds like a trumpet... the dead in Christ will rise first... and we, the living, scattered all over the world... before we can blink twice will be safely grabbed up together... to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever, -- 1 Thessalonians 4,

by exerting His power whereby He is able to subject all things to Himself.

19 他们的结局就是沉沦,他们的神就是自己的肚腹,他们以自己的羞辱为荣耀,专以地上的事为念。/达拉斯·威拉德博士说:有的人崇拜自己的肉体,喂养自己不羁的感情,热爱自我;他们是自己的主人;他们的精神被欲望——生命的薄纸——所奴役,已经死亡。

20 我们却是天上的国民。并且等候救主,就是主耶稣基督,从天上降临。/ soter, deliverer;一个从罗马拿来的头衔——政府扮演上帝;但保罗和彼得都没有在罗马找到他们的救主;主耶稣的所有门徒都在为信心赛跑,而不是奔向罗马的地狱。保罗热切地,满怀期待地说,

主耶稣基督

21 他要按着那能叫万有归服自己的大能, 将我们这卑贱的身体改变形状,/有一个我们都很好奇的日子:这是一个光荣的日子,保罗在他写给教会的第一封信中写道:"弟兄们,我不愿意你们不知道……主必从天上降临,叫声如吹角……在基督里死了的人必先复活……我们活着的人也必先复活。"分散在世界各地…我们还没来得及眨眼就会被安全地抓在一起…在空中与上帝相遇;这样,我们必永远与主同在——帖撒罗尼迦前书4章

和他自己荣耀的身体相似。

Salvation is Your Name

This is My Father's World

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him