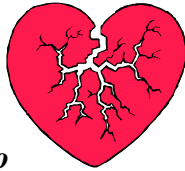


The Forgotten Valentine

Thoughts about when love grows cold

by Gabriel L. Mancino



popular to entertain the false idea that people are "backslidden" who have never really been "saved" in the first place. It is likewise foolish to believe that we can serve two masters (see Jesus' declaration in Matthew 6:24), for St. John says clearly to all, including professing Christians of all types: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world; if any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Hardly a person could mistake the apostle's meaning.

It is said that "Love is a two-way street." The fact is that as the Bible says, "God demonstrated His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "Yet sinners," here means *actively*, not *passively* antagonistic to Him and His plan and desire for man and the world. Many feel they do not actively oppose God, yet remain unchanged and uncommitted "a safe distance" from God's will for their lives. Don't fool yourself.

The verse above from Romans illustrates the **initiative** of God's love to us in Christ, but another verse illustrates the **extent** of Christ's love toward us. That verse is found in John 13:1 and refers to the unfaltering love of Jesus for His 12 "student followers." The verse says, "And having loved His own, He loved them to the end." "The end" here means "to the uttermost!" That means that Jesus "loved these disciples to death"...*HIS* death. It was immeasurable, unceasing love poured out to the very last drop. That same love of God in Christ is pointing toward and working in behalf of you and me, today.

"**Forgetting**," in this context, is not merely a mental failure. When the person's will is involved in active opposition or even chosen neglect, the forgetting goes from *mental* to *moral*. NOTE: loving a religious concept or organisation is not the same as loving God Himself. Jesus said, "If you love Me, do what I say." **THAT** "Valentine" signed in His blood. **Don't forget it.**

It is possible for love to "go out," and oil to "run out." Yet this **possibility** is not a **necessity**. It should be said that neither love nor oil can "run out" if it was never present in the first place. It has been

It's Up To YOU To Receive and Share God's Word With Others!
Britain needs to get back to the Bible. R.E. is often taught in schools by those who neither love the Jesus of the Bible nor the Bible itself. Furthermore, Britain has no need to be governed by the laws of other lands or religions. Back to the Bible, Britain...obediently & wholeheartedly!

Registered Charity #1092050

March 2006

The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor

421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806

The Bottomless Line

by Gabriel Mancino



Issues and arguments are often based and decisions often made upon crucial, though "plain and simple" foundations. People speak of "getting down to the nitty-gritty," and sum up discussions with, "Well, the bottom line is..."

As this relates to our individual existence, we believe in a life right now, as well as one, unrepeatable, unending existence to come after a person dies physically. The issues and implications of both of these existences—the *now* and the *later*—are vast and incomprehensible. The many aspects of this "incomprehensibility" are as *innumerable* as they are *incomprehensible*. **This is true even for those who appear to be the most insignificant of people.**

Saint Paul seems to exhaust vocabulary in the effort to describe our privileges and potential—in one case referring to the breadth, length, depth and height and to a knowledge of Christ's love which actually

"passes (or exceeds) knowledge!" He further states that God, who works in our behalf, "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above and beyond all that we ask or think!" (see Ephesians 3:14-21). Exaggeration? Nope! Even to the poverty-stricken people to whom Christ spoke in Revelation 2:9, He said, "but you are rich!"

A famous explorer, once trying to measure the depth of the water and having used his entire supply of measuring line, wrote down in his record book words like: "Deeper still!" Surgeons, scientists and astronomers have neither reached the end or discovered the finalities of creation's vast infinitudes. Yet, of the Creator, the simple little Sunday School song says: "How big is God? How big and wide His vast domain? To try to tell, these lips can only start. He's big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart!"

THAT is the bottomless Line!

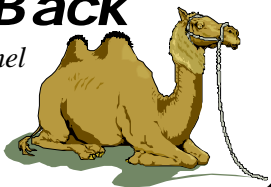
Jesus said that if we follow Him, He will make us to become "fishers of men." God Himself is the Great Fisher, and He has baited His line with a Cross that demonstrates His infinite love for us all. It is incomprehensible that ANY person from any country would turn away from such love...yet the great schools of "fish" just swim past. The immeasurable expanse is up to *Him*... but the receiving is "according to the power that works in *Us*!" THAT is the "plain and simple" foundation, and **"the bottom line."** The Lord is seeking YOU!

Dan Brown (Da Vinci Code) and his court-room accusers are ALL "Label Changers" (see inside article), for they follow early false teachings about Jesus Christ, and fail to admit that the Bible account of Jesus is as the accepted, authoritative record of Jesus' life nearly 150 years BEFORE Constantine (meaning that neither Constantine nor the Church changed the story of Jesus, as they say)

From H is Nose to H is Back

What can a camel
teach us?

Gabriel L.
Mancino



A camel can teach us many good spiritual lessons. Dr. Dale Yocum, a very good Christian man I knew, wrote a number of books, including one called Ask the Animals. He made the point that camels are a good illustration of a hypocrite, for they *appear to be* among the “clean animals” people were permitted by God to eat. However, a closer look showed that, though they chew the cud, their hoof is not completely “split,” as required for “clean animals.”

Many have heard the Arab story about “the camel’s nose,” in which the Arab awoke during the night to find his camel’s nose under the tent flap and the animal asking to be permitted to warm it’s nose. In brief, after repeated “awakenings” the man finds himself pushed out of the tent and the camel inside! Many applications can be made of that story. Then, too, there is the lesson of “the straw that broke the camel’s back,” which warns that little by little, added burdens, etc. can finally bring us to the point of total collapse and ruin in one way or another. These and other lessons may be applied to individuals or to nations, both with tremendous profit.

Through the process of generations an erosion has taken place, **little by little like the camel’s nose**. However, that process will eventually bring Britain and the world to the point of the camel’s broken back. It won’t be Us that say “**That’s the last straw!**” Rather, it will be God who proclaims it. There appears to come a time when “iniquity becomes full,” and God responds in devastating judgment.

(See Gen. 15:16 with 1 Kings 21:26; Dan. 8:23; Matt. 23:32; 1 Thess. 2:16).

Satan introduced sin into the human existence, and at that point the camel’s nose began its subtle, steady entrance in order to fill every corner of man’s dwelling place. Sin begins, and sin will have an end. There will come a day when sin will face its final day. However, unless each person allows God to deal with the sin in their life and heart, then sin itself will ultimately be the utter ruin of the person, for the Bible says, “and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death” (James 1:15).

Sin brings its family into your life to live, and believe me, it’s a big family. The “death” mentioned in the above verse is not simply meaning a ceasing of existence. Man is already “dead” in sin, and not alive to God, though very much alive to sin, self and the world. But if people “dead” in sin then die physically, the result is that they die eternally. Just as London is real, so Hell is real. Nobody needs to go to Hell, for God actually created that awful place “for the devil and his fallen angels” (Matthew 25:41). Man, in a sense, goes to Hell as a trespasser! “You can’t kill a dead man” was a popular saying. In *this* case, that saying is dreadfully wrong. The “lake of fire” is where people experience the eternal realities of “the second death” (see Rev. 19:20; 20:10,14,15; 21:8).

As “a religious man,” I don’t need to point out the decay of Britain, and its leaders and its people and society, for the newspapers point it out already in a most candid manner. The fact is, what will the people do about it? The “turn-around” starts at the grass-roots, with people like you and me. No, you cannot force others to follow God, you must be willing to “go it alone.” Yet, if you truly love God, you will want to help others to know Him, too. A social reformation may bring good, but it is a social and spiritual transformation that is needed. In many ways it appears that the coming choice is spiritual revival or social revolution.

Changing the Labels

by

Gabriel L.
Mancino



***“If the trumpet blow an uncertain sound,
who shall prepare himself for battle?”***

(1 Corinthians 14:8)

We moved two years ago from a large old premises with multiple tenants and a “garden” which ran along the side like a football pitch and around the rear into a playground. It was lovely and quiet. Residents would chuckle when my musical wife would blow a long valveless horn outdoors to call me for the meal. Not knowing where I was on the property (and we lived at the very front), she knew I would likely hear the “trumpet call” and respond! **I knew what the trumpet meant.**

St. Paul, who wrote the above Bible verse, referred to the practise of blowing certain tunes or patterns, each of which was a call to one thing or another; including a call to gather for battle. The trumpeter needed to know how to play the right tune.

Much of the confusion and moral and spiritual decay in our world is directly linked to a **muddling of the message**. Supermarkets can lie and cheat “legally” by the word order of the label and give the impression that fatty meat is lean. Organic is not organic. Multiple “life terms” are given to murderers because “life” is no more life.

Some religious groups are not to be outdone, saying, Jesus is the Son of God... but created... and, Jesus Christ came in the flesh...but which Jesus?... and, Jesus rose from the dead...but not physically. **On and on it goes, changing the labels.** We shall all discover that God has not changed the meaning whatsoever. Satan started this label swapping in the Garden of Eden, saying to Eve, “*Did God say you shall not eat...*” then he suggested that God was lying in order to cheat man from equality with God Himself.

Don’t expect the whole world to lead a return to original and proper principles of rightness. You and I as individuals must step forward “with a backbone like a saw-log,” and be willing and determined to mind God whatever others do or don’t do. I refer primarily to a real relationship to God as gives birth and growth to righteousness and holiness of heart and life, knowing that such a life will convince others that God is real, that His Word is true, His blessings are available and that His warnings are just as certain and unwavering as when He gave them. The Bible declares that at Jesus’ return, God’s trumpet shall sound for those who are prepared. Who will be listening “with their inner ear,” to distinguish the sound and go up?! **You can.**

Living Letters

St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “YOU are our living epistle (letter), written in our hearts, known and read of all men” (2 Cor. 3:2). By the grace of God (yet not without our earnest effort, determination and intention) we are to be “ambassadors”— properly representing Jesus in this present world. Intellect is a “plus,” but holiness is a “must!” I found the following poem recently:

The Motto You Live

You can stick up placards all over the wall,
But here is the word I announce
It is not the motto that hangs on the wall,
But the motto you live that counts.

If the motto says “Smile,” and you carry a frown;
“Do it now,” and you linger and wait;
If the motto says, “Help,” and you trample men down;
If the motto says, “Love,” and you hate,

You won’t get away with the mottoes that stall,
For truth will come forth with a bounce;
It is not the motto that hangs on the wall,
But the motto you live that counts.

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY! (26 March) God bless you all to be good and godly leaders and examples. May we ALL help others into “the new birth” and to walk with God.

Jesus asked: “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (Mark 8: 36, 37)