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“From the Pastor’s Desk”

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MY NEW WORD - BLESSOR

Every once in a while this old man whose age is pressing into the eighties observes some of the latest changes that appear to be taking place among those who are several decades younger than I. I guess that is a normal thing because my generation did the same. Ever hear of Elvis, or the Beatles? They practically upset my father and mother's generation when they came on the scene in the music world and things haven't been the same since.

These days, we are seeing much of the same kind of thing taking place with the younger generation in which they have been changing Webster's Dictionary such as redefining such words as: marriage and even the gender in which one was born. And that isn't all that they change. They continue to push the envelope in their attempt to redefine about every traditional ideology that was ever taught by the former generations. On the average the Oxford Dictionary adds about one thousand new words every year. So, if Oxford and our youth can do this, should not I have the right to add at least create one more new word?

SOME OF THE LATEST NEW WORDS

Here are some latest new words. Sorry you will need to do your own research on what they mean. I don't have enough space in this newsletter to explain them all and still make the point I want to make this month. But here is an example of just a few new words:

New Words: **illiterati** (people who are not well educated about a particular subject); **info-mania** (the compulsive desire to check news and information via a mobile phone or computer); **obis**: obviously; **Po-po** (the police); **totes**; (totally); **truthiness** (the quality of seeming or being felt to be true, even if not necessarily true); **Whatever** (whatever); **Woot** (especially in electronic communication – Used to express elation, enthusiasm, or triumph). *These are not bad words...they are just new words.*

Recently, I introduced a new word for my congregation; however, you will not find it in a Webster or Oxford dictionary. It will not be found in any dictionary, because it is one that I have coined and here it is: “**Blessor**”. What does it mean you may ask? Well let me define it in a sentence by using it and maybe you will catch on to what I mean. Here is my sentence: *Too many people are more interested in the **blessing** than they are in the **Blessor**.*

THE THOUGHT AND IDEA COMES FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

I use as an illustration of ‘**my new word**’ a passage from the Book of Isaiah, **chapter 39 and 40** when King Hezekiah of Judah had a delegation of ambassadors from Babylon visit him after he had been sick and had come near to death but was miraculously healed by the grace and goodness of God. These ambassadors had been sent by their king to bring a present and a special word of congratulations upon Hezekiah because he had heard of his recovery.

However, it appears that Hezekiah was rather flattered to have such an impressive group of visitors from such a high prestigious nation which apparently motivated him to show his appreciation as well to even attempt to deepen his relationship with them that he made an extreme effort to impress them with all the things that he and his nation had acquired throughout his reign.

The scripture said that Hezekiah “**was pleased to show them everything.**” He showed them “*precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.*” Isaiah 39:2

After Hezekiah's visitors left, he had another visitor: the prophet Isaiah and he came asking questions. One of which was: "What said these men?" and another was: "From whence came they unto thee?" And Hezekiah said, "They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon." And then the prophet inquired a little more by asking: "What have they seen in thine house?" And Hezekiah answered; "**All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.**"

To which God inspired the prophet to respond to all this by saying, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: **Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.**" (Isaiah 39:6) To which the Prophet of God implied that God was not well pleased with Hezekiah's behavior in the presence of these pagan delegates from Babylon. It is very evident that Hezekiah was guilty of being more excited about impressing Babylon's representatives with his "**blessings**" than introducing them to his "**BLESSOR.**"

The prophet did inform Hezekiah that the "blessings" would not be transported to Babylon immediately, but would take place after he had passed on into eternity. To which Hezekiah felt very relieved. However, I personally believe that he should not have comforted himself in that if he truly loved his children. Because one of the things which all parents should be concerned about is not only to enjoy certain comforts for ourselves but to leave the next generation (s) a godly heritage as well even an inheritance.

The Book of Proverbs says; "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just." (Proverbs 13:22 ASV). He not only has a sufficiency for the present to support himself and his family; but he is counseled to prosper and succeed, as to leave an inheritance after him, which is to be continued to be enjoyed, not only by his immediate offspring, but theirs also; that is if being received over the years honestly and with godliness. But one should also remember Prov. 13:11 which says: "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase."

ISAIAH CHAPTER 40

Now I mention the thought for this new word came from Isaiah chapter 39, but I also include chapter 40 because the Prophet Isaiah spent chapter 40 talking about the "**greatness of God**" (See Isaiah 40:8,9,11-18, 21-23; 31). This next chapter I believe infers what King Hezekiah should have been talking about when the ambassadors from Babylon came to visit him...instead of spending all that time trying to impress them with all his acquired wealth. If only Hezekiah would have talked about his "Blessor" instead of his 'blessings', it is possible that things could have been different as to what followed.

It is evident that money, silver, gold, etc. was the upper thing over which his mind dwelt. And it is possible that his children picked up on their father's obsession. In fact, one of the most wicked kings that ever ruled in Judah was the son that followed him: Manasseh. And it is evident by his wickedness, the last thing he had on his mind was the God that his father had served. In fact, Manasseh so hated God and his prophets that Josephus tells us that it was Manasseh that put to death the prophet Isaiah by sawing his body asunder.

It wasn't that Hezekiah didn't have a testimony and something to share with these ambassadors. God having miraculously delivered him from death the least he could have done was to share how he was healed and could have given all the glory to God. *But when the flesh and the mind are obsessed with selfishness, greed, and self-glory they will find it easier to talk about all their blessings rather than their "Blessor."*

One thing about Solomon, in spite of all the mistakes he made, at least when he had a visitor such as the Queen of Sheba, he made sure that she did not go home until after he had showed her the splendor of his kingdom until he took her with him to the house of God and showed her the way he worshipped God. It had such a profound effect upon her that the scripture said that she blessed the God of Solomon (1 Kings 10:9). Maybe the reason he did it was due to the fact that he had a father that taught him to do just that. See Psalm 100. **Should we talk about the goodness of the Lord with others?** Psalms 107 tells us at least three times: (vs. 15, 21,31) "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." **Yes, we should talk not just about our blessings but our Blessor.**