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Bloodline articles for July MHM Website

PART FIVE – SON-TREK THE NEXT GENERATION

This month's bloodline features articles from two of Mark Hanby's ministry sons. The first by Linden Curtis deals with the interrelated subjects of the Kingdom, time and thinking the thoughts of God. The second by Don Bledsoe gives encouragement to married ministry. I invite others to submit articles for publication on the Bloodline to me at the following address: Roger Roth c/o Active Living Ministries, 600 Airport Rd. Menasha, WI 54952 or contact me on the web at rk-roth@juno.com

“THE PROCESS OF PROGRESS”

Linden Curtis, Foundational Truth Ministries, Murrieta, Ca.

Note: The following contains excerpts from a tape series that Linden Curtis taught at FTM this past November. It is most timely since from contact with various Ministries it seems to be a topic of current interest in many Churches. You'll find that this message gives some provoking insights and raises several questions well worth pondering. Linden and his wife Cheryl oversee an exciting church in Murrieta, Ca. We hope you are blessed by it and will share your thoughts and perspectives with us and Linden.

“When Adam fell we entered into a situation where we began to die and in that dying process our thinking was affected. What God is doing by the Spirit is building Himself a Church that operates by His Kingdom in His realm rather than in the realm of fallen man. Does that mean that we will ever be flawless? No not in this lifetime because we still have the flesh, but it does mean we'll grow up to be mature. In that maturity we're going to learn to walk in the Kingdom. Now the Kingdom is all about eternity. The Kingdom is all about maturity and eternity; it's all about living in the realm in our thinking that God lives in.”

“If we weren’t dying we wouldn’t even have watches. The only purpose of time is to mark our death march. We operate in time because we only have so much of it and because we only have so much time we have to get things done in those time frames. God doesn’t live in a realm of time. We think of eternity as a long, long, long, time. Eternity doesn’t have anything to do with time; it’s a totally different dimension.”

“The timeline is a straight line marked off by years and months and days and hours and seconds. Eternity is a circle and Jesus is the Alpha and Omega along the circle, ‘before Abraham was I am’. Everything is now in eternity, everything is now. There’s no yesterday or tomorrow in eternity. Can you grasp that? God’s bringing us to a way that operates in His Kingdom, in the Kingdom of eternity, so that if we’re going through a wilderness we’ve already gotten through it. If we have a scratched cornea it’s already healed. Now someone in the flesh would say, ‘What are you talking about, it sounds like mind over matter’, baloney it’s a new dimension, it’s a whole other way of living, it’s a whole other way of thinking.”

“The Kingdom of God is not of this World. It’s an eternal Kingdom, so if something is pressing me today, it’s irrelevant. Because I’m already delivered today, only on the timeline might it be tomorrow, only on the timeline might it be next week. If God has declared you to be what ever He’s declared you to be and you’re moving toward that manifestation on the timeline, understand that in the Kingdom of God you already are, you’re already there, Alpha and Omega.”

“God is changing our thinking. The renewing of our mind from Romans chapter twelve is taking our mind out of the realm of man, (timeline), into the realm of eternity, (the Kingdom of God). You say, ‘but I’m just a kid, I’ve got things to see and learn, and do’. In God all He has declared you to be is already done. You’ll live it out on a timeline, but it’s already done.”

“As we begin to operate in that way, the Kingdom’s of this world don’t impact us as such; and on the timeline, the Kingdom’s of this world shall become the Kingdom’s of our God and His Christ. It’s an eternal thing. We can’t keep operating in Church like it was a man thing. We can’t keep making Church like a club, like a man thing that functions like a business or like everything else around us that’s familiar that functions on this time line. We’ve got to start operating in the Kingdom of God, that’s an eternal thing, that from the foundation of the world was established. God knew what you were going to be before you were born. He knew the cry of your heart as He sat on the circle of the earth, His eternal circle.”

“Our defeat comes in operating in everything we do based on a timeline, based on the Kingdom of this world. Our victory comes by entering into the Kingdom of God. So He is bringing us along a timeline that has already been accomplished in eternity. What we are going through is the process of progress. We are progressing on our timeline, being processed on our timeline into a progression in God, until we can enter into an understanding of the Kingdom which is eternal.”

(Psa 133:1-3 KJV) A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

“When brethren dwell together in unity it is like the anointing of God. What God is bringing us into is a place of unity in Him, and it’s not a place where you and I agree on everything. In the realm of churchanity, agreement equals unity. In the realm of the Kingdom, unity is so much deeper and so much more encompassing than mental assent or mental agreement, that the two aren’t even in the same league. You and I can be in perfect unity and disagree on an issue, because the Kingdom of God is not an intellectual situation, though we are intellectual beings. It is a spiritual situation, which is greater than our intellect. ‘Are you saying throw out our intellect?’ No we submit in our intellect to the Spirit. If we control our religion, if we control the way we walk in God, if we control the way we think about God with our intellect we will never enter the Kingdom.”

“We try to make God submit to our thoughts and all the time, Jesus is saying ‘follow me, follow me, lay down your life, lay down your way, lay down your kind of thinking, lay down what’s important to you, follow me’. What He did in the natural is what He is now doing in the spiritual.”

“His greatest attribute, at least the one I appreciate the most is that He is the same. Tomorrow He’ll be the same as He was yesterday; there’s no second-guessing. You don’t have to do a dance to keep up with God. He’s always the same and yet in the middle of that sameness, because He’s so big, there’s no end to the newness in Him. There’s no end to the freshness in Him. He’s always peace and He’s always love and yet He’s so big, there’s no end to finding out things in Him. You never find it all. You never understand it all. From our perspective that’s what we call progress; that’s what we call growth; that’s what we call change. He doesn’t change but He’s so big that our whole life in Him is constant change.”

“This is the beauty of knowing the living God as opposed to idolatry or religion. In

religion that becomes idolatry we bring everything down to what we can understand and what we can control. Religion is all about control and it brings about cookie cutter Christians.”

“We need to know it’s ok to find out more about God and press into areas of Him that have never been approached before. It’s ok to stretch and grow and in that stretching even make a mistake, it’s ok. God is always what we need Him to be. There is no end in Him. So what He’s doing in us in this process of progress is taking us from one place to another, from one level of understanding to another, from that which is natural to that which is spiritual, from that which was a pattern set thousands of years ago, to that which is a spiritual reality, coming from a timeline to a place of eternity.”

Some Questions to Consider:

If we are in a progression from time to eternity, what are some of the signs which might mark our progress along this journey?

To many perfection is a state of maturity, to some it is a place faultless existence; is the latter possible in this life?

If Linden’s premise is correct, what should be the focus of our Churches?

What is the process of our journey from our thoughts to God’s thoughts?

We would like encourage our readers to email responses/remarks to rk-roth@juno.com concerning these issues or other topics discussed.

Note: The next article by Pastor Don Bledsoe speaks directly to husbands and wives in ministry and raises some thoughts that are important, for those in ministry, to ponder from time to time. He especially encourages those in ministry that, “it’s not about ministry first, its about relationship first”. Don along with his wife Helen are the Senior Pastors of Covenant Christian Church focusing on, among other things, the order of father/son relationships.

“T.E.A.M”

Don Bledsoe, Covenant Christian Church, Conover NC

T.E.A.M is an acronym for: **T**ogether **E**ach **A**ccomplish **M**uch and **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore.

What a wonderful compliment to my life happened on May 6th, 1979 when at an altar God placed in my life not only a wife, Helen McReynolds but also a co-laborer in the Ministry.

Now over twenty years later, we look back with hindsight and see how the Lord “joins together” as it pleases Him. The Lord has always used us as a team. It hasn’t always necessarily been every time together at the same place, or at the same time, but always with oneness of heart, oneness of vision, oneness of purpose and oneness of spirit.

Marriage itself is to be an object lesson of Jesus and His Bride, the Church. How much more can this be when you see a Husband and Wife flowing in ministry together? We feel it shows forth such a great example without even saying much. We have been Pastors together now for over twenty years in the same church. Her strengths have filled places where I have been weak and my strengths have filled places where she has been weak.

When you go back to the Old Testament concerning the principle spices that made up the Anointing Oil for the Tabernacle, it’s very clear to see that it took more than one ingredient to make it complete. We think it’s the same with marriage. The husband brings certain ingredients to the marriage as well as the wife. The same is true in ministry. The husband brings certain strengths and the wife can balance those areas with her individual strengths.

Men are generally positional and women are generally relational. Some would say there is no way they can flow together, but we say that they can complement one another when

