

(A)

"Retired"

IF THE MESSAGE TODAY HAD A TITLE, IT WOULD  
SIMPLY BE: " AIN'T THE GRACE OF GOD  
SOMETHING WONDERFUL "

NOW I KNOW THAT ISN'T GOOD ENGLISH, BUT IT  
SURE SAYS WHAT I WANT TO SAY TODAY.....

HOW MANY TIMES THE WRITERS HAVE  
PENNED GREAT SONGS THAT EXPRESS  
FAITH AND GODS GRACE.....

AND HOW OFTEN WE AVAIL OURSELVES OF GODS  
GRACE BUT FAIL TO WALK BY FAITH.....

YES, GRACE IS GODS GIFT TO US, AND  
I'M CONVINCED THAT OUR FAITHFULNESS  
SHOWS JUST HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE  
THE GRACE OF GOD.....

LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT THE FAITHFUL ONES WHO  
CAME HEARD US SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS:::

PEOPLE ARE HEARD TO SAY: " WHAT IS  
THIS WORLD COMING TO "

THEY ARE ALSO HEARD TO SAY: " WHAT IS THE  
CHURCH COMING TO "

AND THEY SAY IT IN ALMOST THE SAME BREATH:  
WHY .??????????

I BELIEVE THAT THE REASON LIES WITH THOSE  
WHO CALL THEMSELVES PART OF GODS FAMILY,  
BUT WHOS LIVES SAY SOMETHING ELSE.....

CALL IT JUDGMENTAL IF YOU PLEASE,  
-BUT THE FRUIT DOES THE JUDGING...AMEN

HOW CAN I BUT GIVE MY BEST? WHEN HE HAS GIVEN HIS ALL FOR ME.....

MAY I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER THIS MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION: " IF YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN, WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT YOU "

THE MESSAGE TODAY IS: " GODS GRACE " AND HIS PRECIOUS WORD IS FULL OF MANIFESTATIONS OF THAT GRACE...

GRACE: IS WHAT GOD IS FREE TO DO, AND INDEED DOES.....

WOULD YOU LOOK AT EPHEESIANS 2; 4 & 5

" BUT GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, ~~FOR~~ FOR HIS GREAT LOVE WHERE WITH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS, HATH QUICKENED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST( BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED)

AND NOW EPHEESIANS 2: 8 & 9

" FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD....NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST "

WE HAVE HER TWO MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD, HIS MERCY, THE COMPASSION THAT MOVED HIM TO PROVIDE A SAVIOR FOR ALL MANKIND.

AND HIS GRACE: IS THE WAY HE WENT ABOUT MAKING SALVATION A REALITY.

THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY AND HIS GRACE..AMEN

(B)

AS WE CONSIDER THESE TWO MANIFESTATIONS  
OF GOD, LET US READ FROM HIS WORD  
PERHAPS THE GREATEST SHOW EVER, OF  
GODS MERCY AND HIS GRACE.....

LOOK WITH ME AT GENESIS:18: 20 - 32

MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE OF WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT  
THIS MEETING BETWEEN GOD AND ABRAHAM:

IN CASE YOU DON'T LET ME  
REFRESH YOUR MEMORY....

ABRAM, WAS A MAN OF FAITH.....

A MAN WHO DID NOT QUESTION GOD

( EVEN WHEN GOD SAID TO HIM: GET UP NOW  
AND LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND GO TO A  
PLACE WHERE I WILL SHOW YOU)

ABRAM DID NOT QUESTION GOD.....FOR HE  
KNEW GOD WAS FAITHFUL AND JUST AND THAT  
HE WOULD BE UNDER HIS WATCHCARE.....

WHEN ABRAM LEFT AS GOD HAD DIRECTED, H E  
TOOK WITH HIM, HIS NEPHEW LOT

NOW THE BIBLE TELLS THAT EACH  
MAN PROSPERED GREATLY.....

FAMILIES AND FLOCKS INCREASED.....

AND A FAMILY QUARREL EMERGED.....

THERE JUST WASN'T ROOM FOR BOTH ABRAM AND  
LOT AND ALL THERE POSSESSIONS.....

BEING THE JUST AND FAITHFUL MAN  
THAT HE WAS, ABRAM SAT DOWN TO TALK  
THE SITUATION OVER WITH HIS NEPHEW.

AND LET ME STOP RIGHT HERE TO SAY THIS:

WE WOULD DO WELL TO FOLLOW THE  
EXAMPLE SET BY THIS MAN OF GOD...

ABRAM LOOKING ABOUT SAID: THERE IS PLENTY  
OF ROOM FOR BOTH OF US, ALL WE HAVE  
TO DO IS CHOOSE WHERE WE WANT TO LIVE.

AND IN A SPIRIT OF LOVE ABRAM SAID:

" LOT, YOU CHOOSE FIRST "

AS LOT LOOKED ABOUT H E SAW THE WELL  
WATERED PLAINS OF JORDAN.....

HE SAW THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE  
TWIN CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

AND THEY APPEALED TO HIM  
GREATLY.....

OH BUT DID H E EVER MAKE A MISTAKE, FOR  
THE NAMES OF THE CITIES THEMSELVES  
SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO HIM...

NEVERTHEESS, LOT SEPERATED HIMSELF FROM  
ABRAM, AND THE BIBLE SAYS:

" HE PITCHED HIS TENT TOWARD SODOM "

AND THE BIBLE ALSO POINTS OUT THE GREAT  
ERROR THAT HE MADE: " BUT THE MEN OF  
SODOM WERE WICKED AND SINNERS BEFORE  
THE LORD EXCEEDINGLY"

DEAR ONES, I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE IS  
A MESSAGE FOR US HERE, AND THAT IS:

" ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD "

" THAT ONE DAY THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF SIN  
WILL DIM, AND IT'S AFULNESS WILL BE SEEN

(C)

AND I BELIEVE ANOTHER MESSAGE FOR US IS  
THIS: "YES, YOU DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF "

BUT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GOD FOR THAT  
CHOICE:::::::::: AMEN...ONE DAY MAN  
WILL STAND BEFORE THE CREATOR AND  
WILL ANSWER FOR HIS REJECTION OF  
THE MARVELOUS GRACE OF GOD.....

AND ONE DAY, SAVED PEOPLE WILL STAND BEFORE  
THE CHRIST AND ANSWER FOR THEIR LACK  
OF FAITHFULNESS.....THEIR EXCUSE  
MAKING AND THIER LAUGHING AT EFFORTS  
TO SHOW THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS.....

LITTLE IS SAID OF LOT DURING THE INTERVENING  
YEARS.....EXCEPT TO SAY THAT LOT H AD  
TROUBLE AND PROBLEMS EXISTING AMONG THE  
HEATHERNS OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.....BUT  
WE ARE NEVER TOLD THAT HE LEFT UNTIL  
THE MERCY AND GRACE OF GOD WAS MADE  
KNOWN IN A REAL AND WONDERFUL WAY....

LOT WAS NOT FAITHFUL TO GOD, AND HE SUFFERED  
FOR IT.....

ABRAM WAS FAITHFUL TO GOD, AND HE WAS  
BLESSED BECAUSE OF IT.....

DOES THIS NOT SAY SOMETHING TO YOUR HEART  
DEAR ONES.....

CAN YOU NOT HEAR GOD SPEAKING TO EVERY  
HEART AND SOUL HERE...BOTH LOST AND SAVED

I SURE CAN..... I SURE CAN..

WHILE LOT WAS SINNING HIS LIFE AWAY AND LEAVING GOD OUT OF THAT LIFE....ABRAM WAS BEING BLESSED OF GOD.....

GOD IS HEARD TO SAY: BECAUSE YOU ARE FAITHFUL..I WILL MAKE AN AGREEMENT WITH YOU.....

BECAUSE YOU ARE FAITHFUL, I WILL POUR OUT MY MERCY AND GRACE ON YOU AND YOUR DECENDENTS.

LISTEN DEAR ONES: FAITHFULNESS TO GOD IS ALWAYS REWARDED.....

AND UNFAITHFULNESS IS REWARDED ALSO...BUT WHAT A DIFFERENCE IN THE REWARDS..AMEN

IF THE LORD GOD REWARDED TODAY...WHAT WOULD YOURS BE ???????? BLESSINGS OR JUDGMENT ???

YES IT'S TRUE THAT ONE DAY, ALL CREATION WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES.....

BUT, it'S ALSO TRUE THAT GOD POURS OUT DIVINE JUDGMENT ON SIN, BEFORE THAT GREAT DAY OF JUDGING.....

IN VERSE 20 OF GENESIS CHAPTER 18 WE READ:

" I HAVE HEARD OVER AND OVER OF THE TERRIBLE SIN OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH, IT'S NOW TIME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT " (THIS WAS GOD SPEAKING)

OH DEAR ONES CAN YOU NOT SEE THE "MERCY" OF GOD MANIFESTED IN HIS GIVING THIS SINFUL PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY AFTER OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT.....

BUT RATHER THAN TURN FROM SIN, THEY SUNK DEEPER IN THE REBELLION AGAINST GOD....

(D)

DEAR ONES, HAVE YOU EVER MADE A STUDY OF  
THE SINS COMMITTED OPENLY IN THAT CITY:::

( PROSTITUTION ) (HOMOSEXUALITY ) ( INCEST )  
(MURDER) ( RAPE ) (OPPRESSION OF GODS OWN)  
(DRUNKENNESS) (IDOL WORSHIP)

WHAT DOES THIS SOUND LIKE:::~::~

WHO DOES IT SOUND LIKE:::~::~

IS THERE NO WONDER THAT THE MERCY OF GOD  
HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED:::~::~

AND I 'M HERE TO SAY THAT WE IN  
THIS COUNTRY ARE TRYING THE PATIENCE OF  
GOD.....HIS MERCY IS BEING  
TAXED TO THE HILT.....

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.....OPEN YOUR EYES  
AND LOOK.....

THERE ARE LAWS IN LEGISTATION NOW TO ALLOW  
SIN TO RUN RAMPANT IN THIS COUNTRY.....

MANY LAWS TODAY SIMPLY PROTECT  
THE LAW BREAKER, RATHER THAN THE  
INNOCENT VICTIM.....

I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DRESS IT UP, OR H OW  
YOU EXPRESS IT, H OMOSEXUALITY IS NOT OF  
GOD.....IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES, PEOPLE  
WERE PUT TO DEATH FOR THE PRACTICE OF IT.

TODAY THE LAW SAYS, "IT'S THEIR RIGHT"

" IN WHO'S EYES, MAY I ASK "

GOD HAD SEEN ALL HE WANTED TO SEE OD THIS  
PIG STYE OF SIN.....HE DETERMINED TO  
DESTROY IT ALL.....ABRAM INTERCEEDED

ABRAM HERE IS A TYPE OF CHRIST...

"INTERCEEING FOR THE LOST "

" OH GOD, HAVE MERCY ON THEM " AND GOD  
SURELY MUST HAVE SAID: " ABRAM I HAVE  
HAD MERCY ON THEM, FOR THEY DESERVED  
TO DIE BEFORE NOW FOR THEIR SINS "

AND THEN ABRAHAM BEGAN TO PROPOSITION GOD.

" LORD, WILL YOU RELENT IF YOU CAN  
FIND FIFTY RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE THERE ??

AND GOD SAID: " YES, IF THERE ARE FIFTY  
RIGHTEOUS, I WILL RELENT "

AND ABRAHAM LOOKING ON THE CITY FELT THAT  
THE PERCENTAGE WAS TOO HIGH:.....

" MERCIFUL GOD, FULL OF GRACE,  
SUPPOSE THERE ARE ONLY FOURTY  
RIGHTEOUS...WILL YOU SPARE THEM "

GOD SAID: " ABRAHAM, IF THERE ARE FOURTY  
I WILL NOT DESTROY THEM "

YOU KNOW THE REST, ABRAHAM SAID, "THIRTY"?  
THEN HE SAID: " TWENTY " AND FINALLY  
HE DROPPED DOWN TO "TEN" .....

AND THE MERCIFUL GOD SAID: " YES, MY SON,  
IF THERE ARE BUT TEN, RIGHTEOUS, I WILL  
NOT DESTROY THE CITY.....

NOW WE COME TO THE GRACE OF GOD....." THE  
WAY OF ESCAPE "

WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE MERCY OF GOD, IN  
THAT HE GAVE OPPORTUNITY AFTER OPPORTUNITY  
TO REPENT.....NOW HE IS SEEN AS MAKING  
A WAY OF ESCAPE.....

AND DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE  
THE LOVE OF GOD MANIFESTED "



(E)

GOD SENT TWO ANGELS TO WARN LOT AND HIS FAMILY.....

KNOWING THE SINFULNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY, LOT WENT OUT TO MEET THEM.....

COME QUICKLY TO MY HOUSE, YOU WILL BE SAFE THERE.....SO THE MESSENGERS FROM GOD WENT TO LOTS HOUSE.....

BUT THEIR PRESENCE WAS MADE KNOWN, and listen to WH AT THESE SINFUL MEN SAID " LOT, WHERE ARE THESE TWO HANDSOME MEN YOU BROUGHT TO YOUR HOUSE, BRING TH EM OUT THAT WE MAY KNOW THEM "

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE SINFUL MEN WERE ACTUALLY SAYING:::LISTEN CAREFULLY,

"~~2~~SEND THESE MEN OUT TO US THAT WE MAY HAVE HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS WITH THEM "

DEAR HEARTS, THE MERCY OF GOD HAD BEEN TAXED BEYOND LIMITS.....ONLY HIS GRACE COULD SAVE ANYONE IN THIS AWFUL PLACE...

LOT HAD MADE HIS CHOICE LONG AGO, HE HAD CHOSEN TO SIT AT THE GATES WITH THESE PEOPLE, HE HAD ASSOCIATED WITH THEM AND HE HAD LOST HIS INFLUENCE BECAUSE OF IT.

HOWEVER, HE WAS ONE OF GODS OWN, THEREFORE GOD EXTENDED HIS GRACE TO LOT AND HIS FAMILY:::~::~:

THEY HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO CHOOSE, AND ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHOICE.

GOD SAID: " I HAVE PREPARED A WAY OF ESCAPE,  
BUT YOU MUST DO AS I SAY "

GOD SAID: " YOU HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF  
MY MERCY, NOW IN ORDER TO BE  
SAVED, YOU MUST ACCEPT MY ACT  
OF GRACE ".....

OH DEAR PEOPLE, GOD IS STILL SAYING THAT  
TODAY.....GOD IS STILL OFFERING A WAY OF  
ESCAPE FOR ALL WHO WILL ACCEPT IT.....

BUT MANY TODAY ARE DOING THE SAME  
AS SOME OF LOTS FAMILY:::

- (A) THURNING THEIR BACK ON GODS GRACE
- (B) LOOKING AT PEOPLE WHO HAVE REFUSED TO  
GIVE THE RIGHT EXAMPLE, RATHER THAN  
LOOKING TO GOD.....
- (C) THEY ARE CHOSING THE BRIGHT LITES OF  
SIN, IN THE HOPE THAT GOD WILL RELENT  
IN THAT TERRIBLE DAY OF JUDGMENT....

BUT LISTEN CAREFULLY: " HOW SHALL ONE ESCAPE  
IF THEY NEGLECT SO GREAT A GRACE AS GOD  
HAS MANIFESTED.....THER WAS NO ESCAPE  
THAT DAY IN SODOM AND GOMORRAH FOR  
THOSE WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT GODS GRACE,  
AND THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE FOR THOSE WHO  
REFUSE TO ACCEPT TODAY SALVATION BY GRACE.

LET ME REMIND OUR HEARTS OF SOME  
THING ELSE::: MANY DIED, SIMPLY  
BECAUSE LOT HAD LOST HIS INFLUENCE  
HE HAD CHOSEN TO LIVE IN SINFUL SURROUNDINGS  
AND PARTICIPATE IN SINFUL PRACTICES::: SOME  
OF HIS OWN FAMILY PERISHED BECAUSE OF IT.  
WHAT ABOUT YOU DEAR CHRISTIAN:

(F)

BECAUSE MOM AND DAD LOT REFUSED TO LIVE  
AS GOD INTENDED, THEIR CHILDREN PERISHED.

OH I HOPE THIS CANT BE SAID ABOUT  
ANYONE HERE....BUT IT'S POSSIBLE

FOR IF YOU AS PARENTS DO NOT SET THE RIGHT  
EXAMPLE BEFORE YOUR CHILDREN...YOU MAY BE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DYING WITHOUT EVER  
ACCEPTING THE GRACE OF GOD.....

WOULDN'T BE AWFUL TO HAVE THEIR  
BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS.....

NOT A PRETTY MESSAGE, BUT A VERY APPROIATE  
ONE I BELIEVE.....

WILL YOU BY FAITH ACCEPT THE GRACE  
OF GOD TODAY DEAR LOST PERSON ????

DEAR CHRISTIAN, WILL YOU DECIDE TODAY TO  
LIVE BEFORE MAN THAT WHEN THE DAY OF GODS  
JUDGMENT COMES, THOSE YOU LOVE THE MOST  
WILL BE WITH YOU FOREVER IN ETERNITY

IT'S YOUR CHOICE,,,,,,,,,,,,,

IT'S ALSO YOU WHO WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THAT CHOICE.....

.....MAY WE PRAY.....

FOR OUR INVITATION TODAY, I HAVE ASKED RICHARD  
AND OUR LADIES TO SING THE SONG:

"ARE YOU THE ONE "

ARE YOU THE ONE GOD IS SPEAKING TO...ARE YOU  
YOUR PLACE IN ETERNITY AND THE PLACE  
YOUR LOVED ONES WILL HAVE COULD VERY  
WELL DEPEND ON YOUR RESPONSE.....