

“...I spoke unto you, rising up early and speaking, but you heard not; and I called you, but you answered not...”

Jeremiah 7:13

"Did you hear that?"

Most of us who open an email do so on the run (or while we're waiting for eBay to load). Thinking of the previous email we read, we click, and while it draws on the screen - we notice the the subject line of the next one. We simultaneously anticipate the content of the one with the interesting subject line while we half-heartedly read the now open email. We only look for words that stand out, pictures to fill in details, we mumble "Own it" [CLICK] "Heard it" [CLICK] "Seen it" [CLICK] "Been there" [CLICK] and click, click, click down the column of emails, offers, videos, books, ads, music or podcasts.....the list continues, ad nauseam. Dizzy? You should be.

Seldom do we take the time to comprehend internet media as we used to read words from a paper medium. Today, we want to be informationally empowered by only getting the gist of the teaching, the "Cliff's Notes" of the class, by being "injected" with the news, hearing the crux of the problem, the "bottom line" of the report. "JUST TEXT ME. :)" "Tweet me!" We want folks to "cut to the chase" of the story, so we can minimize our involvement, eliminate our investigation and not suffer the shame of being uninformed, "out of the loop", or "out of touch".

This "Give it to me in a nutshell" attitude has made pitiful, "empowered" idiots of us all. Oddly enough, while we accuse the world of insanity, we have managed to be the fool that we ourselves have fooled. We have achieved ourselves into achieving nothing. We have educated ourselves into learning nothing. We have moved ourselves to nowhere. We have memes, online college, cyber-friends, virtual reality, all the while the omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent god Google divvies out answers from his virtual throne above the web in which we are all entangled. It's OK if you can't move... Your phone will tell you what the temperature outside your own window "feels like" to those who can still walk. In this crazed state of news gathering and education we feel fully capable of having an informed opinion. Truly, we are self-concerned, partially informed, non-committed idiots charging though life at full speed - running 60 miles per hour on a treadmill doing 61 in reverse. My advice? JUMP!!!!

"Shirley!! I've read this paragraph five times now!" My Dad would shout over the afternoon newspaper in protest to my Mom who was interrupting him with questions, or just wanting to talk about her day. He knew how to read in quiet though. He did it every morning.

I remember toddling into the living room being awakened by the smell of a freshly lit cigarette... (Ahhhh. Let me pause here and remember when cigarettes were made of tobacco.) ... I would see my dad sitting in his green vinyl "lazyboy" with a newspaper in

front of his face and curls of blue smoke rising tall from the ashtray at his side mixing with steam from his coffee. Sometimes I'd hear the electric razor running behind the Daily Times. I'd hear a mumbled cuss word or two as he'd get frustrated trying to balance the paper on his raised knees, attempting to read needing both hands to pull his cheeks tight under the archaic Norelco razor. Throwing the paper aside to finish shaving he'd see me sprawled on the sofa. *"Hey boy! Go back to bed. It's too early."*

Soon I would wake to find I had not moved but the Sun had long risen. Rubbing my eyes I stand to find an empty green chair, a hint of Old Spice and Vitalis in the smoky air. Dad had gone to work and it would likely be tomorrow before I'd find him again in his solitude.

Perhaps I learned my early morning habit of reading and having fellowship with The Eternal from my childhood routine, but then, as well as now, and likely will ever be - quiet and comprehension seemed to be fast companions. When opportunity offers one it nearly calls out for the other and the two seem inseparable, ineffective and wasted - one without the other.

Are we too busy... too noisy... too involved in unnecessary things? What if the pure, unclouded comprehension of a simple message offered the answer to a troublesome thought, habit, attitude, malady or sin for which you have been searching your whole life? The rescue message passes through your life. Truly a pity if it was a message you were too busy to hear.

The bad news? This happens every day that you live in obedience. Your Father Jehovah wants to guide, and to help - rising early He calls. Yet, the quiet hours go unused. The daily fellowship not experienced, the answers go unheard and unrealized.

Jeremiah 7:13 *"...I spoke unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not..."*

The message offered today in this email is just such a message. Jesus will ask you a question. The answer you honestly offer the Lord when He asks this question will reveal the source of your problem, your turmoil, your illness, your lack and sadness... and perhaps... your unregenerate heart.

Yep! Right here after the election... He wants to know, **"How is it you can only love those who love you?"** (Cont.)

"Surviving The End"

Don't Panic! This Special Presentation reveals the tools and actions required for surviving whatever life brings to you. Request your copy and share the secret to life with a friend.

[Make your request here](#)

Please pardon our temporary web absence. TRI is working on new ways to advance the Gospel of the Kingdom. Are you helping?



"What good is it to love those who love

you?"

The question comes from Matthew 5:46-47 and its parallel in Luke 6:32-34 (Combined)

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye, what thank have ye? Do not even the publicans the same, for sinners also love those that love them? And if ye salute your brethren only, if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans and sinners so? If ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

This Scripture has had many applications, most of which have been applied to the duty of Christians to feed the poor and clothe the naked and destitute. The dedicated Christian has done well in these areas, but, however applicable these Scriptures may be, let's look at it another way.

It must be admitted that we Christians like to play in our own backyard. We hang around those who don't challenge us, we cling to those who accept us as we are, and we give a wide berth to those who are willing to criticize us. We claim we avoid those who find fault in us, because they do not love us. The truth is that we simply don't love them. We can't seem to love an enemy; we can only love our friends. We don't love them enough to like them, nor like them enough to love them.

This deficiency is sometimes camouflaged as an enviable character trait. **We pride ourselves on being easygoing, non-controversial, or a person who opposes confrontational issues, when in reality we lack an ability to love those who don't readily agree with us, so we overlook the differences, redefine words and assume the kindest of motives on the part of our detractors.** We cannot love someone who doesn't agree with us so we don't bring up certain subjects, or say that "it doesn't matter" or that the disagreement is "majoring on minors." We know within ourselves that we can't love those who are different than us so we make efforts to avoid them. Is that goodness? Is that kindness? Is that honest?

We must expand our circle of inclusion to take in the uncomplimentary, the uncouth, the unlovely, and yes, even the unclean, if we are to live to honor the words from Christ's sermon. We must be honest and admit that the level of love under which we operate is insufficient to include those who don't like us, or those who won't tolerate us, or those who don't hold us in the high esteem that we have developed in our spheres of familiarity.

You should ask yourself, "Do I like only those who like me? Am I willing to take social risks only with those who are familiar with my accomplishments or my social status? Do I have what it takes to hold my own in the world that doesn't know 'who' I am?" Do you have within you the love required to love those who are not impressed by you - to love those who do not rate you above them?

Sometimes this character flaw shows in our speech, our manner of dress, our deportment or even more subtle behavior seen by others and not readily recognizable to us.

The refining of this behavior will not come easily, as so much of it is below the level of conscience thought. **It may help you to think of the differences that God was willing to overlook in order to create and maintain a relationship with you.**

You are admonished in the Scriptures to love and forgive even as you are loved and

forgiven of God. (Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.") What good is it to love those who think you are great? Or, as Jesus put it, "What good is it to love those who love you?"

It is interesting that Jesus asks, "What good is it?" What good does it do; what good does it bring about? Then He adds, "Do not even the publicans and sinners the same?" When we find ourselves unable to love those who do not love us, we are discovering one of the dreaded attributes to our unregenerate heart and, perhaps, a soul yet in sin. When we can only love white, Anglo-Saxon, heterosexual, republicans, we advertise to the world that we have not known Christ.

When we only associate with those who have graduated from college, have a job on a certain pay scale, watch only public television, and only vote the democratic ticket, we are shallow and hollow and have little to offer the world. When we only socialize with those who hold to our articles of faith, attain a certain level of righteousness, anti-smoking, anti-drinking, anti-rock and roll, types that insist on saying, "Amen" instead of, "I agree" at the conclusion of everything we say, we are purposefully closing our world into a tighter and tighter circle because our affection toward the men and women whom Jesus loved, is diminishing.

What good is it to love those who love you? It really does not matter with whom you choose to identify and whom you avoid; it is the fact that you cannot love that condemns you and renders your faith in Christ a pretense. John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Tolerance - The New "Love"

Many have made love an act of their will. Masquerading as loving, caring Christians, they are only tolerant of others. *Tolerance is the new "love" among Christians. It is touted as a wonderful attribute, when in reality, it is a sinister replacement for the love that could be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit if we would only let go of our pride.* Tolerance is peddled as a superlative capacity, available only to those on a higher spiritual plane, when, in truth, it is a baleful substitute for the love of God.



Who among us wishes to be tolerated? Who would not rather be loved? When we tolerate the homosexual we do him no service, we only appease our own prejudices and render the guilt we feel, innocuous to our conscience. **When we tolerate the obnoxious sinner we lead him no closer to Christ, we bring Christ no closer to him.** When we tolerate opposition to our view we will find ourselves no closer to understanding our adversary than before. **But, if we love them... what power! If we love them... what witness! If we love them... what reward! Alas, but how?**

The answer may be simpler than you think. If we can remember that we pity those below us, we aspire to those above us, but we love those beside us. It can be our pride and ego that make true love so elusive. For whatever reason you convince yourself that you are avoiding the "unlovable," you must first judge the person as unlovable. This is done by classifying him as different from you. (Whether we judge them above us or below us is of little moment in this analysis.) **The truth we avoid is that we are but a few facts (and even fewer secrets) from being deemed as unlovable as any, as obnoxious as any, and as repulsive as anyone else.** Again, think of the person that God sees.

It is when you see yourself in this light that you begin to understand that all you are doing, when you offer true love to those who do not like you, is providing them what you so desperately need yourself. You do not want to be tolerated... you want to be loved. *Love suffers long, and is kind, love envies not, love does not boast, love does not behave improperly, love will not allow you to seek your own way, love repels anger, love thinks no evil toward anyone, love never allows rejoicing when wrong is done but only when truth and justice are accomplished. Love "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."* Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13)

**He drew a circle that shut me out-
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.
Edwin Markham, Author**

The difference between the unregenerate one and you who knows Christ is that you have a capacity to truly love the unlovable. You have that ability because He first loved you.

When you love only those who love you, you deceive yourself into believing that you really love people. How do you respond to those who do not love you? How do you react to the unlovely or your would-be enemies?

If you exemplify the love of Christ, you bring hope to your community. Your supernatural love for those who do not love you is light - Light borne to a dark world, but.... **"What good is it to love those who love you?"**

~ The Questions of Jesus by Don C Harris

ThINKers' **Thoughts!**

...Hey Don. . .

Re: Breaking news! TRI coming to Network Television in Albuquerque!

- "Wow! But for a moment I thought the subject of the mail was "TRI coming to Nigeria!!!" Then I saw Network TV. It is all good. Congratulations!!! Regards to all." ~ ThINKer from Nigeria
- "Wow! Cool" ~ ThINKer from OH
- "Congratulations on adding more stones in the pathway to Heaven." ~ Quaker Friend
- "Thanks for keeping on keeping on." ~ ThINKer from NM
- "This is very exciting news! Congratulations, Don!" ~ ThINKer from NM
- "We want to send our congratulations to you on this TV expansion. Being more localized is a good thing." ~ ThINKer from CO
- "So happy for your good news! Don't know if you remember me. I have sort of slid off the radar screen. You remain the Hero of MY Faith." ~ ThINKer from ID
- "I was able to see the whole program. I love the truth and you renewed that in my heart! Wonderful!" ~ ThINKer from OH
- "What a fast half-hour! We had a great time at our local Premier party. Thanks,

* * *

An old employee of mine I came across and got to know again found God. He seemed pretty solid and I noticed he was observing the 7th day keeping the commandments. When I started asking him more questions he invited me to listen to RLE radio on podcast. (Which hasn't been playing on the live show the last several days when I tune in to hear the 3-peat that normally played for me.) [Sorry, technical difficulties in the studio.] My wife didn't much like hearing you the first time but I found it refreshing someone speaking with passion about the things I've been finding frustrating. I don't need more sugar coating, I appreciate your style. Thanks for the Ministry I look forward to delving in and seeing what the Father has for me.

~ ThINKer from WA

I wanted to say hi and to tell you that with your surgery coming up that I will be thinking of you and pray that it will go well, and your vision will be restored. Please don't give up and stay encouraged ... with all you have been through you encourage me ... Take care and hope to see you soon.

~ ThINKer from NM

I have several of your teachings and listen to them often. I was here about 2 years ago. I have been on a trip. I hope to meet you some day and tell you about it. You speak only the truth. Thank you. Very few teachers do that.

~ ThINKer from UT

An interesting story, short version: We had your disc in the player when I left the pick-up at the dealership for repair. Someone test drove it 25 miles or so and must have been listening to your CD cause when we picked it up the CD was missing! We figured someone needed it more than we did! I didn't say anything was glad to help another. (Unorthodox Evangelism! I like it! Order anything you want to replace your CD.)

~ ThINKer from CO

It's almost 3 yrs since I registered! What a life changing experience it has been. My life has changed so much so that I am no longer welcomed by both family & friends. I have lost possessions family and friends! But for now I have peace and communion with our creator YHWH. Finally I invested in a cell phone on contract to listen to TRIM! And yes I did try to contact you however I am still finding my way around using the phone to listen to your programmes! I am not ashamed to admit that I am not computer literate & am learning my way around. "Thanks Father YHWH for introducing me to you"

~ ThINKer from S.A.

Thank you brother for your time today. It was a Blessing for me. I learned and much was confirmed. I am always encouraged and edified when GOD allows me to absorb more of HIS Truth. I dedicate my life and my all to expressing HIS Truth in Love to all that I come in contact with. I lived 30+ years trapped in the homosexual/transgender world and from prison to my death-bed GOD was working in and on me. ...Thank you brother, for allowing The LORD to truly lead you and guide you.

~ ThINker from ME

Several years ago I was switching channels on the TV when I landed on channel 54, the gospel channel. I never withdrew ever since. Now I am trying to be so saturated with the true meaning of the true gospel and I am willing to give this portion a try. I have certain questions in my heart and I am able to sift through what I accept. I hope you are one of them that I will accept in my heart.

~ ThINker from LA

In case you have not seen this before, I know you will 'love' to see the results of this study and the concern that people have about it! <http://lifewayresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ligonier-State-of-American-Theology-2016-Final-Report.pdf> I continue to enjoy and appreciate your ministry and what you do. I really wish that I could have been with you and everyone at the Feast of Tabernacles this year. It was greatly missed.

~ ThINker from AZ

Many thanks to you and yours for attempting this event for FOT 2016. ... Regarding your injury....Praying for you Don for a healing... Blessings In Yeshua.

~ ThINker from AZ

Greetings from the Ozark plateau! I just listened to the podcast/archive on the calendar of Jehovah part 3 questions & answers and I would like to request the DVD. I need to get up to speed on this... About the barley, and finding a local substitute for it. ... It seems to come down to our personal observations and calculations. Please send the DVD if possible and thank you for everything you are doing. I will email you semi-frequently to let you know we're still here and still working on our way. Still listening. Still sharing TRI with those looking for some sense in their religion. My whole family has benefited from your ministry and we pray for you and for it. Be in good health and vigor, and may your efforts be fruitful.

~ ThINker from MO

From Don's Desk. . .

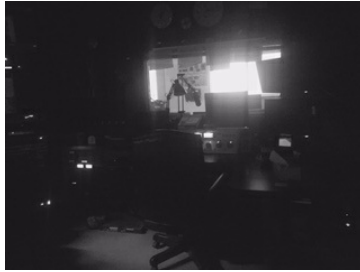


Ah! The Premier of "Think Red Ink Presents" on KAZQ Channel 32 occurred on schedule on Jan 4th, 2017. Please consider this outreach in your time of daily meditation. Several of our TRI listeners reached out and joined the local audience via the magic of "[Watch Online](#)" and celebrated this milestone for TRI. I had an interview on Jan. 17, 2017 on "Spectrum" the flagship program of Channel 32 with hosts Brenton and Ruth Franks. They heartily welcomed Think Red Ink Ministries to their program lineup. Please invite your friends and neighbors to see the KAZQ Channel 32 broadcasts (6:30

p.m. on Wed. and 10:30 a.m. Fri. - MST). This series cries out to believers who do not want to be overtaken in the last days. It is a comfort to know that Jesus has many things to say to us in the Last Days ... secrets to help us avoid deception. It is simple, but not easy.



Recent computer crashes and technical difficulties in the



studio have been insurmountable. So, for the first time in seven years, the websites are down and the broadcast is not playing. The dark studio is hard to take. It is not just my visual problems which halted the technical on-site work, but also a deeper frustration that the message is not being heard. Many days it is not a problem for me to see 1, 2, or 3 listeners, other days - sorry, it just doesn't seem to be worth it. I appreciate those of you who reach out, but many times

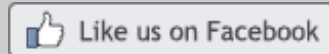
the mail-box is empty. I hear from you that you need me and the ministry of TRI, the truth is I need you, too. I also missed the times of ministry, worship and fellowship with you in 2016. And, as the New Year begins, I realize the struggle to find a common time so that we can share and encourage one another. *Passover approaches. It is projected to be the eve of April 11, 2017 ... [let me know](#) if you can join Think Red Ink Ministries for a Passover Remembrance and conference "What Did Jesus Know & When Did He Know It?" in Albuquerque this year.*

On the upside, my surgery is behind me (*ouch*), and I am now on my way to the restoration of my vision. The Doctors said the procedure was a success; it will just take some time to recover. Let me hear from you, a question, a testimony, a revelation... It means a lot to have your encouragement.

Friendly,



P.S. I've got my eye on you.



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