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MINNEAPOLIS  
Mr. McMichael

### A FULL AND ABUNDANT LIFE ENDS

The world conditions are worse today than at any time you have ever known it. There is more disease: bubonic plague, malaria in Asia including Viet Nam, rabies all over the world and in nations that have not had any serious rabies problem in hundreds of years. Vice-President Humphrey is concerned about the diseases being transmitted to the United States by those in the armed services and by trade. The director of the World Health Organization said, "The spread and emergence of epidemic type diseases continue to grow and continue to be an increasing problem with increasing war and the rotation of soldiers, etc. There have been 700 cases of Asian malaria in the United States, 514 of these cases were soldiers who have returned on leave or have been discharged, etc. Ten thousand American soldiers have had malaria in the past two years. There are several major areas of trouble and problems on the earth that are causing world-wide concern: (1) War in Asia, most fear that it will spread. (2) There are approaching epidemics in Asia, 80,000 have died of cholera. There are 300,000 cases in Turkey. (3) There is a crisis in Agriculture with increased drought in mid-America. (4) There is a trade war shaping up. President Johnson has just returned from the beggar nations of Latin America. They are demanding money from the United States and then turn and denounce us. They want to build more armaments. They spend 1.7 billion in their arms races in Latin America. They need to feed, educate, and provide shelter for their people. This was the idea of the Alliance for Progress. They have not built homes but armies which cause trouble between themselves. There is trouble with France and neither they or Latin America show any love for the United States. We have a shrinking gold reserve. Every month millions go in payments to the other nations. We have a 28 billion debt to other countries. We have 13 billion in gold to cover this outstanding debt. We give aid throughout the world and give away our surpluses. The world is full of troubles. It is estimated that we will spend over 22 billion in the Viet Nam War in the next year. For every Viet Cong soldier we kill, it costs us \$400,000 American dollars. It is an expensive war. We are now between a "rock and a hard place". It is thought there will be 100,000 deaths in Viet Nam. The U.S. contributes 1 1/2 billions to South America for internal development. They spend 1.7 billions on armies. Entire populations go hungry and homeless. The recent conference in Latin America was called the last hope to avoid chaos and uncounted violence in that area. The population there increases more rapidly than in any other nation. It is increasing 3% a year. Within 15 years they will double today's population. If they do, they will starve to death. The 3% increase in population is considered a catastrophe. Compare this with the 92% increase in California in the number of adults using drugs and the 140% increase in juvenile use. God prophesied a sick and dying society. Health authorities in Washington are concerned with the epidemic of LSD use among college students. In addition they bake banana peel and smoke that for the hallucinogenic effect it produces as well as smoking morning glory seeds, nutmeg, and bell peppers. Are these students who are doing these things the leaders who will lead us out of the trouble in the next few years? It is a sick society of famine, disease, complex problems, a God-rejecting society. They would not lead us out of it. We have had 36% more days on strike already this year. II Tim. 3:1-5 How is any Indonesian, island native, or Philippine on Mindanao doing any worse than is done in America. Where are the heathen? We are a dying, sick society. This is the society out of which you have been called.

Matt. 24:32 In the spring when the pussy-willows begin to bud, you know it is really spring. "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Famine, world destruction, disease epidemics, drought in the nation that is supposed to feed the world. Realize the age we live in. Realize the society out of which we have been called. You were called out of lives of lying, cheating, stealing, murder, juvenile delinquency, rape, crime, and drug addiction. You hope to gain the Kingdom of God? What chance is there for you to gain it when called out of this society when all the ideas, impulses, and thoughts you have had in 30 or 40 years of your lives ~~have~~ been controlled by this society? God will deal with this world and will return Jesus Christ to this world to bring peace. Matt. 24:12 "iniquity shall abound". It is more prevalent each year. The FBI regards the crime statistics as frightening. The Minneapolis crime rates are up. The "love of many shall wax cold". This refers to those in the church. Those who endure unto the end - this is repeated over and over. What would it take in famine, disease, what problem would you have to endure before you were ready to quit? Have you thought about it? What would it take to discourage you, to cause your love for God's truth to dwindle so that it became unreal and unbelievable? What would it take so that you would not endure unto the end?

V. 14 There has never been a broadcast like ours on the face of the earth. TV is important here but is not in Asia, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. Radio is the basic means of communication around the world. We will dominate it increasingly more and more. "then shall the end come". This will happen. People think they can live as they please, take all the wealth and blessings of this nation and live as hogs. Americans think they can live filthy rotten lives and God will be with this country. They are independent, do as they please, think there is no punishment. People have broken the Sabbath for so long, lied, cheated but they will learn there is punishment in the next few years. God has been dealing with us the past years. We have seen the growth of the work on every continent in all major languages, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish covering many areas around the world. We are making plans to go into Japan and various Asiatic areas. We will soon be on this great radio station in Jerusalem seven nights a week.

God has been trying to teach us two lessons in the past two weeks: (1) God's laws concerning idolatry (Lev. 26). God chose the two commandments that every nation and people are prone to break and not expect any punishment for it. People can't see that transgressing a principle is wrong. They can see that murder and robbery are not right but can't see breaking the Sabbath is so wrong. As I mentioned last week, if you had killed someone or robbed someone ten years ago, you would remember it for it would be burned into your mind. But you can't remember the Sabbath you broke so badly ten years ago. Idolatry may be having an idol and actually praying to it, believing that it is God or it may be just a wrong desire for material goods - auto, cabin, motor. This is lust but it is hard to see it is wrong. There is nothing wrong with boats, motors, etc. but your attitude toward them is what counts. Your attitude can cause it to be idolatry. People are mesmerized before materialism today. They are willing to jeopardize all society to get what they want. People want to take Abraham Lincoln's principles and use him as an example but no one wants to live as he did. (2) Proper keeping of the Sabbath - not merely recognizing it. God has used Mrs. Armstrong's sickness over the past 80 days to teach us these lessons, to bring out the importance of the Sabbath. God has permitted her to suffer and yet has performed miracles to keep her alive. Dr. Parrish, a former medical doctor from the campus at Big Sandy, says she should have died many, many days ago. Her sickness has produced a study and research into the Sabbath. God has allowed the pressure to remain that we might learn. Now God has allowed Mrs. Armstrong to die. We need to continue to examine ourselves. We need to learn the lessons from this which God intends.

Isa. 57:1 There is a time of evil to come. We must remember that Mrs. Armstrong has led a full and abundant life. She had the opportunity to be at the college and see it spread to other countries. She became a type of mother to the girls at the college. Up until the past 3 or 4 months she was working a full day. She had a full happy life. Rather than go on, we will wait for Mr. Armstrong's letter which you will receive in a few days.

Daniel 11:32 .."but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." We are beginning to be stronger all the time. We have a magazine with millions of readers. We will be going in LIFE magazine soon with our advertising. We are in READERS DIGEST in foreign countries. We are in the major magazines in the Philippines and Australia and plan this for Europe as well. We have the largest radio program that has ever been using 50 million watts per week. God is beginning to do world renowned exploits. Verse 33 "...yet they shall fall". Following the prophecies such as this we find in the history of God's church down through the ages that during one period 335 - 345 A.D. imprisonment, suffering, and death. This was prophesied and came to pass. He does not promise that for this age of the church. But we must understand what it means to "fall". It means to die. Verse 35 "And some of them of understanding shall fall," shall die, to try and to purge.

We have gone through a period of purging and trying. We are to realize what idolatry is and what it means to keep His day holy. Eph. 5:25 There is no question as to whether or not Christ loved the church. He suffered and died for it. But why did He? V. 26 "That He might sanctify" or set apart for a holy purpose - set apart from society, from past ways of life - not perfect but for cleansing by instruction and education. What is righteousness. We are taught but is simple instruction sufficient? Is it enough in your life? You are called out of a weak, dying, disloyal people. Everyone is self-interested. God promised to teach and instruct you but what is His purpose? V. 27 "That He might present it, not having spot, or wrinkle, or blemish". God is willing to sacrifice anything to accomplish this purpose. If God had gone on and sustained Mrs. Armstrong's life and added another 5 or 10 years, that would have been encouraging to the people. They would have thought everything is fine, there is no more reason to fast and pray and examine self. "We can go back to our old ways, we can slip back into the ways we have been living in the last 2 or 3 years. We can have our minds on material goods, etc. and get completely wrapped up in that again." God wants us to learn the lesson of idolatry and keeping His day holy. If Mrs. Armstrong had lived, we would have thought there was no need to change and improve, no reason to continue at a higher standard. When Christ was on the stake and the nails had been driven through His hands and feet and all the soldiers and town people were around and they taunted, "If you be the Christ, come down!"--If He had come down and all the welts and holes in His flesh had disappeared, that would have encouraged the people, would it not? They were looking for a Messiah with power and victory. If He had come down off the cross, He would have had thousands of followers - with flatteries, not repentance, with a desire to be there for what He could have given them. If Mrs. Armstrong would have lived, we would think there was no more need to pray, fast, and be stirred up. "Everything is all right now!" This wrong attitude is a "spot and a blemish". Any characteristic of human nature is a blemish. You are to be holy and without blemish. How long would you have remained in this attitude of examination and fasting if you had received the encouragement of Mrs. Armstrong's recovery? With Mrs. Armstrong's death after the purging and self examination, you will never forget. It will be impossible for you to put that out of your mind.

Philippians 1:27 "One spirit and one mind" without spot or blemish. One goal and one purpose. V. 28 "adversaries" - problems and persecution. Your problems such as losing a good job, etc., is a token of sin to those who are without God's Spirit. If you are striving toward the goal of the Kingdom of God, then your problems are not a token of sin but are a token of salvation. They are a part of your

opportunity to become totally cleansed and somehow, with God's help and guidance, to enter the Kingdom of God. You could not qualify on the day you were baptized, you were only set apart for teaching and guidance and this will include hardship, trial, and teaching. God said He would allow some to die to try and cleanse others. If you have your mind on the Kingdom of God and realize what this period of cleansing and purging is - it is an evident token of salvation. The trials and purging are of God. V. 29 "Not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer.."  
 This is the only way human beings can be prepared for the Kingdom of God. V.#30 They saw Paul's troubles and he was explaining that they would have the same.

Proverbs 8 and 9 describes wisdom as a characteristic of God and explains that it is to be instruction for those who read these chapters. God's will, purpose, and the wisdom He uses are plain to him that understands and right to those that find knowledge. His purpose of preparing His church to do His work is plain to him that understands and right to them that find knowledge. God allows these things to happen to separate from God's church those who "cling by flattery". If this is you, you will dry up and fade away. In the past we would find those who were doing various things that were wrong and admonish and allow them to continue to attend services. We are not going to let this happen any more. Those who break God's law and will not repent and change, we will cut off. We will be sure that those who consider themselves members of God's church will be pure in heart and if they worship with us they are keeping God's law or they can go and worship the devil. This sick end-age society and anyone who comes out of it will have to make some changes. God desires to see these changes. He will sacrifice anything necessary to make that purpose good. There are lessons and improvements we need to make. God was willing to sacrifice His Son and willing to allow Mrs. Armstrong to die to make us learn the lesson of idolatry and Sabbath breaking. God loves us. He desires we do His work and receive eternal life. If we don't, the blood is on our heads. Be need to be sure that we have this understanding.

Eph. 1:4 "Holy and without blame". This is what we must develop into. He is willing to make any sacrifice necessary for us to gain the Kingdom which is the "mystery" of V. 5-12. V. 17 "Spirit of wisdom" must come from God. Trouble is a token of perdition to those who don't understand. If you realize you have rotten human nature, you know it takes troubles and trials to change you. V. 18 God has given you an opportunity to qualify for His Kingdom. He will fulfill this. Whatever hardship, purging, trying, or death is needed to make us clean - that is what will be. Learn to recognize these things from God's point of view and from right knowledge and then you will endure to the end.

Study and try to understand why we are here, where we are going, pray about it. Wait for Mr. Armstrong's letter to explain the details.