

February 2, 2011

Dear Pepaw,

I hope this finds you doing well. We are thinking about you daily and praying for you at every opportunity. We even had it announced at church so that others would know of your health concerns, so I know other Christians are praying for you also. (James 5:16 – “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”)

Before I get too far in this letter, if someone else is reading this to you I hope that they will have enough courage to read it to you in its entirety and open the bible and read the passages cited with you.

It has been my fervent prayer that these health difficulties have caused you to think of your spiritual condition and where you stand with God. I know Memaw has been a great example of a Christian woman in the almost 63 years you two have shared in marriage. And I know you have attended church with her from time to time. I just don't know if you have ever obeyed God's word by making the great confession that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 8:36-38; Acts 2:38). I encourage you to meditate on these passages and examine your heart to see if you are in a right relationship with God. The pattern we are given in the New Testament to become a Christian is very simple. We must:

- Hear the word of God – Romans 10:17
- Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – Mark 16:16
- Repent of our sins – Acts 2:38
- Confess our belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God – Acts 8:37
- Be Baptized for the remission of our sins – Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-38

We must do all of these things, not just one or two.

Please remember that there is no sin too big or too small for God to forgive. Remember the apostle Paul? What sin could be worse than helping people be murdered? Read Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-30. Yet even though Saul (who later became the apostle Paul) was persecuting Christians and helping people be murdered, God still forgave him when he obeyed God's word and was baptized.

One more thing...don't ever think that it is too late to obey the gospel and be baptized. Consider Matthew 20:1-16 where we read about the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. All the laborers received the same wages regardless of whether they worked all day or one hour. God offers us all the same reward of spending eternity with Him in Heaven whether we spend all our lives laboring in his vineyard or whether we spend one year or one month or one day.

I hope you will think on these things as you have opportunity. I know there are Christians willing to talk with you when you feel up to having visitors. Jeff and I would love to talk to you about God's plan of salvation. I've also contacted Frank Richey, a friend of mom and dad and a faithful gospel preacher for many years, who would be

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willing to talk to you when you are able. I don't know if I have ever talked to you about God's word. I do know that I will stand before God one day and give account for whether I tried to teach you, and others, about the gospel. I also know that I want to see you and all our family in heaven when God calls us home.

I love you.

~Melissa

February 3, 2011

Dear Pepaw,

I hope you are making improvements each day. It was good to hear that you were able to come home on Monday afternoon. The next step is to get your strength built back up. Keep working hard and doing what the therapist says to do!

Have you had an opportunity to meditate on the thoughts in my first letter? I certainly hope you have and that it is helping you draw closer to God and what He commands us to do to become a Christian. I pray that you will have confidence as you prepare to face judgment one day. I also pray that you will have the strength that comes from being able to put your finger on a book, chapter and verse such as Acts 2:38 and be able to say "Yes, Lord, I have done that!". What peace and comfort that will bring to you to know that you've done what the Lord has commanded you to do!

As I said in my first letter, I don't know if I have ever talked to you about the gospel. I don't know if you have ever been baptized, and if you have, for what reasons were you baptized. I have just been very concerned about this since your first hospital stay a few weeks ago. I want to be confident that you have done what God commands us to do to be saved. I want to be confident that you will spend eternity in heaven one day. I want to be confident that I will see you in heaven one day whenever the Lord calls us home! I hope my concerns don't upset you in any way.

Until next time...I love you and your soul.

~Melissa

February 4, 2011

Dear Pepaw,

Yes, it is another letter from your first grandchild. And yes, you will likely get more letters from me with regards to your spiritual condition. And YES, I am very concerned about your soul. Here are some more spiritual thoughts for you to consider today.

Have you ever read 2 Corinthians 5? This is a great chapter regarding the judgment that we all will face. Besides showing the finality of judgment and how our fate is sealed at death (2 Corinthians 5:10), this chapter even gets at the idea of a lost person loving his family and not wanting THEM to be lost (2 Corinthians 5:20). I know that there are those within our family that will tell you things contrary to what I am showing you that God commands. What a great opportunity to show THEM the way to salvation by your example!

We still continue to think of you each day, and we are praying for your physical heart to heal. But more importantly, we are praying for spiritual healing for your heart and for you to come to a greater understanding of the scriptures so that you will obey God before it is too late.

Until next time...I love you.

~Melissa

February 5, 2011

Dear Pepaw,

I hope this letter finds you doing better than yesterday. I continue to pray for your physical comfort, but more than anything, I pray that you will have the peace and comfort that can only be found by obeying God's commands.

Did you (or someone else) read to you from 2 Corinthians 5 regarding the judgment that we will all face after we die? I hope that you were able to think on the thoughts from that chapter and grow in your knowledge of the scriptures. Might I recommend another passage to consider? Take a look at Luke 16:19-31 regarding the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. After death we have no second chance. The only chance we have to obey the gospel is while we are here on earth. The rich man was in torment and wanted only a drop of water to cool his tongue. Abraham said that even that small request wasn't possible. Then the rich man asked Abraham to allow Lazarus (who was in paradise) to return to earth to teach the rich man's brothers what they needed to do to be saved. That wasn't possible either. Not even someone returning from the grave could convince them. Jesus said ("neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead" – Luke 16:31). So as I said in the last letter, what a great opportunity to set an example of what we need to do to be saved (Acts 2:38 – repent and be baptized). There will be those of our own family that will say that baptism isn't necessary. Acts 2:38 clearly teaches that it IS ABSOLUTELY necessary! And even if no one else in our family will heed your example or the teaching of God's word, you need to at least save your own soul so that you can spend eternity in paradise with God. You've spent almost 63 years with Memaw...don't you want to spend eternity with her too?

Until next time...I love you and your soul.

~Melissa

P.S. I sincerely hope someone is allowing you to read these letters or that they are reading them to you if you can't read them on your own.