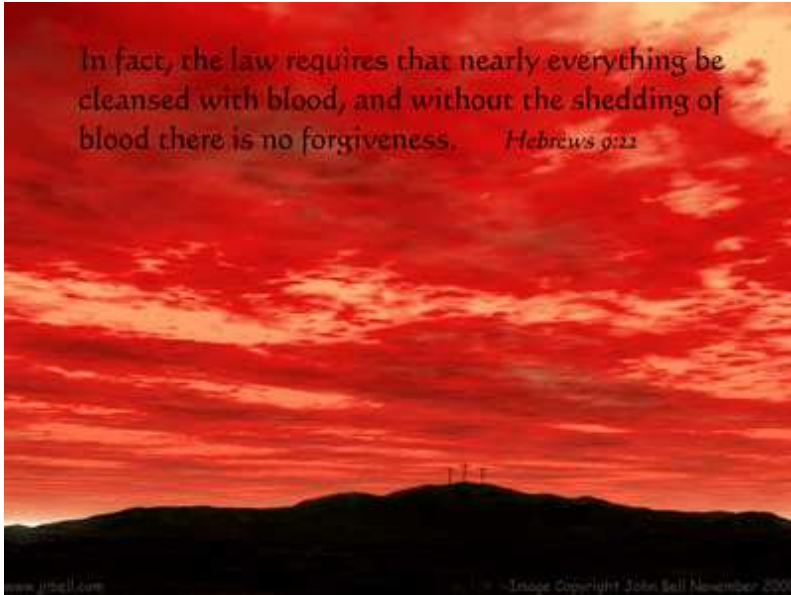


Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 9:52 AM
Subject: Mary Craig Ministries April 2009 email



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.
 April, 2009

When you're in the ministry, you feel the pulse of the people, what they're going through. Right now many are suffering. It's not all physical suffering; some of it is emotional, some mental, some financial. But people are in pain right now, praying...but in pain.

I don't need to spell it out for you; you hear it, read it, experience it. But now more than before, you (and me, too) are holding on to the Word of God for your very life. That's good; we find comfort in the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, the One who comes alongside while we're going through fires or floods (Isaiah 43) or adversity. He is there to comfort us in all our tribulation. There is a purpose to what we're going through.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort where-with we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Corinthians 1.3, 4)

Paul goes on to say that as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ. God provides what we need to handle our days. And whether we are afflicted or whether we are comforted, Paul says, it is for the consolation and salvation of others. We're enduring together in the sufferings we suffer. We're to strengthen one another, bear one another's burdens, stir one another up to love and good works, fellowship with one another.

As you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation. (1 Corinthians 1.7b)

Paul despaired even of life; he was so pressed by trouble in Asia. He was pressed out of measure. That's Bible talk for being in the crucible of the Cross, being crushed like spices while God makes of you a sweet smelling fragrance before Him. That's Gethsemane, the place of the olive press. That's "the pressure cooker."

The purpose? *But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead: who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us. (1 Corinthians 1.9, 10)*

And how do we help each other most? *You also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf. (1 Corinthians 1.11)*

We're seeing this, folks, at Craighouse. People are helping people, seeing a need and helping to meet it. People pray for one another, sympathize, empathize, and get active. Our Barnabas Project reaches needy families; our "refrigerator ministry" helps hungry folks and people who just need a boost. Our giving extends to ministries helping the homeless, helping feed people, helping those in persecution, and more.

It's a hard thing to deal with suffering and to gain a right perspective on it. Paul suffered the loss of all things he formerly counted as "really something valuable" for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. Jesus was his Lord, meaning that Jesus held Paul's destiny, his life, in his hands.

Paul submitted to Jesus as Lord. He wanted to "be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made comformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." (Philippians 3.9-11)

There's something more out there. Paul reached for it, the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Paul exhorts us to grow up, to be mature in our thinking, to have God reveal to us this mindset toward the days of our lives.

Somehow, it pleased God to bruise His Son, the Messiah (Isaiah 53). Check into it.

Jesus endured the cross, despising its shame. He endured "sufferings." This One who had no sin, who is the Beloved of the Father, came from heaven to earth to do something astounding—suffer. He is the Lord of Suffering. He died paying the penalty for the debt note of sin; taking the wrath of the Holy for all that is unholy. He made peace through the Blood of the Cross. He redeemed believers from the curse of the Law. He defeated Satan in his own territory.

Those guys on the road to Emmaus were down in the dumps, their hopes dashed, their emotions rampant with thoughts that the One in whom they trusted had failed them. *But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done. (Luke 24.21)*

The Risen Christ responded, O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken, Was it not necessary for Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? Luke 24.25, 26



The path to glory doesn't bypass the Cross and suffering; suffering is right there, on the path to glory. 1 Peter 1. The glory follows the sufferings of Christ. So gird up your mind, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Look, in the Christian life we travel through levels of understanding and relationship with the Father. First, our sins are imputed to

Christ and His righteousness is imputed to us. **Imputation** Then after being defined “holy, blameless, and without reproach,” a definitive sanctification, we start the process of becoming what God has declared us to be. God begins to impart holiness to us. **Impartation** Then we start to imitate Christ, to follow Him. **Imitation** Then we begin to identify with Him, with what He experienced through His life, with what and who He is. **Identification** And then, as Jesus was God in the flesh, a divine person who took on a human nature in a human body, we *partake* (we never become God or a god) of the divine nature as human beings. **Incarnation**, Christ in us the hope of glory.

Think about it. And whatever you’re going through right now, know that God has a purpose in it and His Holy Spirit is right there alongside as Paraclete.

God is moving mightily in our midst right now. The Holy Spirit is moving in an unprecedented way. We’re pretty much packed out; but come and join us!

Regular schedule:



Sundays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Celebrate Grace!

Rev. Jim Craig, Senior Pastor

Communion served Sunday April 5th Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 19th, join us before the worship service at 3:00 p.m. if you want to participate in a prayer strategy for our upcoming mission to Iceland and Greenland and for our nation as well.



Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

English Course of NT Book of John with Rev. Jim Craig
Improving your ability to read and understand Scripture through a study of English grammar in the gospel of John



Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

“3.16: A Devotional Survey of the Bible”

A teaching on the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation
With Dr. Mary Craig



Fridays, 7:30 p.m.

“Who Is Jesus Christ?” The Truth that sets people free!

Worship & Ministry of Holy Spirit in activating gifts, anointing, healing, & deliverance follow Bible study with Dr. Mary Craig

Special Events:



Sunday April 5th Palm Sunday (communion) 4:30 p.m.



Good Friday Service April 10th, 7:30 p.m. Communion will be served. Worship & ministry of the Holy Spirit follow.



Celebrating the Resurrection Sunday, April 12th 4:30 p.m.



Saturday, April 25th,

6:00 p.m., Fellowship Dinner.

Bring food and friends for a great evening of fellowship and fun. Karen Moran, Founder of The Light Club under Child Evangelism Fellowship, will be our guest speaker. The Light Club is one of 12 mercy ministries supported by the tithes of Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Come and hear about this evangelistic ministry to elementary children in the public schools of Palm Beach County, FL through the after-school clubs program.



Sunday, April 26th, join us for worship and dinner and then go with us to the

theatre to see the movie "Disney's Earth." For the family.



Craighouse®
 114 E. McNab Road
 (in the Pompano Plaza)
 Pompano Beach, FL 33060
 954-491-7270
www.craighouse.org

Pastors:
 Rev. Jim Craig
 Dr. Mary Craig



Craighouse®: Where Christ is exalted and His people grow in grace.