

10 December 2011



Dear Subscribers,

Greetings to you. I hope this letter finds you well and resting in God's grace and love.

As many of you know, God has brought many changes into my life in 2011, including moving to Colorado and getting married. Now He's bringing changes in my work, also. Recently, I've shared excerpts from the book I've been writing and revising for many months. My work's at the point where I need to devote myself full-time to publishing and promoting this book, and then starting on the next book. I have so much on my heart to share with people about God and Scripture.

Therefore, because of the time and energy required to publish and promote our upcoming book, *God's Radical*, I will be discontinuing *The Crack O' Dawn Report* video, and the *Clanging Gong News* newsletter. It's been a great three-year run, and much truth has gone forward with these two channels. This truth will remain on my website (and on YouTube, of course) to bless future seekers. One beautiful thing about working in the evangel: Truth is timeless.

I must do something to earn money. The problem with publishing the newsletter and video is they require great amounts of thought and time, and there are only a relative handful of people who feel the need to support this work (about 25 individuals and families out of more than 1,000 subscribers). I have tried to give subtle hints that the work cannot continue without the unforced financial support of those receiving spiritual benefit from it, but perhaps I have been *too* subtle. For those of you who have sent help, you are the reason that a great book is about to be published. Thank you! Each time

Rebecca and I receive money for our work, we literally take to our knees at the sofa and thank God. Then we pray for you. We could not be doing what we are doing without you.

An ideal system

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:14—“Thus the Lord also prescribes that those who are announcing the evangel are to be living of the evangel.” This is how the Word is supposed to get out. Paul’s reasoning for accepting support was: “If, in expectation, we sow the spiritual in you, is it a great thing if we shall reap of your fleshly things?” (1 Corinthians 9:11). In other words, Paul considered it a fair trade that those receiving eonian and eternal spiritual benefit from him should help pay his electric bill.

While Paul accepted support, it’s true he did not press his right. Being the inaugural spokesperson for the evangel of grace, Paul underwent extreme scrutiny. Because it’s so easy to associate genuine evangelists with religious charlatans (whose primary purpose is profit), Paul thought it best to forgo even his rights. Thus, he made tents part-time and took whatever other money came.

“Fully discharge your service”

I have heard that the ecclesias in England—among the few who actually know the evangel of grace—disallow full-time work in the evangel. Their defense is that, “Paul made tents, so we should all have ‘real jobs’ and publish the evangel with whatever energy we have left over.” Paul would be rolling over in his grave at such anachronistic stubbornness. Paul also said he had the right to take a wife, and yet he gave that up along with insisting on support (1 Corinthians 9:3-15). If the ecclesias in England want to slavishly imitate Paul’s *personal* choices, they should disallow marriage. Do they? Of course not. They cherry-pick Paul, failing not only to distinguish Paul’s personal choices from the general rule, but ignoring the greatest need of our present era, which is publishing the true gospel of grace.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul told his son in faith to “do the work of an evangelist” and “fully discharge your service” (2 Timothy 4:5). Paul also told Timothy to be an ideal soldier (2:3), and that no one warring was to be involved in the business of a livelihood (2:4). Thus, Paul commissioned Timothy to full-time work in the message of grace; he certainly was *not* telling him to make tents. The Paul of 1 Corinthians is not the Paul of 2 Timothy. Even the Paul of 1 Corinthians admitted that he was the exception to the rule of a rightful insistence on full-time support. The difference between 1 Corinthians and 2 Timothy is that, in the interim, the apostasy, which Paul had predicted in 1 Thessalonians, had come to bloom, and the times required full-time workers to combat it. Because Timothy was one of the few who knew the true message of grace, the last thing Paul wanted was for this rare voice to be waiting tables at a local restaurant. There’s nothing wrong with waiting tables, but Timothy was called to be an evangelist, not a waiter.

The apostasy is many, many times worse today than it was when Paul wrote 2 Timothy. Look around you: Organized religion pours billions of dollars annually into spreading poisonous, Satanic lies, including eternal torment and humans-must-earn-their-salvation.

Can we do less than help support, even a little, those who struggle to publish the *real* good news? Will we allow the few voices we do have to die away?

My wife and I are full-time laborers

Last December, while visiting Colorado Springs, I asked Rebecca—six months before our wedding—if she would join me in full-time work in the evangel. At the time, she was a writer at the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*, and for various good reasons had come to dread going to work each day for that company. And so, when I “popped the question” of her working with me as an editor, co-writer, and fellow-believer as knowledgeable as Timothy, she immediately said, “Yes!”

Since February, we have been working together, crafting *God’s Radical*, my best, most comprehensive book to date. This book puts Paul’s distinct gospel in a nutshell (or rather, 70,000 words). What will appeal to most people, however, is embodied in the subtitle: *The secret of the apostle Paul, and why we can’t live like Jesus*. Much more than a theology book, it’s a book explaining to striving, tired people why the words of the earthbound Jesus—printed in red—are so hard to live up to: *They aren’t meant to be!* Truly, this is a message of grace.

We still need your help

After 18 years of hoping for support, I am weary. It is very hard to give and give, and *maybe* get. God has always been faithful, and I honor Him for that, but it has been a little tough on my nervous system. If it’s His will, I would much rather make my living exclusively selling books. I hope and pray that Rebecca and I are in this transition from ministry/business to business/ministry. I have given you Paul’s teachings on this matter, not only for our sakes in the present transition, but so you will understand the principle and help others who might be starting out and struggling to publish the true gospel.

God’s Radical is still about a month away from publication, so there’s still time to give freely to this specific work. There will also be an ongoing need for support to continue the website, along with other monthly expenses. Like Paul, I have refused to press my rights. My favorite saying is, “If you have been helped, then give what you think the help has been worth.” Some people cannot give, I realize that. Those who can cover those who can’t. But when those who can *don’t*, then the work stops and God’s premier method of evangelism gets derailed.

According to Paul’s mindset, contribution to his work accrued to the givers’ credit, more than to his. This is true. It ought to be considered a privilege to assist in so great a work as dispensing the only good news in this world: the evangel of the grace of God. To those of you who continue to give: THANK YOU. We continue to need your support. To those who have not considered the importance of it, now is a good time to think about it. Here’s a link for you:

http://martinzender.com/donation_mz.htm

I have been slow in sending thank-you notes, simply because I've been so busy writing a book and nurturing a new relationship. Thus, to anyone who has supported this outreach in the last year and has yet to be thanked, personally, by me—please, consider this acknowledgement to be the sincerest, most heartfelt thanks, not only from me, but from my wife and co-laborer, Rebecca Tonn.

The near future

I plan to produce three more Crack O' Dawn videos, in which Rebecca and I will be promoting the new book. After that, I am pulling the plug. As far as I know, the latest edition of *The Clanging Gong News* was the last edition. I've already considered re-inventing the video format and doing some regular thing in the near future (I am toying with the title, "ZTV"), but have not yet decided. (Would you, the members of the body of Christ, support such a venture?) If I do make some kind of new video show, the videos would be much shorter and involve far less production time.

Already in the pipeline, we have *Beyond Politics*, *Shagah*, *Eve Raised*, and *Divine Principles of Sexual Attraction* (the latter three about marriage and sexuality), which are already written, but need revised and edited before we publish them later in 2012 (Lord willing). In addition, I have a list of fifty (yes, 50) other books, which are burning inside me and need to be written. Some of the working titles include: *Martin Zender Solves Evil*, *Ten Commandment Shock*, *History and Future of Satan*, and *Absolute vs. Relative Perspective*.

Thank you for your kind attention, and for your love, support, and prayers. The time is short; we believe the snatching away of the body of Christ is imminent. Let us all be taking care of those things that are truly important, while looking for our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who will be transforming our bodies of humiliation into glorious bodies—just like His.

Grace and peace,

Martin & Rebecca