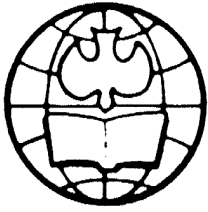


# Northern Florida Christian Center



*An interdenominational, Spirit-filled ministry touching people with Jesus' love*

Founder: Roxanne Brant • President: Rev. Retha Garten  
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MARCH/APRIL 2021

## GET WISDOM

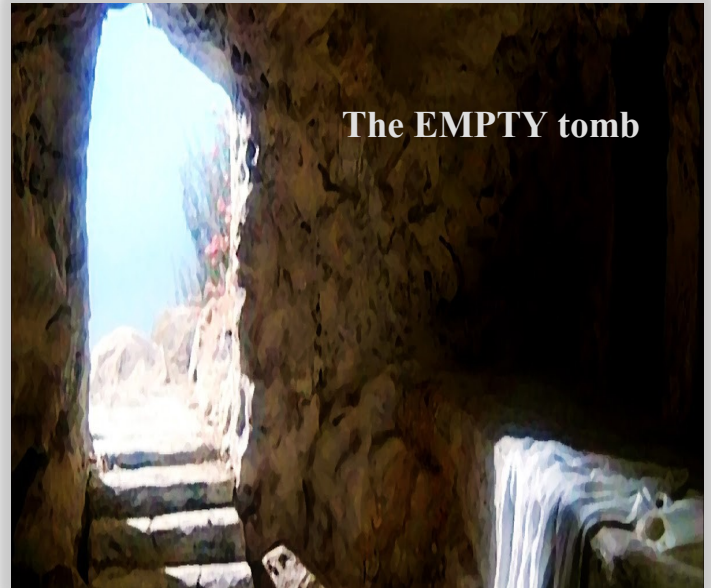
By: Retha Garten

Sadly, we are seeing the devil-inspired, systematic dismantling of core values upon which our nation was built by men hundreds of years ago as they sought Holy Scripture as their primary source for America's establishment.

Quoting from gifted writer, Erwin W. Lutzer, in his book *We Will Not Be SILENCED*, "Yes, incredible as it may seem, Karl Marx still rules from the grave. Today we face what is known as cultural Marxism...It promises 'hope and change,' income equality, racial harmony, and justice based on secular values rather than Judeo-Christian morality. It is known for professing inclusion rather than exclusion and promoting sexual freedom rather than what they view as the restrictive sexual ethics of the Bible. It is not stifled by allegedly narrow religious traditions but espouses progressive ideas that are deemed worthy of an enlightened future. It promises 'social justice...'"

Retired Pastor Lutzer then gives heartbreaking evidence of how this dismantling of our nation is taking place. Here are a few areas: *destruction of the nuclear family; the media directing the culture; the silent church; rewriting the past to control the future, tearing down monuments, and much more.* His book is very accurate, of course, and many chapters bring out more specifically how this dismantling is taking place. And he does give great hope for how Christians are to combat this evil taking place, and writes "Our calling and privilege is to represent Christ at this turbulent moment in history."

How then are we to obey 'our calling and privilege representing Christ' at this turbulent time in America? One vitally important way, as I see it, is in *getting or acquiring wisdom.*



## The EMPTY tomb

Apostle James brings it out quite clearly, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally, and without reproach (ridiculing), and it will be given to him James 1:5. What a marvelous promise from the Word of God.

I can certainly affirm that I need wisdom, big time. I heard Pastor Jimmy Evans say that he prays for wisdom for **that day**, every day, to know what God would have him do and say **that day**. And, in hearing Pastor Evans speak, to me he sounds like his words are absolutely overflowing with wisdom!

*Wisdom or wise* are mentioned some 456 times in the Bible. By definition it means *understanding, knowledge, good sense, insight, perception, prudence, good judgment*, to name some attributes, and don't we need them in these turbulent times?

Proverbs 9:10 tells us that *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied and years of life will be added to you.* Another great promise. And this one, the Source of

# To Encourage You...

This column should probably be titled "To Encourage ME" this time. I share with you what I have recently received:



Retha Garten

"Hi Retha, I wanted to let you know that I read your book, and greatly appreciate your message. It certainly resonated with me. I'm currently plant manager where your nephew Brody works. I saw your book on his desk and he lent it to me.

JP, Lewistown, PA

Dear Pastor Retha, Thank you for your encouraging words. Praise the Lord for your faithfulness and enduring the years of your service to God. It truly takes obedience to follow Jesus! And it is so rewarding and fills your soul. Your letter truly gives me courage to go forward for the harvest. Please keep well and cling to the Cross."

FH, Honolulu, HI

"Hi Retha, Yet another excellent newsletter! Really ministers on a number of aspects of the election and the state of the country...Thanks for all the things you said in the Jan-Feb newsletter, and I'm so glad to see that someone was effectively introduced to Jesus through your prison ministry!

Dr. Ed L, SD & ILL

"Dear Retha, you, in particular, NFCC, and Rox — have been such a wonderful source of encouragement, love and prayers through the years. Just what you have contributed through us to the world is IMMENSE. Your reward is and will continue to be very great. Remember, you are greatly loved by our Father and us."

Drs. M & B N, Knoxville, TN



wisdom. "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, Who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in the LORD" I Corinthians 1:30-31

Think of the incredible wisdom of God and Jesus Christ for the amazing plan of redemption and salvation of sinful mankind. Apostle Paul writing to the Roman Christians seems to have been overcome with emotion when he thought of God's wisdom, and cried out, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him" Romans 11:33-35

It is reported that some evangelical churches already have and others are removing any hymns in their songbooks that mention the blood of Jesus. When I read the reports, I had 'righteous indignation' and was very sad...and then mad. I think this is something to be upset about. I determined to sing about, speak about, teach and preach about the pure, holy, redeeming blood of Jesus, more and more and more.

Far back in the Old Testament, it tells us 'the life of all flesh is the blood' Leviticus 17:14. When all of the physical blood flows out of a human, his body dies, with nothing left but the shell of flesh. When you go to a doctor with some ailment or sickness, usually one of the very first things they require is taking a sample of the person's blood. The blood tells a lot about health and disease.

A sentence from the late Andre Crouch's hymn, *The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power* gives faith and hope. A powerful line states "The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power." Think of God's word to Cain, "The voice of your brother's BLOOD cries to Me from the ground" Genesis 4:10, after Cain murdered Abel, his brother, in a fit of anger and jealousy. So...we could say, in a sense, blood speaks. You might ask, "Does the Bible really say, 'blood speaks?'" Hebrews 12:22-24 the writer says, "...you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...and to Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant, and the blood of sprinkling, **that speaketh** better things than that of Abel." Of course, it is not saying that blood actually speaks, but it is a means of telling us how important blood is, because it represents life.

When Jesus' blood...representing His very

physical life...was not only poured out on the Cross of Calvary, but for some 33 1/2 years, as He walked this earth, His sinless blood never lost its power and is on-going for mankind. What is left of Christianity if Jesus' blood is removed from singing about, and praising Him for His love, sacrifice, and salvation?

Apostle Paul declared to the Corinthian Christians, *“And, I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony (mystery) of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ...and my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God”* I Corinthians 2:1-5

All of these Scriptures and my words are to say, in early April as we celebrate Easter, we should sing about, think about, and give glory to our Father God for His great wisdom, and to Jesus for His poured out life on Calvary, that brought eternal redemption for all who would receive Him as Savior and Lord.

Satan missed this wisdom of God, big time. He thought Calvary took care of putting Jesus in the grave, and he was now the kingpin. How many times in years past I heard Roxanne in her Easter-time messages give her version of this scene. It went something like this: satan was gleeful in the headquarters of hell telling the demons that now it was time to throw a party. *“That Jesus was hung on the cross on Calvary, many witnesses saw Him die three days ago, and His plan for mankind is also dead.*

*Days ago, put in a cave grave and He is done for, and we can wash our hands of Him. Now...I am in charge, and its time to party.”* But...one of his demons pulled him aside as he rambled on and on about Jesus' total defeat and his victory now, and said, *“I need to talk with you.”* In his impatience, satan said, *“What do you want? Tell me?”* The demon said, *“Well...uh...something has, well, come up.”* Visibly irritated, satan replied, *“What are you talking about, spit it out.”* Really scared of his evil boss with the news, he blurted out, *“Jesus is alive.”* *“What do you mean, He's alive? Some of my other demons were there at the Cross and they saw His blood poured out and heard Him say, “Father, into Your hands, I commit My spirit. It is finished.” “Yes sir, that is all true, but He has risen from the dead, and I tell you He is alive.”*

Ok, I admit I really got into this dialogue as I write, and added to Roxanne's words, a little bit, well, maybe more than a little bit. But, I get so excited when I think about the incredible wisdom of the Holy Trinity 'pulling this off' (excuse me for using this phrase). Satan missed it all. I Corinthians 1:8 gives the account: *“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew, for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory”* (my emphasis).

Apostle Paul had a lot to say about wisdom. Here is one of them, *“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be*

# In Appreciation of Your Offering of \$25 or More

## **DO IT AFRAID**

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*made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness for those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent...For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe” I Corinthians 1:17-21. Paul so readily understood the power of the Cross and how Jesus’ life, death and resurrection made the difference in His life, and can and will make it in the lives of all who believe and receive Him.*

How do the differences that the Cross and the wisdom of God make in answering critics? Righteousness in simple terms means, ‘*right standing with God.*’ Here is one down-to-earth example of how wisdom can answer. True story of a former drunkard who had a glorious Christian conversion through Jesus. His co-workers tried to shake his faith and asked, “*How can you believe, for example, that this Jesus of yours actually turned water into wine.*” The former sot replied, “*I do not know, but in my own home I have seen Him turn beer into furniture.*”

Jesus is Wisdom and we should proclaim it loudly during this Easter season. He is alive. He paid our sin debt that we had no means of paying. We were slaves, but He set us free. In every circumstance, every day of our life, He is our wisdom. I think it is a wise decision for each of us to pray for His divine wisdom every morning for each day ahead, as we live in such turbulent times that we have never seen before in America. Jesus is with us and will lead and guide us as we believe and trust Him for His never-failing wisdom.

# Northern Florida Christian Center



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**MARCH/APRIL 2021**

**Glorious Easter!**

## This Month’s Offer

**Declared by many to be the most well-known, beloved Christian lady speaker in the world, Joyce Meyer has written yet another very encouraging book, titled “Do It Afraid, Embracing Courage In The Face of Fear.” What an appropriate title to identify for this time in which we live.**

**This book is divided into three parts. Under Part One is Understanding Fear and some titles are: *It’s Time to Make a Choice; Do It Afraid; I Will Not Fear; Why Am I Afraid?; The Antidote For Fear.* Part Two: Confronting Fear. Some chapter titles: *Take One Step At A Time; Take Courage and Be Strong; Learn to Be Secure and Confident.* Part Three includes: *Mindsets for Walking in Freedom From Fear* and helps the reader understand how *You Can Love Fearlessly; You Can Live in Acceptance; You Can Trust God in Every Situation...* and so much more.**

**Probably everyone of us has at times, and is still sometimes wracked with fear in certain issues and encounters. It seems to be one of our enemy’s most powerful tools he uses against us. It should not be this way, and this book will help you successfully deal with fear and its aftermath.**

**Meyer has written almost 100 inspirational books, and, to me, this brand new one is a real keeper to be read again and again, underlined, and prayer over chapters that speak to you personally. Her incredible Christian life proves she has lived out oodles of times when she has done so many seemingly impossible things, with God’s help, and done it afraid.**

**(See page 3 to order this life-changing book)**

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