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NEWSLETTER

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TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES



MANY OF US HAVE BEEN RECENTLY FORCED TO USE TECHNOLOGY WITH WHICH WE ARE UNFAMILIAR. WE'RE NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO USE FACETIME AND GETTING INTO A ZOOM MEETING PROVES CHALLENGING. EVEN THE "PROFESSIONALS" DOING LIVE TV NEWSCASTS SOMETIMES STRUGGLE TO PUT TOGETHER A FLAWLESS PROGRAM WITH MANY REMOTE CONTRIBUTORS.

BUT WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WITH TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. PEOPLE IN BIBLE TIMES HAD THEM TOO!

CONSIDER THE PROPHECY OF MALACHI. HE PROCLAIMS GOD'S WORD REBUKING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR THEIR FAILURE TO TAKE GOD'S LAW SERIOUSLY. THEY OFFERED FLAWED SACRIFICES (1:7-9) THAT WERE NOT TECHNICALLY CORRECT BUT "GOOD ENOUGH" IN THEIR MINDS. THEY HAD PROBLEMS WITH GIVING GOD THE WHOLE TITHES AS WELL (3:8-10). GOD MAY HAVE TECHNICALLY WANTED 10% BUT CERTAINLY HE'D BE HAPPY WITH 7%, WOULDN'T HE? EVEN THE PRIESTS WERE CORRUPT FAILING TO TEACH GOD'S TRUTHS (2:7-9) AND FLIPPANTLY DIVORCING THEIR WIVES (2:13-16). THEY CERTAINLY HAD PROBLEMS WITH GOD'S TECHNICAL EXPECTATIONS.

BUT THEY ARE NOT ALONE.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT JESUS SUMMARIZES THE WHOLE OLD TESTAMENT LAW BY SAYING, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (LUKE 10:27). THAT SEEMS PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUT A SELF-RIGHTEOUS LAWYER QUESTIONED THE DETAILS BY ASKING "AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?" (V. 29). TO THIS QUESTION JESUS GAVE THE ACCOUNT OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (LUKE 10:30-37).

SO, WHAT ABOUT THOSE WITH TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES . . . THOSE REBELS IN MALACHI'S DAY, THAT LAWYER IN JESUS'S DAY? THEY'RE REALLY PRETTY SAD FOLK, AREN'T THEY?

BUT WHAT ABOUT US? DON'T WE SOMETIMES QUESTION THE DETAILS OF LOVING GOD? DOES HE REALLY EXPECT LOVE WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH AND MIND? AFTER ALL WHAT DOES "ALL" MEAN? AND ISN'T SUCH A COMMAND REALLY BEING LEGALISTIC?

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. A HARDSHIP IN OUR COMPUTER AGE BUT A HEARTACHE IN ANY AGE.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE