

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

Volume 32 Issue 02 © February, 2024

Happy Valentines Day

(Our elder daughter, aged 2, would say, 'Happy Valentines Day!')

Well here we are, once again, nearing Valentine's Day. In case you've ever wondered about the origin of Valentine's Day, wonder no more; the very, very short version is: Valentine of Rome, a Christian Martyr of the 3rd Century, one of so many... he supposedly restored the sight of his jailor's daughter. His final letter to her was signed, 'Your Valentine.'

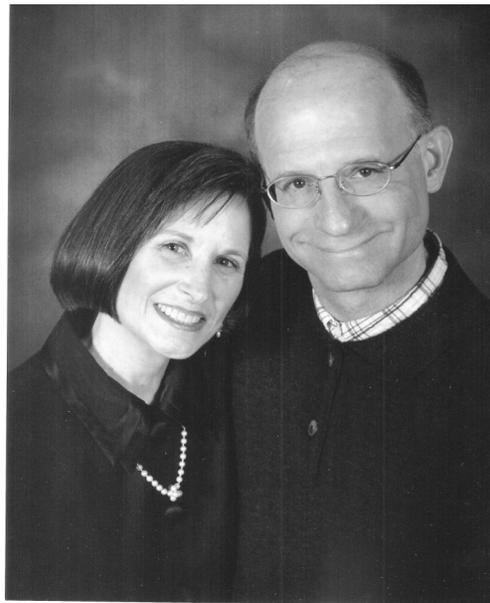
Valentine's Day is a time for love letters, hand written cards and gifts of love but if we could go far, far into the past, we'd see the very first *gifts of love*. First and foremost, God, before anything existed, devised His Great Plan for the Ages; He would glorify His beloved Son. He would create a Bride for His Son, comprised of all those whom He chose, for Himself, before the foundation of the World, upon whom He would shower, endlessly throughout all Eternity, His unimaginable gifts of love. Next, He created all that is: the Universe, the Earth and everything therein; He chose and created a nation for Himself, Israel, through which He would eventually create the human Body for His Son though it pained Him terribly, knowing the abject suffering His Son would endure while in that Body but He also knew that through His Son's suffering, the price will have been paid for all the sins of all the Bride He had chosen for His Son Who also knew the cost and was fully willing to pay it all for sake of His Bride.

One day, many centuries later, God created the spark of life within a certain woman's womb: two sparks, actually: life! He immediately began to create tiny little bodies around the twins which grew and grew until finally they were born; here, then, were God's next gifts of love to both babies; He gave them life and then He created for them incredibly intricate, individual bodies within which they would grow, learn to 'operate' as pilots, as it were, with the potential to experience all that this physical World offers along with the abilities to do and become great in this life.

They were beautiful little boys, seemingly identical in every way but soon, as they began to grow, it became evermore clear, which was which. Devilin, as he learned to pilot his little body, was good; he was obedient in all things; his parents loved him, his teachers loved him, everyone could see that Devilin was destined for great things while Christin, on the other hand, was obstinate, strong-willed, disobedient and contrary and clearly, most thought, surely destined for prison, or worse.

Devilin did very well in school, excelling in everything; everyone wanted to be Devilin's friend and he was friendly to everyone; he learned to pilot his body to accomplish many good things but Christin always did poorly in school; he fought, he argued, no one liked Christin at all; he was learning to pilot his body to assault all the world around him.

The boys' parents took them to church and Sunday school every week; Devilin loved the stories and craft-times; he was a good boy: surely such a good little



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

Christian while Christin only sulked, seeming to reject everything about church.

When they reached high school, Devilin continued to faithfully attend every youth-group function but Christin chose only to sleep in and watch TV; when he did go out, it was to meet his rotten companions who had introduced him to alcohol and marijuana; finally, he had found a way to accept the world on his terms and he could think of himself as happy and successful; who needs church, anyway! Now, nothing bothered him at all; life was good or, at least, tolerable.

When they became Seniors, (Christin was always advanced to the next grade level because no teacher ever wanted to have him in class for another year) Devilin was elected class President and leader of the church youth-group; he even began to think that maybe he should become a minister; after all, their minister looked so cool in his robe and stole and seemed to be the best kind of person with his sonorous baritone declaring: 'Do good, be good and go to heaven; do bad, be bad and go to hell,' although he was quick to interject that 'His god of love would never really send anyone to a place like hell for all eternity if it even exists at all; 'in fact, hell,' he'd say, 'for many people, is simply their lives here and now, on Earth but eventually, the spark of goodness in every person will finally take them to heaven if, in fact, that is really a genuine

place, of which, even I sometimes have my doubts but doubt is good!' 'Doubt is a virtue,' he would say, and everyone admired his forthrightness and honesty so that they all seemed to cherish, and hold dear, their own doubts without ever having any real and absolute foundation of Truth upon which to build their lives and homes but they all seemed fine with that as long as the pastor was like them and they were like the pastor. This, in fact, Christin realized, was why he disliked church so much: to him, doubt was meaningless! How can anyone be fulfilled in a life of doubt and, yet, he also understood that even he had nothing concrete, true or eternal upon which to found his own life; he felt empty and without meaning or direction.

All Devilin's friends agreed; yes! Do! Go to seminary! Pastor a large church and go on TV and radio... TBN, even! Those guys are rich! They're loved by all! They sell books and CD's galore; they have huge houses and private jets and some of them have the most beautiful wives! (or else they get divorced and find an even better one) It was settled! His parents loved the idea... 'Our boy on TV! and married to a cheerleader while popping out the most perfect grandchildren any of our friends have ever seen! Life is good! ... our only drawback: Christin down in the basement: such an embarrassment! such a trial! such a

failure! but it's not our fault; we've been good parents; Devilin is the proof for all to see!

One day, in history class: history seemed to be about the only subject Christin had ever liked; in fact, it was the only subject, along with geometry, in which he actually excelled; they just seemed to click in his mind: lines and angles were sure and true without variance and everything throughout history just fell into place; he could clearly see how all the past merged together to form a single and obvious line of progression. He could even see how all the Bible stories he'd heard in Sunday school actually gave the perfect framework for all of history but there was just something missing, something that niggled his mind that said, 'I'm the missing piece,' but he just couldn't put his finger on exactly what that was.

One day, in biology class, Christin hated biology; everything was taught around the framework of evolution beginning with a Big Bang; he always thought, 'what kind of idiot could believe any of that claptrap!' and yet, they all just swallowed it as unassailable truth: even Devilin and all his friends, even the pastor and everyone at church which, Christin realized, was the other reason he disliked church; it all seemed so phony, so plastic, so like everything else in the world; he saw that he'd never known anything worth that, upon which, to build his life... nothing! He began to feel his emptiness, his aimlessness that even the drugs and alcohol could not assuage but this day, in biology class, something unexpected happened! A girl in the back of the class, Susan, Sally, something like that, he'd never really paid attention to anything in biology, she raised her hand and stated that she simply couldn't see the possibility that all we know and see in the world could have ever come about by chance, that everything somehow, suddenly existed from nothing! Well! You'd've thought she'd stated her belief that the moon was made of Swiss cheese! Everyone turned to look at her; who was this

We are so thankful for our radio sponsors so please do pray for them, and use their service. Thank you.

Pray for the health and prosperity of our radio sponsors, their families and their businesses, as they help spread the Gospel. **(All area codes: 503)**

Shrum Pest Control	Kelly and Holly Shrum	314-3782
Carpets for Kids	Jeff & Katie Fagen	232-1203
Capacity Commercial Real Estate	Mark & Kim Childs	504-3298
Wellstone Wealth Mgmt LLC	Greg Allen	594-1210
Huber's Café	James & Helen Louie, David & Cynthia Louie	228-5686
Pietro's Pizza - Milwaukie, Hood River, Salem & Beaverton.....	Ray & Susan David	659-7770
Omni Realty Group	Richard & Rachael Osmon	649-1000
toddalanwoodcraft.com	Kyle Mangino and Todd Alan	
Parker Enterprises	Jeff & Angie Parker	954-8768

YOUR BUSINESS NAME COULD BE LISTED HERE AS A SPONSOR; *e-mail* FOR INFO!

foolish girl!?' The teacher, red in the face, ordered her straight to the Principal's office for her insubordination; Christin suddenly got up, grabbed his stuff and hurried out to catch her: 'I thought what you said was really brave,' he said. 'I feel the same way, but I don't know how to make sense of it all.' She looked up at him and said, 'I'm Sarah,' shaking his hand, 'Why don't you come to Church with me this Sunday; I think you'd like it.' 'I'm Christin.' 'I know,' she said; 'will you come?' Although Christin disliked church immensely, there was something different about this girl; he didn't want to say no or even to let go of her hand. 'Yes, I'll come.'

As he sat in Church with Sarah, her Pastor seemed so different than the guy at his church; he wore a coat and tie, but no robes; he spoke to the people, not over them; he seemed to love and care for this group and he spoke with such sureness and authority, constantly referencing his Bible and calling it the Word of God. He said, 'Our Eternal Salvation is God's gift; it doesn't depend on how good we are; no one is good enough to earn Salvation; Jesus Christ, God's Son, chose to willingly die on the Cross to pay the full penalty for our Salvation; if we will but turn to Him in faith and repentance, believing that the only payment for our sin that is acceptable to God, is faith in Jesus' death

on the Cross, in payment for all our sin, and that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved from death unto life eternal.' Then he began to talk about what's coming in the near future: 'One day soon, Jesus Christ will come down into the clouds to call, up to Himself, all who have trusted in Him for Salvation; then will follow seven terrible years on Earth called the Tribulation. At the end of that, Jesus Christ will come down to Earth, destroy all His enemies and establish His Kingdom on Earth for 1000 years and we, His Bride, will rule and reign with Him forever!'

Here, then, we see God's greatest gift of love toward Christin, personally: although, of this Christin had no inkling, God had chosen Christin, as His own, before He even created the World; He had set His love upon Christin, protecting and directing every aspect of his life, from conception until this, the crowning moment when He chose to open the eyes of Christin's heart and to open the ears of Christin's spirit; suddenly! in a flash! it all made sense, it all fit together, it was all true and Christin knew it to be so. He stood up and ran to the front; he cried out, 'I want to be saved; I want to live forever with the Lord Jesus Christ; I want to trust Him; I want to be God's child now and

If you'd like to study more of Tom's teachings, Visit Our Website HeartsofLove.org

We appreciate your prayer and financial support. You can subscribe for notifications of new content. We trust this will increase our Sphere of Influence: **To touch the world for Jesus**

forever! Sarah ran up to join him; the Pastor came down to embrace them (Sarah was his daughter) as the entire congregation gathered around to pray with Christin as he prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior; God saved him, cleansed him and filled him with His Holy Spirit: none of which Christin really understood, but he knew, inside, that God had accepted him, that He had forgiven him all his sin and had changed him; he was a new and different person! Even his name now held new meaning: Christin... me... Christ-in-me!

End of Part 1

Time is short! Very short!

Next time, we'll see just how short it really might be...

You can touch the World for Jesus Christ... Please partner with us in these last days. The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38



Special gift this month \$ _____ Bibles for China \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

Check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express ___ Discover

Acct # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ 3 digit sec. code _____ Billing zip code _____

Contact me regarding Corporate Sponsorship of Radio Ministry

For Automatic credit card contribution: go to our website: heartsoflove.org

All gifts are tax deductible!

How can we pray for you _____

Please make checks payable to:

**Hearts of Love
 Box 22800
 Portland, OR 97269**



MINISTRIES P.O. Box 22800
Portland, OR 97269

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO. 4184

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please tell us if you want to be removed from our mailing list.



Website: HeartsofLove.org

Hearts of Love Radio

Listen live at KPDQ.com

Sunday nights 10:00pm - 1:00am PST

KPDQ FM 93.9 and AM 800

Live Radio Call In:

503-786-9390 or 1-800-845-2162

Mail: PO Box 22800
Portland, OR 97269

To support this ministry:

1. Go to our website: HeartsofLove.org and click the 'Donate' button to make a secure PayPal or Credit Card contribution... or
2. Use cutout insert on page 3

All gifts are tax deductible!

e-mail: info@HeartsofLove.org