

Repent and Win

By Pastor Jeff

In the winter of 1974, a top P.R.C.A. calf roper rode up to me at the Baton Rouge, LA rodeo and told me that, "if you were as good with your long rope (lariat) as you are with your short rope (piggin string), you'd be pretty tough." Well, the way he said it made me mad and I snapped back and asked him if he wanted to match rope to see who needed the improvement. (This was before the "Jesus days.") Pride jumped up on the inside of me and said "who is this guy telling me what I need?" Well, time passed, but I couldn't forget what he had said. I did not want to admit it, but I knew that what he said was the truth. About four months later, I started doing something about it. In June of 1974, I roped about 50 calves a day for three weeks and then in the fall of that year I roped 100 calves a day for three months. I was becoming as good with my long rope as I was with my short rope. I honestly believe that without his comment I wouldn't have been the '75 World Champion.

The principle of God's word is a very similar situation, "His word is truth." (John 17:17) But the truth is often a bitter pill to swallow. To receive truth you have to swallow your pride and admit that you're wrong or that you don't have all the

answers or that there is something missing in your life.

How many times has someone said to you either directly or indirectly that you need to read God's word and pray and love others if you want to see the glory of God manifested in your life, and you snapped back, and said "that's for preachers, I don't have the time for that, I'm trying to make a living."

Maybe someone has told you to forgive your Aunt Agnes, and you've snapped back, "but you don't know what she did to me. Why don't you mind your own business."

All through the book of Proverbs it says that a fool will not receive instruction. A wise man will receive instruction and his life will be changed for the good.

All through the Bible the heart cry of God is for people to repent. The word repent means to change your mind. TO TURN AROUND COMPLETELY WITH A SINCERITY OF HEART. Changing from doing things your way to doing things God's way. In order for us to repent we have to lay down our pride, stop our stubbornness, and become pliable to the will of God. We are the clay and He is the potter. Repentance means admitting that God is right even if it means having to change and that change

might be very difficult. But admitting God is right isn't enough, it then means putting action to it! When I finally admitted in my heart that what the roper told was true, then I began to put action to it.

The Spirit of the Lord says "repent;" if you're not born again, "repent," lay down that pride and stubbornness that could send you to hell for eternity. REPENT! Change your mind, make a complete turn around. Place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repent is not a negative word. When you turn around from doing things your way, to doing things God's way victory is on the way. For a season the change may seem unbearable, but God will see to it that your harvest will come in due season. My acknowledging that what that roper told me was true and then acting on it led to a world championship. Our acknowledging that what the Bible says is true and then acting on it will lead to eternal life, peace, joy, happiness, happy marriages, fulfilled lives, dreams come true, and every other good thing in this world. Just as the wages of sin is death, (Romans 6:23), so is repenting and turning away from sin eternal life and eternal victory. The choice is yours!



Signs of the Times

By Dennis McKinley

The prophet Ezekiel made a prediction that a country north of Israel would strike like a plague, and its rapid movement would be a sign that our redemption "draweth nigh." In the last 40 years, Russia has taken over 4½ million miles of territory, and over one billion people are under her control. Presently, Russia has 26 military divisions on the border of Iran, which consists of more than a half million Soviet troops.

If this country that the Bible speaks of is, indeed, Russia, when will they move south to strike at Israel? Certainly that's difficult to pinpoint, but Israel has been a thorn in Russia's side ever since the end of

World War II. Russia has over six billion dollars worth of military hardware in Libya and some two billion more stored in Syria . . . they're more assuredly gearing for something big.

The Book of Revelation describes one third of our planet being destroyed during a catastrophic event wherein the grass would be burnt and starvation would be rampant. John, the revelator, went on to describe a blackness surrounding the earth so thick that the sun and moon would be completely darkened. What nuclear scientists are talking about today is awesomely detailed in the Book of Revelation.

Indeed, the prophecies of Ezekiel and John are true. Russia, Israel and the world's nuclear arsenal are all serious signs of the Lord's imminent return to earth.

Now the joy of it all is the glorious scripture which says, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near." Luke 21:28.

Jesus said, "We should work now while there is still time, For the time comes when no one can work." Please tell someone about Jesus . . . while there is still time.