

- > **Great Day**.... We are so glad that you decided to join us today, for another message segment – brought to you by “**Discovery Crossroads Ministries**”.... Our ministry believes that: **with God**, “**Dead ends, become alive again!**”....
Even if we think that a stream has completely dried up, God can bring it back again to over-flowing its banks! **It is True**, with God, “**All things are possible!**”
- > **The message title** today is: “**A Trickling Flow!**”. This a message about: “**How Christ’s Followers, are to BE TRIBUTARIES of His Knowledge, Wisdom & Understanding, to other people**”..../ (**just a side note**: *The thought for this message came from: recently standing alongside the tributaries, that run thru **Haines, Alaska***).
- > **You might not** be able to visualize the tributaries of Haines AK, so I’ll use **The Grand Canyon...** It was created by many “**Tributaries**” that fed their “**trickling waters**” into the “**Colorado River**”, over countless years! All of the “**trickling tributaries**”, increased the amount & speed of the water flowing in the Colorado River. When this “**Increase**” happens, the water in the Colorado River “**gains Power**” – enough Power, to make it able to cut through solid rock!
- * **Now**, there’s an image of how Christians are to be - Powerful.

-- **Here**, I use the Colorado River example, as a way to visualize "The **Power**" that CAN BE **Transferred** from one entity to another! **So**, to align with today's message: One "**Learned**" believer can "**Share**" "Spiritual matters" with someone of "**Lesser**" Knowledge & Wisdom, thus increasing their Understanding! This Power "**Exchange**" helps to **Empower** people (*souls*), towards taking a closer walk with The Lord.

> **So**, as I proceed forward - **the goal** here, is to give you "**3 Ways**", that **WE** can be "**Tributaries for Christ**".

- **Therefore**, **Being** a "**Tributary for Christ**" means we are to:

1) **Educate** ("**Teach**") people, about: God's Word.

-- We are to "**Pass on**" everything that "WE" have been taught **spiritually**....(*kind of like when we: "**Mentor someone, Passing on what WE know!**"*).

-- **Therefore**, we are Commanded to **teach/educate** others.....

The "**Great Commission**" (**Matthew 28:16-20**) says, "**19** Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20 and teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV That passage clearly tells us to "**Teach/Educate**" "**disciples**"....

- **So, Who is a disciple?** A disciple is someone who is an: **Active learner & follower** - who adheres to the **teachings** of a Master Teacher...(and in this case, the Master Teacher is: **Jesus Christ**).
- ...**So, Why would Jesus Command us to do this teaching?**
Because He knows that many people (*way too many people*), **do NOT know** about His Word...(His Word that **teaches us about: how we are to live good lives!**) He knows that we are just plain ole "**Ignorant**" of God's Word!
- God had already told us about this problem, in **Hosea 4:6**,
 "My people are destroyed, **from a lack of knowledge**." ESV
 ...(**now**: *What people DO NOT know about "spiritually", is killing them - and God truly hates this! He doesn't want to see us "slip, fall & hurt ourselves", around every rugged corner! See, the More we KNOW spiritually, the More we can see the anguish (troubles) coming and avoid them...(with God's Help; of course)*). God KNOWS every trick in evil's playbook, and He wants us to KNOW them too - so that we can stay out of the situations that hurt us or hurt others!
- * We all truly need to see "**the Bible**" (or a "**Bible-breathing servant of God's**"), as being like: "**You-tube**"... I say that because: there is a "**You-tube**" video out there, that tells you how to fix everything under the sun! If people would just "**read & adhere to**" God's Word more (*found in the Bible, or*

on the tongue of His servants), we might just **Learn** things about life, that has been plaguing us (*hurting us*) for umpteen years...(*things that we just keep doing, over & over again, out of **Ignorance!***). This is why Jesus prayed to The Father, on the cross – “**Father, forgive them, for THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY ARE DOING!**”. So, this is why Jesus told His more “**learned**” disciples, to **GO & TEACH** the “**lesser-learned**” folks – so that they too can better know MORE about: Jesus, and about: the way that He taught us to live!

- **Seriously**, No other “**Education**” matters more, than having **knowledge** about Christ! The apostle Paul said in **Phil 3:8**, “**Yes, everything else is worthless, when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**” Verse 10 says, “**I want to know Christ, and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.**” NLT **Knowing Jesus** is to be the goal of every human being – and those who KNOW Jesus (*and His Teachings*), must **TEACH** Him to others!

> **So**, **Being** a “**Tributary for Christ**” means we are to: seek to “**Educate**” people, so that we can:

2) **Enlighten** (“**Enrich**”) them, with the mighty Truths of God.

-- **Listen**, **Education** has a purpose... it exists to: **Enlighten** (**Enrich**) our heart & mind, on things that we did NOT know

“before” the Education! Again, this is what a “**Tributary**” does, it “**Enriches**” the “Mainstream” that it flows into!

Do you know that: If a stream’s “tributaries” were to dry up, the “Mainstream’s” water supply would: drop, slow down, get polluted, and eventually kill the aquatic-life in the stream? Fresh/Clean, water must be present, for the stream to be Healthy! Furthermore, If the aquatic-life did die, there would be devastating effects on the human-communities, that depend on the stream’s water for: bathing, drinking & fishing! Tributaries are Vital, to the overall Health of the stream!

- Likewise, Believers with **Greater** Knowledge & Wisdom of Spiritual (*Heavenly*) matters, are Vital to “**Contributing**” their “**Education & Enrichment**” to those who **Lack** this Higher Knowledge & Wisdom! If that doesn’t cause “True Christians” to **SEE** the importance of **FULFILLING** their Christ-given Mission (*Commission*) to the world - I don’t know what will MOVE them to “**Pass on**” what God has taught them! I say, a believer who “**Holds onto**” the personal Knowledge & Wisdom of Christ, and does not “**Pass on**” what they have been taught (*given*) - borders on it being SIN!
- So, the point is: We are to “**Contribute**” to people’s learning and growth. **Without** “**Passing on**” the Knowledge of Christ

and His Word, **people WILL PERISH**... yes, those who may have never heard, or have been instructed about, Jesus – will experience a drying up (*and dying of*) their Spiritual (*Eternal*) Health. **Without** offering people the “**Saving Knowledge**” of Jesus Christ, people who have “little to No” Knowledge & Wisdom of Jesus, will end up on the wrong side of Eternity... (*which means: Heaven will NOT BE the Place of their*

Eternal Joy & Rest in Christ). **Seriously**, At the opening of the “**Olympic Games**”, one runner carries the “**Olympic-flame**” and “**Passes it on**” to another runner – until the Flame finally reaches the place where it will burn throughout the games. **But**, what if one runner just “**Decides**” to **NOT Pass on** the flame and keep it to their self, the flame will NOT reach its intended placement!.... **Point:** If **WE** do **NOT “Pass on”** the Flame/Truths of Jesus Christ (*and only Steal God’s Word for ourselves*), **OTHERS** may Never be “**Illuminated**” (*Enlightened*) with the “**Saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ**”... (*now: the salvation that is IN HIM, for us!*)

...Little by little (*day by day*), God’s servants are to “**Spread**” His Good Word to others! The lost are thirsty & dying for a cool drink of fresh “**Heavenly-water**” (*salvation in/thru Jesus Christ*)... God calls His Children to **BE** “**Tributaries of His Divine Wisdom**”, to the lost & broken world (*to lost & broken people*).

> **So**, **Being** a “**Tributary for Christ**” means we are to:
seek to “**Educate**” people, and to “**Enlighten**” (or, “**Enrich**”) their knowledge – so that we can help them to:

- 3) **Expand** (“**Increase**”) their borders (**Understandings**), through Development... I’ve spoken much about “**Passing on**” our “God-given” Knowledge & Wisdom of Jesus, onto others. **But now**, I introduce the term “**Understanding**” – for having Knowledge & Wisdom of things/people, may NOT always lead to “**Understanding**”! By “**Passing on**” **OUR Understandings** about Jesus Christ, we can therefore “**Expand**” the **understanding** of **OTHERS**! There is a key passage, in the Biblical story of “**Phillip and the Eunuch**”...
...the story is found in **Acts 8:26-39**. **Passage details:**
a Eunuch is traveling from Jerusalem, back to Ethiopia.
He is reading a passage out of the Book of Isaiah.
- **So**, **Acts 8:29-31** tells us, “29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “**Do you understand what you are reading?**” 31 And he said, “**How can I, unless someone guides me?**” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.” Phillip climbed up into the chariot, and “**Educated, Enlightened & Expanded**” on the Teaching. The Eunuch “**Understood & Accepted**” this New Teaching, and he received Jesus Christ as his Savior & Lord.

Then the Eunuch had the chariot stop by some water, so that he could be baptized in it - he did it as a "Proclamation" of his Newfound Salvation! In essence, Phillip took "**HIS**" **Understandings** of Faith in Jesus, and he "**transcribed**" (*or "transferred"*) them, over to "**the Eunuch**".

- **Folks**... that is **OUR** mission to others too... We seek to Understand where "**others**" are spiritually, so that we can help them attain "**greater**" Understandings... I'm talking about: the Understandings of what Jesus Christ did "**for us**" on the Cross! **He took away the sins of the world** (**OUR sins**) there, so that: **WE** can "**KNOW Jesus & Make Him KNOWN to others**" – Then, **each of us** (*everyone*) can Experience His Love, and Worship Him, in the Kingdom of God forever!
- We are to "**Expand the territories**" of people's hearts & minds (*like the tributaries do for the Mainstream*), so that they too can "**Understand**" all that Jesus has already done for us.... He died in our stead, because He loves us so much! He did it, so that we can KNOW & UNDERSTAND the Greater River of God...(the river of His: Mercy, Grace & Unconditional Love, that He has for us). Goodness, may **WE** BE the "**Fountainhead of God's Wisdom & Understandings**" to others - that by doing so: WE will "**Amplify**" their "**Spiritual depths**" (**Understandings**), so that THEY too may accept & receive Jesus Christ as their Savior & Lord for themselves!

closing

> **Today**, I purposely left the “**Main-passage**” out, for **the end** of the message. I did it because, I want to leave this passage as the last thought upon your hearts & minds! The passage is this: **Psalm 78:1-8**, “Give ear, O my people, to my **teaching**; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will **utter** dark sayings from of old, **things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us**. We will **not hide them** from their children, but (will) **tell them** to the **coming generation** the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He (God) established a **testimony** in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which **he commanded our fathers to “TEACH” to their children, that the next generation might know them** (the children yet unborn), **and arise and tell them to their children, so that they** should set their **hope** in God, and not **forget** the works of God, but **keep** his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.” ESV

...I left this passage for the end, because the: “**Education, Enrichment & Expansion**” of our minds & hearts (*about Jesus Christ*), is supposed to **START** in our homes, with OUR

children. We are to **Teach** them God's Word, so that they can **Teach** their children later. In doing this, No one has to stumble their way into the places of darkness & evil – they CAN BE "**Equipped**" to meet the fun (*and sometimes awful*) world head-on. They DO NOT HAVE TO "**Experiment**" their way thru life - feeling the pain, shame & guilt of their Wrong choices! Therefore, it is **OUR JOB** (*parents' job*), to begin the "**Training up** of the way that our children should go, in Jesus Christ"!

-- To help us get started, may we all pray the "**Prayer of Jabez**", that is found in **1 Chronicles 4:10**. It says, "**Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border**, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm, so that it might not bring me pain!" And God granted what he asked."

* Certainly, we should all pray for God to "**Increase**" (**Educate, Enlighten & Expand**) our "**Spiritual-selves**", so that we can help our children (*and others*), to "**Know Christ, and to Make Him Known**"! May we all seek to BE "**Tributaries of God's Word & Love, to everyone that we encounter!**"

Discovery questions:

- 1) Have you ever seen a tributary, and understood it's Power?
Have you ever thought about: the mighty "**Power Transfer**",
that happens between the little tributary and the big river?
- 2) In **Matthew 28:16-20** (*The Great Commission*); did Jesus tell
His followers to "**Go & Teach**"? If so, do many self-
professing followers actually do this?
- 3) Who or What is a "**disciple**"? Biblically, Who is it that
believers are supposed to follow & model after? So truthfully,
are "**YOU**" a Biblical disciple?
- 4) Reread **Hosea 4:6**... In the passage, WHO are "**My people**"?
What kind of "**Knowledge**" does the passage say that people
are lacking?
- 5) HOW are God's people "**destroyed**", according to **Hosea 4:6**?
- 6) Does God's Word, in the Bible, show ways that people can live
a better, less painful & sinful, life? If you answered "yes",
Why then do you think that people cast the Bible aside, and
don't read it?
- 7) Look again at **Philippians 3, verses 8 & 10** - What is the
depth of the apostle Paul's commitment to "**KNOWING**"
Jesus Christ, verses knowing things about this world?
Can you say that "YOU", follow Paul's example of commitment
to Knowing Jesus, and nothing else?

- 8) Education has a purpose to Enlighten our minds & hearts; but HOW does "**Knowledge**" lead to "**Wisdom**"?
- 9) HOW are "**YOU**" "coming along side" of other people, and "**Contributing**" to their Knowledge and Wisdom of Jesus Christ?
- 10) Just asking but... Do "YOU" believe that "**Holding onto**" God's revealed Truths (*Truths that He's given to you*), and NOT "**Passing them on**" - could be (*or is*) a sin?
- 11) To "YOU", what is "the "**Saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ**" -(*the very thing/message that we are supposed to be Passing on to others*)?"
- 12) What would happen if a runner, carrying the "**Olympic Flame**", just up and decided to "**steal**" the flame and run off with it - never Passing it on, so that it could get to its honorable place? Now, can you imagine the same thing happening, when Christ-believers "**Fail**" to Pass on God's Word to non-believers? It's almost like "**stealing**" God's Word for yourself!
- 13) Tributaries deliver their precious waters, little by little (*day by day*) to their greater streams & rivers... But, like the tributaries - Do you believe that "**YOU**" are to Pass God's Word on to other people - trickling His Word to them every

day? Seriously, do you even believe that “**Witnessing**” for Jesus Christ, is a part of “**YOUR**” calling by God? Better look at: **1 Peter 2:9** NIV...(esp. look at the word there “**Declare**”)

14) To Educate, is to “Enlighten”... and to Enlighten is to “**Expand**”. Yet, HOW are we to Expand the understandings of other people?

15) In **Acts 8:26-39**, Phillip asked the Eunuch if he “**Understood**” what he was reading in the Bible. The Eunuch said he couldn’t understand it, without someone “**guiding**” him (*or giving him understanding that he did not have*). Point is: Who are “**YOU**” asking/guiding into new understandings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

16) As a believer in Jesus, do you believe that “**YOU**” might have some knowledge, wisdom & understandings about Jesus, that someone in your sphere of influence might not have yet? And if you do - just what are you going to do about that?

17) HOW will “**YOU**” **LIVE INTO** “**Expanding the territories**” of someone else’s belief, in the days & years ahead?

18) Read **Psalm 78:1-8**... Does that passage clearly explain that: “**WE ALL**” have the **Mission** (**Commission**), to Pass on God’s Word to everyone living in our voice’s reach; esp. to our own children?

19) Really, as of right now (*today*) - Do you think that “**YOU**”
ARE a tributary, to someone else, for Jesus? If you do NOT
feel that you are being a tributary of “**God’s Divine**
Wisdom” to someone else (*but you what to be*) - pray the
Prayer of Jabez; found in **1 Chronicles 4:10**.