

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

— the Life Word —

with Michael Green



May 8, 2009

Dear Friend:

SWINE WHINE

Although you could probably fit all of the Americans currently suffering from Swine Flu into four or five mini vans, if you listen to the flu flap flying around, you'd think it was 1328 again and we were all hunkering down for the Bubonic Plague.

Most of the fear stirring and ad nauseam overkill is courtesy of our government and their media skills. For these folks, a manufactured national emergency project where we'll need a new agency, more regulations and eight billion more dollars is like Christmas, eight months early! The agenda is on the fast track and with a gift wrapped chance to further the reach and power of our benevolent government, under the pretext of compassion, its clear, there's nothing *"as fine as swine"*.

Right now, you are in more danger every time you cross the street. In the natural, we should be wise, take preventive care, keep alert and not be dumb. However, you Covenant people need not be the ones to join every *"sky is falling"* fiasco that comes down the pike. Covenant kids are not biting their nails and spinning in frantic circles, they live solid lives remembering the faith words from Psalm 103 (*Who healeth all your diseases*) and Psalm 91 (*No plague shall come nigh your dwelling*). Let the others twist and shout.

Poor pigs, they don't deserve this but it does seem to be their lot. Since the beginning, the pig has not been lauded as noble, pristine or clean. Pig traits have been amplified and even dropped on some of us; none are too flattering. *"You're eating like a pig"*, *"You're pig headed"*, *"This room looks like a pig sty"* or, *"He's such a pig"*.

Even Jesus got in the act with some pig parody preaching. In talking about the riches of the kingdom, guarding His blessings and how much He loves us, He said that we should not, *"Cast our pearls among the swine"*. Can I get an *"oink, oink"*?

Actually, Jesus was doing some real teaching. He was drawing actual comparisons with those who would endeavor to make a mess of the message and try to trample, snort, grunt and snot all over what is so precious in our lives. Their behavior is pig like in many ways.

Here are a few *"Pig Traits"* we don't want to emulate. Hope no faces come to mind here.

Pigs do not...

APPRECIATE VALUE: They can't see the gift. They can't tell the difference between that which is precious and profane. The Trump Towers and the outhouse are the same to them.

AVOID FILTH: They will roll in anything, eat anything, listen to anything and have a good time all the while. They're here to make a mess, thank you. They are called unclean.

APPLY PROTOCOL: They don't know how to conduct themselves. Arrogant and clueless all at once. No honor comes from their snouts.

ACCEPT INSTRUCTION: Stubborn, a quality that scripture compares to witchcraft. They know it all and will let you know it. Pigheaded.

ACHIEVE REVELATION: Since they have not grown in a healthy way, their development has been retarded. Lots of grunts and snorts but no power.

ANTICIPATE DANGER: Heads down, feeding their own appetites. Self absorbed and unaware of the possible pitfalls ahead.

ABATE DISEASE: Because of where they have been, where they have slept, what they have taken in and the

garbage they have rooted through, they've done nothing to stop the spread of their pig disease.

The keyword is discernment and pigs don't move in that gift.

No, I'm not afraid of the flu; I'm more troubled about the fool.

The fool who would trample me, seek to slam me and muddy me up. The disease carrier who has wallowed in the mud and taken in so much filth that what comes out can't help but be polluted and poisonous.

We've had a few good days and many of the words written here are from my Sunday message (*Soon available on iTunes*). Saturday had been a major good day as Linda and her friends pulled off a great, *"Real Beauty: Food, Fashion and Fellowship Day"*. Then on Sunday, both services sizzled from start to finish with Word and Worship. God had been faithful and it had been a good 36 hours.

Late Sunday, we got one of those *"from left field"* calls with an *"innocent"* inquiry possibly meant to rain on us and we started to feel a bit of the air s-s-s-s out of our balloon. The first impulse is to fall for the aggravation and allow it to rob us. (This little piggy went gossiping). But, the Light came on and Linda and I agreed that it had pig prints all over it. We decided this swine wouldn't trample our pearls, no way.

Back to the flu and the news media's caring acts of public service: One of the network shows kept promising the specialist who would soon give us the clues and the insight needed to protect us and our families from the looming epidemic. I leaned in, at the edge of my seat, waiting for the words that would save me.

After an array of incessant commercials from the cell phone companies and the makers of a wonder drug so fabulous that it will make you want to run out to buy two bathtubs and then put them out in a field somewhere, the *"Ted Baxter"* anchorman finally pitched the important question to the man in the white coat.

"So doctor, what do we need to know?"

"Well, it is actually two things. You must wash your hands and cover your mouth."

OMG! I had to catch myself from sliding completely off the front of the couch and landing in the prayer position. I'd heard the truth and it had indeed set me free!

Seriously, the doctor's advice is good and it is right. It is so true that it also has a strong spiritual correlation to the keeping of our soul's virus free. Keeping our hands clean and watching our mouth (what we take in and what comes out) is certainly some wise advice.

In the words of the one pig you can trust...*"Th-th-th-that's all folks!"*

Michael

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