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NEWS & EVENTS – February 2023

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Loose dog!!! Loose dog!!! I used to hear that warning exclaimed from time to time in one season of my life. At that time, I was a military working dog handler and occasionally a dog that was supposed to be under control at the end of a handler's leash became a free agent. Sometimes it happened when off-leash training was in progress. And when the dog realized it in an off-leash condition it exercised the freedom so seldom enjoyed. Then there were times when the handler dropped the leash and the dog kept going. It actually happened to me one night while we were training for a security breach situation. I was running with the dog to the scene, and I lost my grip on the leash. Normally, this dog was extremely obedient but highly aggressive. In fact he was considered a weapon when released on attack. While off-leash the dog detected a threat and attacked without command as he was trained to do in some situations. The problem that night was that the assumed threat to the dog and the handler (at least in the dog's perception) was the on-scene commander! Before I could stop the dog and call him off, he attacked the supervisor. And the exercise became more real than anyone had ever planned. Thankfully there was no damage to the man's leg, but his pants were torn beyond repair. Imagine my relief when that supervisor left soon afterward for a duty assignment overseas. Imagine my concern when I went to an overseas duty assignment a few months after his departure and discovered he was on the same air base and wielded considerable authority. I hoped he didn't hold a grudge. He treated me kindly after he learned that I did not bring that dog with me. He related that he had nightmares about the *loose dog* scenario that one dark night. By the way, the dog's name was Odin, namesake for what some consider to be the god of war in Norse mythology.

I was reminded of the loose dog condition the other day while driving. A loose dog ran into the road and the truck I was driving almost collided with it. I didn't expect to see a dog run out into the road. In my younger boyhood days, loose dogs were more common. Many used to chase cars and bark at the tires. I always thought that was a futile form of dog activity. Sometimes dogs would wander for days away from the place where they were usually kept under some form of restraint. Often you know who they belonged to. It was a different time it seemed. Nowadays, loose dogs are rare. Laws are passed to keep them under control. But it seems that people are more unrestrained than they used to be. Lack of restraint among the human being population seems to be more the norm these days. What can account for the desire to cross ancient boundaries? Let's look at the wisdom from the Word.

*Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing?
The **kings** of the earth take their stand and the **rulers** take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!" (Psalms 2:1-3)*

It seems to me that the Psalmist is being inspired to give humanity a clue to what's wrong with humanity. Human counselors abound to explain the human condition. To help us cope, but not cure. But what kind of counsel is available to restrain human rebellion? There's a case to be made that there is some difference in the meaning of the wording between *the kings of the earth* and the *rulers*. Rulers seem to be not of the earth. And they appear to counsel together to influence the kings of the earth in the desire to cast off restraint that was decreed a long time ago. Spiritual boundaries have been set in place by the ultimate authority that is found in the Most High God through Jesus the Christ. Sin among spiritual beings and humanity in the earth is being judged and exposed in our day. Listen to God's response at this folly...

*He who sits in the heavens **laughs**, the Lord **scoffs** at them.
Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying,
"But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain." (Psalms 2:4-6)*

The Most High God is a God of Order and Dominion...and His King is already in place to rule the rulers. Let it be so...come Lord Jesus!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam