

News of Interest

Commentary for December 15, 2014 — about ASK and Friends

I have two items to present in this Commentary. First some unhappy news, then some good news.

Unhappy News

I received a phone call several days ago from GeorgeAnn Hughes who operates [The Byte Show](#).¹ GeorgeAnn and I have done hundreds of internet radio shows where I present ASK material of Dr. Ernest Martin's and some of my writings. Other friends of ASK have been presenters on *The Byte Show* over the years, upon my recommendation, and GeorgeAnn has been pleased to host them as well.

GeorgeAnn has been diagnosed with bone cancer and it has spread throughout her lymph system. She is enduring increasing pain and is limiting her daily activities. Nevertheless, we recently completed my reading of Dr. Martin's Chapter 19 of *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, "[Scripture Says: Flee from Idolatry](#)." It is GeorgeAnn's intent for us to persevere and complete the presentation of *Essentials* through [Chapter 33, "Just Who Are You?"](#)

Of course, I know many of you will pray for GeorgeAnn's healing, for a reduction of her pain, as well as for God's comfort and peace in her difficult time. It is important to her for us to complete the presentations of *Essentials*.

My interactions with GeorgeAnn have been a personal joy for me. We have laughed much both on and off the show. It has been a wonderful collaboration for ASK and for GeorgeAnn, who has been proud to put ASK information to a larger audience. We are grateful to her and to each of you who have supported ASK and *The Byte Show* over these past several years.

Good News

Over several years, a great and gracious friend of ASK, Charlie Corder, has been producing readings of Dr. Ernest L. Martin's books. Charlie was a close friend of Dr. Martin. He and his wife Carmen helped whenever Dr. Martin and Ramona Martin needed assistance (and advice). Following Dr. Martin's death in January 2002, Charlie assisted Ramona and me greatly during the difficult transition period for ASK. He continues to do so.

I am pleased to announce that Charlie has given ASK permission to put his excellent readings of Dr. Martin's books on the ASK website. This will give a different "voice" to Dr. Martin's words besides mine. This is important because I would never want anyone to confuse Dr. Martin's words with my words (even though I agree with most all he taught). Charlie Corder's "voice" with his straightforward reading will help people realize that Dr. Martin's words are

¹ See also [The Byte Show](#) page on the ASK website.

his, not mine, not Charlie's. Charlie's reading was done out of great respect and admiration for the scholarship and wisdom of Dr. Martin's biblical and historical teachings.

Charlie's readings will be put at the title page of each book on the ASK website, as well as at the beginning of each chapter. I want to encourage each of you to follow along in the book while Charlie reads what you are reading.

Reading along while the text is read aloud is more effective than merely reading alone, or listening alone. You become an "active reader." You use your sense of hearing, as well as sight, and this helps your mind focus on the teaching, with less likelihood of distraction. The apostle Paul tells us that faith is developed by this manner of teaching the Scriptures: **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"** (Romans 10:17). Words spoken to the ear help to clarify written words on the page.²

Death

God has determined in His plan (formed before the foundation of the world) that death is necessary for each of us to endure (Hebrews 9:27). It is our great enemy. **"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"** (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Each of us has earned death by virtue of our being **"in Adam."** It is the baggage that each of us must carry and endure in life, with an outlook for death. **"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."** (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Death is our wages, our ration, for our life and for the works we have done in our lives (Romans 6:23), but note the contrast for our future:

"For when you were slaves of Sin, you were free as to [from] Righteousness.

What fruit, then, had you THEN? — of which you are NOW ashamed, for, indeed,

the consummation of those things is death.

Yet, NOW, being freed from Sin, yet enslaved to God, you have your fruit for holiness. NOW

the consummation is life eonian.

For the ration [wages] of Sin is death, yet the gracious gift of God is life eonian, in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

• Romans 6:20–23, Concordant Literal Version

The fruit of sin is death. The fruit of freedom from sin is life eonian, in which our individual immortality and glory in Christ is assured. As we each proceed closer toward death every day, it is important for us to understand our glorious future in Christ. Our good works of love shall endure (Hebrews 6:10).

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² Like *The Byte Show* presentation, Charlie Corder's readings will be in MP3 format, playable on newer computers within the last 5-10 years. Many cars in recent years can play CDs downloaded (by you) with MP3 audio. Check your owner's manuals.