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Grace Notes Radio Program

PGM 36: The Lord's RETURN

SONGS: Look up you're going home 2:52

The King is Coming 4:29

INTRO: A neighbor came to visit John Wesley one day and asked, "What would you be doing now, John, if you knew for certain Jesus would return today?" Wesley jolted his neighbor by replying, "I would go right on doing what I'm doing." We, too, should live in such a way that Christ could return at any time and we'd be comfortable continuing the task at hand.

Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek will address the subject of the Lord's return. But first, let's listen as she presents a song of hope.

***** LOOK UP YOU'RE GOIN' HOME *****

Because God's Word is true, Believers can have hope in these troublesome times. The Bible states in Romans 15:4...

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope.

Our hope is in Christ. He promised us that He will RETURN to take us home to Heaven to be with Him.

To help remember some of God's truths upon which we base our hope, let's make an acrostic out of the word 'RETURN'.

'R' stands for REJOICE.

We have a reason to rejoice. 1 Peter 1:3-5 says...

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

'E' stands for ENDURE.

2 Timothy 3:1b says that in the last days perilous times shall come. But, remember...Satan is no match for God. Christ defeated sin and death at the

cross. And 1 Corinthians 15:25 says that when He comes again, He'll put all His enemies under His feet.

We can ENDURE when we follow God's commands!

We're commanded in 1 Peter 5:8...

Be SOBER, be VIGILANT (or watchful), because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour.

Ephesians 6:10-11 says...

Be STRONG in the Lord (not in ourselves) and the power of His might. Put on whole armor of God that ye may be able to STAND against the wiles of the devil.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 talks about this armor...

Let us, who are of the day, (or children of light) be SOBER, putting on the breastplate of faith and love - and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

The word sober is used often in Scripture. In the spiritual sense it means being self-controlled so you can be God-controlled.

We can ENDURE through prayer. Prayer precedes provision and power, and enables us to defeat our enemy.

Remember when Jesus went with His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and the disciples kept falling asleep? What did Jesus tell them? He said in Mark 14:38...

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

'T' stands for TRUST. Trust God no matter what!

One of my favorite Scriptures is Proverbs 3:5-6...

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

When we let God lead us, we'll learn more about Him. The more we know Him, the more we'll trust Him.

Our trust is also increased as we study His Word. Romans 10:17 says...

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

If you're losing hope, read the Bible! It has over 800 promises to hold onto - 366 'fear nots' alone – one for every day of the year, plus leap year. Does God know what He's doing or not?

'U' stands for UNWAVERING in our stand for Christ.

Galatians 5:1 says...

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free – and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

More now than ever, we need to rid ourselves of the baggage that keeps us enslaved to sin and make us ineffective as witnesses for Christ.

Titus 2:12b-13 says...

We should live SOBERLY, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed HOPE and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

God has given us power to say 'no' to evil – we can live holy lives.

Time is short, It's not worth hanging onto habits and sins. We've got an important job to do for Christ before He comes.

'R' stands for 'READY'.

1 Peter 3:15 says...

...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the HOPE that is in you with meekness and fear.

'N' stands for NOW. Do you have this hope? If not, now is the time to accept Christ. You know not what tomorrow may bring. Ask Christ to be your Savior, today.

For Believers, now is the time to show the world that we fear not, because our hope is in the Lord. 1 Peter 3:13-14...

**Who is he that will harm you, if you be followers of that which is good?
But and if you suffer for righteousness sake, happy are you and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.**

1 Thessalonians. 4:16 says...

The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise

first. Then we which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore COMFORT one another with these words.

**Christ is RETURNING soon with His reward in His hand,
Are you ready for His return?**

***** THE KING IS COMING *****

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