

No Longer a Slave, Part 2, by Lou Storm

One of the sermons in this Sermon Notebook was attended by Schelly and me – by pure accident (if you buy that one) -- sitting in Lakewood Church in near-downtown Houston, TX. Yes. You are right. The Reverend Joel Osteen's church. The TV preacher some don't care for – but we do. We were in town as guests for a Jim & Pat Griffin family wedding (Justin's) the day before. The date was 9/11! Not "the" 9/11, but the notable 10th anniversary. The following are among my notes from Joel's message that day of remembrance of the MASSIVE challenge that faced our nation. The challenge of realizing that not everyone on our globe loves, likes, or respects our great nation. In fact, there are those who dislike us so much, they are willing to commit murder – murdering *thousands* of us -- as an expression of that hate. Some of Joel's offered thoughts:

*We want a Burger King god. Hot, fresh, (answers) delivered in 60 seconds – and our way!
That is not always God's way. In fact – mostly **NOT!** See I Corinthians 13:12.*

Setbacks are often God's set-up for a better thing in our future. Jeremiah 29:11.

There is a time for mourning.

There is a season for mourning.

Just don't let it be a lifetime of mourning.

[My thought I jotted at that moment: Bob Seger's very best song, Turn the Page.]

God is FOR us ... NOT against us. New WILL grow up from the ashes – if we but let it!

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

I prayed.

I believed.

I fasted.

I let it go.

I got ready for the new thing God had in store for me.

So the question is:

Will our future ahead ...

Be larger than ...

Our past behind us?

If one dream has died,

Will we die, too?

Or will we dream a new, bigger dream?!!!

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Anticipate next publication! You will hear words of wisdom from another unexpected source.

Meanwhile, search YouTube for "ORU Live **No Longer Slaves**"

Frontman is Tanner Ligon – my great-nephew, age 21 when he led this weekly lunchtime praise at Oral Roberts University.