

# OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FLIGHTDECK

- LIFE LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH AVIATION -

by Jerry Tobias

*"I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw."*

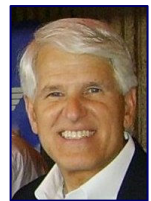
*Proverbs 24:32*



USAF Lockheed C-5 Galaxy flightdeck

## GOOD NEWS!

### *...A MESSAGE OF HOPE*



News of any kind - if it is true - produces understanding. *Good* news, though, produces hope. And, flight crews, like everyone else, are always glad to get good news.

Much of the hoped for "good news" on the flightdeck is fairly simple and routine, such as hearing the automated "TCAS system tests okay" during an aircraft cockpit preflight; being told by ground control, "Pushback approved, no delays expected;" hearing ATC (Air Traffic Control) announce, "No turbulence reported this sector;" seeing that the landing gear annunciator lights confirm the gear is, in fact, down and locked for landing; or hearing the control tower operator say, "Cleared to land, winds calm, braking reported good by the 757 ahead of you." Those are all good things.

Some aviation-related good news, of course, is more significant, such as having an AME (Aviation Medical Examiner) or military flight surgeon tell you that you have passed your flight

physical, or reading the company report that says, "There will be no furloughs for the foreseeable future."

Other good news is even more important...and applies to aviators and non-aviators alike. Being told that your daughter was not injured in the accident, or hearing from the oncologist that all the tests confirm that your spouse is now cancer free are two examples of very good news.

Unfortunately, though, *none* of the "good news" mentioned above is certain. Aircraft equipment stops working, ATC delays occur, turbulence is common, landing conditions are sometimes terrible, flight physicals are failed, furloughs and injuries happen, and cancer is not always beaten.

When we consider these turbulent and tumultuous times, of course, *much* of what used to be thought of as certain is no longer certain. We are surrounded, it seems, by bad news. The following, however, is *very* good news:

"For God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His only Son (Jesus), that *whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life*. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but *to save the world through Him*." John 3:16-17

That good news is really a profound message of great hope. It's about God's incredible Gift. It's about Christ. More importantly, it's about *our response* to this eternity-changing message of hope that gives our lives meaning. It's about the opportunity we have each been given to make this "good news" OUR good news, as well.

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***The time has come . . . repent and believe the Good News! Mark 1:15***

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THE BOTTOM LINE? Because of His great love, God sent His Son *so that* - if we *repent* (make a 180° turn and determine to live *His* way, not by our own rule and for *Him*, not just for ourselves) and *believe* - we can have relationship with Him *now* (resulting in a purpose- and peace-filled life) and live to give Him glory for *all of eternity*. What news could be better news than that? ■

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