

Christian Church of God Magazine

Winter Issue 2017



Hello Brethren,

Well, the election is over and Donald J. Trump was sworn in as our 45th president on Friday, Jan. 20th.

One of the blessings we enjoy in our democratic republic is the opportunity to elect those who will govern us and then witness the peaceful transition of power. We must never take our rights and freedoms for granted as those were bought with the blood of patriots and we should never take our blessings for granted as these are gifts from our great God.



These are troublesome times in which we live, reminding us that we do live in the "world" where Satan roams and torments; so we pray ever more fervently, "thy kingdom come". While we have citizenship duties, we have a higher allegiance to the coming Kingdom of God, for our higher citizenship is in Heaven.

And now we look anew at the Biblical injunctions for Christians regarding our leaders. For some there is sadness for an election lost, for others, there is jubilation for an election won. While we are citizens of these United States, as Christians, we are indeed citizens of a higher government, the Kingdom of God.

Heb 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having*

seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 *For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.*

15 *And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*

16 *But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (KJV)*

We are indeed "Ambassadors for Christ".

2 Cor 5:20 *Now then, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (NKJV)*

We, with our "higher calling" must find ways to advance the Christian life-style in an increasingly hostile and humanistic environment.

John 17:11 *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

14 *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the*

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¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

Rev 17:14 (NKJV)

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world, even as I am not of the world.
15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

16 **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

This higher citizenship does not absolve us of our citizenship duties in the here & now.

As our president selects his cabinet & leadership for his administration, we are enjoined to pray, not only for our president, but for all our leaders, national, state & local...our senators, congressman, judges, governors, mayors & commissioners, who will decide the course of America and set policies that will impact our lives.

1 Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of**

thanks, be made for all men;
2 For **kings, and for all that are in authority;** that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

My prayer is that our president will turn his eyes heavenward and his heart towards God Almighty; and govern righteously, following the will of Almighty God, putting aside personal agendas and ideologies, listening to the "still, small voice" of God.

May God Continue to Bless America!

Jeff Booth

Prayer Requests

Francis Carlson: Has been diagnosed with Chiari Malformation (portion of brain protrudes into spine).

Amber Clark: Grandchild of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Elisabeth & Simon Desmond: Health & family issues.

Don Fiitzpatrick: Wearing a monitor to determine cause of dizziness and weakness.

Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia.

Harry Gonzales: Diagnosed with Lupus and debilitating arthritis.

Vanessa Lawrence's mother, Bobbie Holleman, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Shannon Stephens: Daughter of Darrell & Linda Sehorn, diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which is very debilitating.

Truman Summerford: Martha McClenagan's brother, has advanced neuropathy that has him confined to a lift chair, bed, or wheel chair.

" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16.

"You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, Each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book." —Psalms 56:8 (MSG)

HAPPY CELEBRATIONS!

Birthdays:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Darrell Sehorn | 12-17 |
| Arthur Carlson | 12-20 |
| Darrell Baker | 12-29 |
| Virginia Sellers | 01-02 |
| Francis Carlson | 01-04 |
| Rudolph Rankin | 01-15 |
| Vanessa Lawrence | 01-22 |
| Norma Hamilton | 01-25 |
| Roy Carlson | 01-31 |
| Merle Vines | 02-08 |
| Candace Sellers | 02-13 |
| A.J. Carlson | 02-23 |

Anniversaries:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Teresa & Steve Cryer | 12-27 |
| Linda & Darrell Sehorn | 01-06 |
| Vanessa Lawrence & Don Fitzpatrick | 01-22 |





Light for your Path

Mr. Meant-to has a comrade,
 And his name is Didn't Do;
 Have you ever chanced to meet them:
 Did they ever call on you?
 These two fellows live together
 In the house of Never-Win,
 And I'm told that it is haunted
 By the ghost of Might-Have-Been.
 ~ Author Unknown

I shall correct errors where shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be true views. ~ Abraham Lincoln

A BAG OF TOOLS

Isn't it strange
 That princes and kings,
 And clowns that caper
 In sawdust rings,
 And common people
 Like you and me
 Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,
 A shapeless mass,
 A book of rules;
 And each must make—
 Ere life is flown—
 A stumbling block
 Or a steppingstone.

~ R. L. Sharpe

ASPIRATION

From 'The Three Best Things'
 by Henry Van Dyke

Let me but live my life from year to year,
 With forward face and unreluctant soul;
 Not hurrying to, nor turning from, the goal;
 Not mourning for the things that disappear
 In the dim past, nor holding back in fear
 From what the future veils; but with a whole
 And happy heart that pays its toll
 To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.

So let the way wind up the hill or down,
 O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy:
 Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,
 New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,
 My heart will keep the courage of the quest,
 And hope the road's last turn will be the best.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land,
 and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself
 also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires
 of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord,
 Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.
 6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the
 light, And your justice as the noonday. 7 Rest in
 the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret
 because of him who prospers in his way, Because
 of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

**“—until the Day dawns,
 and Christ the Morning
 Star shines in your hearts.”**



¹⁹ We couldn't be more sure of what we saw and heard—*God's* glory, *God's* voice. The prophetic Word was confirmed to us. You'll do well to keep focusing on it. It's the one light you have in a dark time as you wait for daybreak and the rising of the Morning Star in your hearts. ²⁰ The main thing to keep in mind here is that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of private opinion. ²¹ And why? Because it's not something concocted in the human heart. Prophecy resulted when the Holy Spirit prompted men and women to speak God's Word.

2 Peter 1:19-21 (MSG)



Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Prov 4:23 (NLT)

EIGHT YEARS AGO I began this editorial page after bypass surgery. I've used the selected text (Proverbs 4:25) throughout. A comparison of different translations show both the spiritual and physical/scientific truth of this maxim.

This week was one of "upgrade" for my wife's Pacemaker. BIOTRONIK Home Monitoring now provides this new dimension in reporting to her doctor any unusual heart rhythms. It can detect and identify a problem before she even knows it is there.

Our Creator has provided this via the Holy Spirit on a spiritual plane. The Psalmist declared,
 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalms 139:23-24, NKJV)

David was a diligent self searcher, and therefore he was so willing to be searched, yea, he delighted to be searched by God; and that not (as was said) because himself had done it already, but also because he knew God could do it better. He knew by his own search that he did not live in any way of wickedness against his knowledge, and yet he knew there might be some way of wickedness in him that he knew not of. And therefore he doth not only say, "*Search me, O God, and know my thoughts*"; but he adds, "*See if there be any wicked way (or any way of pain and grief) in me*"; (the same word signifies both, because wicked ways lead in the end to pain and grief); "*and lead me in the way everlasting*." As if he had said, Lord, I have searched myself, and can see no wicked way in me; but, Lord, thy sight is infinitely clearer than mine, and if You will but search me You may see some wicked way in me which I could not see, and I would fain see and know the worst of myself, that I might amend and grow better; therefore, Lord, if there be any such way in me, cause me to know it also. O take that way out of me,

and take me out of that way; "*lead me in the way everlasting*." David had tried himself, and he would again be tried by God, that he, being better tried, might become yet better. He found himself gold upon his own trial and yet he feared there might be some dross in him that he had not found; and now he would be re-tried that he might come forth purest gold. Pure gold fears neither the furnace nor the fire, neither the test nor the touchstone; nor is weighty gold afraid of the balance. He that is weight will be weight, how often soever he is weighed; he that is gold will be gold, how often soever he is tried, and the oftener he is tried the purer gold he will be; what he is he will be, and he would be better than he is. —*Joseph Caryl*.

David also gives us this meditation: 12 Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*. 13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalms 19:12-14)

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. (Romans 8:26-27, NLT)



And He Shall Reign

Psalm 2

- 1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,
- 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.



Celebrations

... IN TH WORLD TO COME / The LORD's Triumph and Reign

1 A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided in your presence. 2 I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem for battle. The city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city. 3 Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations as He fights on a day of battle. 4 On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. The Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, forming a huge valley, so that half the mountain will move to the north and half to the south. 5 You will flee by My mountain valley, for the valley of the mountains will extend to Azal. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come and all the holy ones with Him. 6 On that day there will be no light; the sunlight and moonlight will diminish. 7 It will be a day known [only] to Yahweh, without day or night, but there will be light at evening. 8 On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea, in summer and winter alike. 9 On that day Yahweh will become King over all the earth—Yahweh alone, and His name alone. 10 All the land from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem will be changed into a plain. But [Jerusalem] will be raised up and will remain on its site from the Benjamin Gate to the place of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. 11 People will live there, and never again will there be a curse of complete destruction. So Jerusalem will dwell in security. 12 This will be the plague the LORD strikes all the peoples with, who have warred against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. 13 On that day a great panic from the LORD will be among them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will rise against the other. 14 Judah will also fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected: gold, silver, and clothing in great abundance. 15 The same plague as the previous one will strike the horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and all the animals that are in those camps. 16 Then all the survivors from the nations that came against Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to celebrate the Festival of booths.

Zech 14:1-16 (HCSB)

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. ⁹ As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out. 2 Cor. 9:8-9 (MSG)

God wants us to be victors, not victims; to grow, not grovel; to soar, not sink; to overcome, not be overwhelmed. — William Arthur Ward

Christ as the Lamb and the Lion. Two portraits of Jesus emerge from the Scripture; He became “fully God and fully man.” And therein lies the “mystery” of the God-nature, “God manifest in the flesh” (1 Tim. 1:16). A blended, composite portrait of human and divine..

23 we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an *anti*-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. **24** But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—**Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one.** **25** Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness." 1 Cor 1:23-25 (MSG)



TEST THIS QUESTION: What if God's only gift to you were his grace to save you? Would you be content? You beg him to save the life of your child. You implore him to remove the cancer from your body. What is his answer is, "My grace is enough"? Would you be content?

You see, from heaven's perspective, grace is enough. If God did nothing more than save us from hell, could anyone complain? . . . Having been given eternal life, dare we grumble at an aching body? Having been given heavenly riches, dare we bemoan earthly poverty? . . . ~In The Grip of Grace/Phil. 4:11

JOHN'S DESCRIPTION of the future [in the book of Revelation] steals your breath. His depiction of the final battle is graphic. Good clashes with evil. The sacred encounters the sinful. The pages howl with the shrieks of dragons and smolder with the coals of fiery pits. But in the midst of the battlefield there is a rose. John describes it in chapter 21. . . .

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. . .

In this final mountaintop encounter, God pulls back the curtain and allows the warrior to peek into the homeland. When given the task of writing down what he sees, John chooses the most beautiful comparison earth has to offer. The Holy City, John says, is like "a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." ~The Applause of Heaven/John 3:29

WHILE WE LIVED in Rio de Janeiro, we met several American families who came to Brazil to adopt children. They would spend days, sometimes weeks, immersed in a different language and a strange culture. They fought the red tape and the large fees, all with the hope of taking a child [home] to the United States. . . .

Hasn't God done the same for us? He entered our culture, battled the resistance, and paid the unspeakable price which adoption required. Legally we are his. He owns us. We have every legal privilege accorded to [his] child. We are just waiting for him to return. We are, as Paul said, "waiting for God to finish making us his own children" (Rom. 8:23). ~When Christ Comes/John 1:12

THE SHEPHERD KNOWS his sheep. He calls them by name.

When we see a crowd, we see exactly that, a crowd. . . . We see people, no persons, but people. A herd of humans. A flock of faces. That's what we see.

But not so with the Shepherd. To him every face is different. Every face is a story. Every face is a child. Every child has a name. . . .

The shepherd knows his sheep. He knows each one by name. The Shepherd knows you. He knows your name. And he will never forget it. ~When God Whispers Your Name/John 10:14

EVERY CHRISTMAS I read this reminder that came in the mail several years ago:

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior. . . . ~When God Whispers Your Name/Isaiah 9:6



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