

THE NEW CREATION

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“Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.” – 1 Thess. 5:21.

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In a World Gone Mad

I think we would all say the greatest gift of God was the sending His only begotten son to willingly sacrifice his life on our behalf to redeem father Adam and all his descendants from the penalty of death, which He himself had imposed.



God gives other gifts also, for instance the holy spirit that enlightens us to know Him through an understanding of His plan. In the Bible, John informs us that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 Jn 1:5). That light is now shining for His saints. But for the world, 2020 has been a dark year. Covid-19, worldwide political upheavals, and the rise of polarization between nations and within nations have weakened the fabric of society. The adversary must be having a good time thinking of all the chaos and unchristian principles that he has created in the minds and hearts of men and has put into practice. However, God's plan goes grandly on and in due time He will be vindicated of all the slanders that have been leveled against Him. We look for that day when righteousness will fill the earth and mankind will come into harmony with God as father Adam was when created, but with the added benefit of experience which will keep them from wanting to follow evil throughout eternity.

Of the three great Christian fruits in 1 Cor. 13, faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these is love. Love will be the most enduring. It is the fruit that is most important to the Father, for God is love (1 Jn. 4:8). Love really encapsulates all the other fruits of the spirit. However, the love of God in us takes time to develop and must be tried to fix its principles in our hearts.

Therefore, brethren, as we enter 2021 let us look to our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus and seek to exemplify from the heart the conduct that they would have us live in a world gone mad. Let God's good work in us go on to maturity. And let us lift up our heads and rejoice that our deliverance draws nigh. May we be found faithful in the carrying out of our covenant with God and be found faithful with the Lord's blessing in this New Year.

R. Whittaker

A New Year's Goal

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:2

Many set a goal or make resolutions at the beginning of a New Year with good intentions of improving their lives. There is nothing wrong in this, but it falls far short of the Christian ideal.

We often sing the words of the hymn *"My Goal Is Christ."* One of its stanzas offers an evaluation of life: *"The brightest schemes that earth can cherish are but the pastime of an hour."* Its refrain, like its title, states: *"My goal is Christ and Christ alone."* This should not just be our resolution for a New Year, but our lifelong and primary goal, for it encompasses all that a Christian needs to be victorious.

This goal is expressed a little differently in 2 Corinthians 10:5: *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought **to make it obedient to Christ.**"* Jesus brought such discipline into His life while on earth, bringing all His thoughts, words and actions into obedience to His Heavenly Father. He declared, *"The Son can do **nothing** of Himself."* His total aim was to do the will of His God and Father in fullest devotion. As Jesus footstep followers we, too, must discipline our thoughts to align them with Jesus teachings, letting the Holy Spirit have its powerful impact in our Christian walk. We must **let** the mind of Christ be in us. *"Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:5). Jesus **let** the mind of God control Him, doing *"always the thing that pleased the Father"* (John 8:29). This needs to be our primary goal as well and what better time than a New Year to renew our dedication to such full devotion?

The Apostle Paul's total focus is well worth noting. *"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified"* (1 Cor. 2:2). Paul realized the need to stress *the person* of Jesus Christ as the source and foun-

dation of our faith. He tells us in 1 Cor. 3:11: *“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is **Jesus Christ.**”* Our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ means everything to us as His disciple. Paul again states emphatically, in 1 Cor. 1:30: *“It is because of Him (God) that you are in Christ Jesus, **who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.**”*

Let it be our primary goal in this New Year 2021, to get to know, more intimately than ever before, our Lord Jesus Christ, His teachings and commandments and help others toward that same goal to the Praise and Glory of our Heavenly Father.
E. Weeks

My Goal Is Christ

¹Ah, tell me not of gold or treasure,
Of pomp and beauty here on earth!
There's not a thing that gives me pleasure,
Of all this world displays for worth.
Each heart will seek and love its own;

Chorus

**My goal is Christ and Christ alone,
My goal is Christ and Christ alone.**

²The world and her pursuits will perish;
Her beauty's fading like a flower;
The brightest schemes the earth can cherish
Are but the pastime of an hour.
Each heart will seek and love its own;

³Against this tower there's no prevailing;
His Kingdom passes not away;
His throne abides, despite assailing,
From henceforth unto endless day.
Each heart will seek and love its own;

⁴And though a pilgrim I must wander,
Still absent from the One I love,
He soon will have me with him yonder
In his own glory-realms above.
Triumphantly I therefore own;

Arise and Shine

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.” - Isaiah 9:2

As we enter another year it is painfully evident that people are still walking in darkness and dwelling in the land of the shadow of death. The great light which shined in the world when Christ came to earth with His message of hope has not yet penetrated all the recesses of terrestrial night. The world is a larger place than it was two thousand years ago and there is more darkness to be dispelled. The men and women of earlier centuries made more of the light that was shining because they realized their need more than does humanity today.

Men are so clever now; so exultant at wresting from Nature her most cherished secrets. They can fly faster than sound; descend into the depths of the seas; transmute the elements and measure the distant stars. Now they hope that the secrets of genetics will enable them to do better than nature herself in the growth and production of plant life and food. Like Lucifer, they aspire to sit upon the sides of the north and be like the Most High. Poor deluded ones; like the antediluvians in the days of Noah, they know not that they walk in darkness and that the end of their godless ambitions and dreams is at hand.

But are all men like this? By no means! Those who proclaim abroad so blatantly the might and power of man, and decry man's need of God, and deny Him any place in human life, are in the minority. They represent numerically but a tiny fraction of earth's population. The fact that they enjoy control of the world's means of publicity—the press, the radio, the ear of governments, and so on, gives their utterances and pronouncements a semblance of solidarity out of all proportion to their true magnitude. The rest of the people are waiting for what they know not. They only know that

they walk in darkness and in the shadow of death, and that the light is a long time in coming. It ought not to be so, for although that Great Light moves visibly among men no more, there are many lights, shining by reflections, and they should by now be making some impression, for they have been a long time in the world. Perhaps they do not shine brightly enough, for if the reflecting surface is not kept clean and polished it loses its capacity to reflect. Maybe some of the lights have been put under bushels and cannot be seen.

There was a book published many years ago called "*Efficiency in Hades*", in which an American production expert, visiting that mythical place of torment, and being conducted round by Lucifer, observed to his guide, "It does seem uneconomical to burn all these sinners just to provide illumination for a few elect in Heaven," whereupon Lucifer rejoined meditatively: "Perhaps the elect wouldn't give a good enough light themselves." *That is the world's condemnation*, not of Christianity but of *the failure of Christians*. The question ought to be asked: *Is it being said of us, as individuals or as a fellowship?*

It is so fatally easy to become satisfied with our own position before God, our own acceptance of His plans for human well-being, and the prospect of the promised future "reign with Christ." We forget that the validity of our belief in future things can only be attested by the degree to which we endeavor to practice them now. The very essentials of work in His Kingdom is service for one's fellows and a constant pointing and leading them to Christ and His way of life. *We are failing in our duty and privilege if we do not take good heed of those around us who are submerged in darkness and in the shadow of death and do all that lies within our present power to lift them out of it.* Neither is it enough to content ourselves with a vigorous campaign of preaching the coming Kingdom as God's panacea for all present human ills. True, we are called upon to herald that Kingdom consistently and persistently; but what is the practical use of saying to our starving brother, "*Depart in peace; be ye*

warmed and filled,” if we do not give him those things whereby he may be warmed and filled? The words of James might very well be interpreted here to mean that we, who have the knowledge and ability to show how the Kingdom is going to work, should not content ourselves with just telling men what it is going to be like when it has come. *We should show them what it is like, in our own fellowship and by our attitude toward them and our treatment of them.*

If we all make a sincere and honest-to-goodness attempt to regulate our own daily life and actions toward each other and toward all, by the principles which we profess to believe are the Divine will, and are to regulate life in the Millennial Age, then we shall do more to shine light into the darkness wherein people walk and dispel the shadow of death that has been accomplished by all the academic arguments and philosophical discourses that have been delivered from the time of Origen until now... There is a parable about going out into the highways and byways; without interpreting that injunction too literally, we might do well to think about it a little.

A.O. Hudson

A Little Light

Oh, sore the need that some must know
While journeying through this vale of woe!
Dismayed, disheartened, gone astray,
Caught in the thickets by the way,
For lack of just a little light
To guide their wandering steps aright.

Oh, sore the need that some must know
While journeying through this vale of woe!
Dismayed, disheartened, gone astray,
Caught in the thickets by the way,
For lack of just a little light
To guide their wandering steps aright.

from Poems of Dawn

Try a Little Kindness

My daughter Liz gave me a book entitled, "The Extraordinary Power of Kindness" for my 84th birthday, on August 3rd. The author, Bill Schiebler, gave many examples of kindness in action during his life.

The idea of kindness also brought to mind the hit song by Glenn Campbell in 1977 called, "Try A Little Kindness". 'Try a little kindness, Show a little kindness; Shine your light for everyone to see'. Matthew 5:16, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

Kindness means: being selfless, compassionate, merciful, showing love, and all of the above have much more meaning if done to strangers, those we dislike, or even our enemies.

It has been said that "Jesus was the kindest man who ever lived, and if all His deeds of kindness were written in a book(s), the world would not be big enough to contain the books." Jesus put much emphasis on being kind to others and implied that we cannot be His friend if we do not respond with kindness to those in need.

Matthew 25:40,45,46, "*And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'.... Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*" So, we are to let our lights shine with kindness to others as evidence of our qualifications for God's eternal kingdom.

He even tells us that our acts of kindness will not go unnoticed by Him and God: Mat. 10:42, "*And whoever gives*

one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." Therefore, even the smallest act of kindness to anyone will be counted for us towards our "crown of glory"!

Inspiring Words Regarding Kindness

Ralph Waldo Emerson - "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

Scott Adams - "Remember, there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."

Joseph B. Wirthkin - "Kindness is a passport that opens doors and fashions friends. It softens hearts and molds relationships that can last lifetimes."

Bible Inspirations for Kindness:

Colossians 3:12 - *"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering..."*

Nehemiah 9:17 - *"They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And You did not forsake them."*

Galatians 6:10 - *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."*

Luke 10:30-37 - Parable of the good Samaritan:
"Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who

stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he (the lawyer) said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Simple Starters of Kindness

Encourage someone who is down

Offer to pray for others

Help someone for free; errands, yard work, etc.

Donate stuff not using

Say "hello"- "Good morning" to those you meet. Continue the greetings despite lack of response.

Conclusion: Let each of us let our light shine by doing acts of kindness for others. Remember the words of Jesus; *"Whatever you do for the least of these you do for me."*

D. Ostwald

It may be little we can do
To help another, it is true;
But better is a little spark
Of kindness, when the way is dark,
Than one should walk in paths forbidden
For lack of light we might have given.

“He Knoweth Them That Trust in Him”

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him”. Nahum 1:7

God has a particular interest in those who trust in Him. When we read this prophecy in its entirety, we can see clearly why. In this prophecy it indicates the strong Assyrian armies that these people were up against, and most of all wanted no part of it. This verse we have before us stands out; stands alone. It assures His people of the divine protection and power over them. In this book God manifests His mighty power and strength against the enemies that come up against His people.

What do we know about Nineveh? It was certainly once a great city; now known as Mosul. It was a capital city of the original Assyrian empire. It became labeled *“the robber city”*, a city that came in disrepute for its wickedness, witchcraft, nakedness and filth. Also referring to this city it says in verse 7 of chapter 3: *“And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste; who will bemoan her? She is empty”*.

The name Nahum – means *comfort*. If we go back a few verses we notice how even today the use of the arm of flesh will fail - verse 3: *“The horseman lifts up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses”*.

And how does Jehovah God look upon it? Verse 5 *“Behold I am against thee, saith the Lord of Hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will show the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame”*. The word for His people is in the opening of this book as we read elsewhere: *“Vengeance is mine saith the Lord”*. (Romans 12:19)

In Nahum 1:7, the verse we are using as our basis; it says, *“The Lord is good.”* Would not they that trust in God already know this? So, as a suggested thought: Do we not remind each other of scriptures at an appropriate time even if we already know of them? And I think possibly this is what is meant in this prophecy, because the times were so evil it was necessary to be reminded of these things.

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble”. Surely, to them at that time it was a day of trouble; what with the idols of graven images and a vile city. God’s goodness and mercy endures forever. How were they to continue in such times? *One important instruction is given to them in verse 15 of the same chapter: “Behold upon the mountains the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publishes peace!”* A prophecy yet to be fulfilled; but for the time being: *“O Judah, keep thy solemn feast, perform thy vows.”* This is their stability, a stronghold in their God. On every occasion in scripture referring to the enemies that surround His own people; the Lord God will destroy; they shall be cut off and will perish. In this book of three chapters alone it is made noticeably clear how the Lord will deal with the whole situation, if it is left to Him. We also see how mankind failed in its attempt to deal properly with the matter by whatever force they used. Their places shall become desolate. Everywhere eaten-up as it indicates in verses 15 and 16 of chapter 3, the word is devoured - a complete devastation. The capital city of Nineveh at one time was a thriving, throbbing city of much wealth until its final destruction by a combination of forces led by the Medes and the Persians in 612 B.C.

Let us turn now to Zephaniah chapter 2:12-15. Zephaniah means *“Jehovah hides”*. However, chapter 2 from verse 12 we read: *“Ye Ethiopians also, ye shall be slain by my sword.”* A similar situation as Nineveh; verse 13-15: *“And he will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation and dry like a wilder-*

ness. *And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bitten shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds, for he shall uncover the cedar work. This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! Everyone that passes by her shall hiss and wag his hand.*” I am sure you see the connection. **“He knoweth them that trust in Him”**.

Let us look at a couple of Psalms with this positive thought in mind. Psalm 34: 22: *“The Lord redeemeth the souls of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.”*

There are many Psalms of exhortation and this is to those who put their trust and whole reliance on God. The other Psalm is 73: 26 and 28: *“My flesh, and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever”. ... “But it is good for me to draw near to God: that I may declare all thy works”*.

This should easily be applied to us. If not, are we not likely to do things in our own strength? We used to be called Great Britain, more like Great Mess. We used to be thousands in debt, then millions, and where does billions come from, for it would not surprise me in twenty years’ time, at the rate we are going in our own strength, we will be speaking of trillions in debt.

What about us in these times? Trust is a well-used word in scripture in hymns and poems. This word used in scripture is that of certainty. We hasten to add that in no way was it intended as a demand. A simple trust in God, as we know, requires obedience and having an absolute confidence in Him whom you trust.

Times are different now to what they were, but as the true saying goes: "It's got to get worse before it gets better". Sometimes those that have experienced dreadful times say, "Surely it cannot get much worse than we have already experienced." This could also be true. A certainty is that all will be revealed in God's due time. And this we know, whatever we say or do cannot alter God's plan and purpose. Thanks be to God! We see from our text that this trust that is referred to is in God the Almighty, the everlasting Father. He is constantly aware of everything said or done, especially unto Him. This is our priority through His blessed Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The trust here mentioned is a close relationship to God. Symbolically we feel the touch of His hand and the warmth of His love. As we get closer in this trust, we receive a deeper understanding of what it requires. So, keeping in mind what we have previously said, how do we put that trust fully into operation? A scripture comes to mind that we are always to trust Him. Obedience to His Will enables us to observe and act aright, being conscious that we are ever in His presence. continually aware that His watchful eye guides us, and His ear is ever open to our prayers. This is abiding in Him and His Son. If you want to receive power and help, there must be continuity on our part, because He will never fail us.

We said earlier that a scripture came to mind that we should trust Him at all times; this is Psalm 62:8. The Amplified Bible puts it this way: "*Trust in, lean on, rely on, and have confidence in Him at all times.*" We have before us David who was conscious of the presence of God and put his complete trust in Him. And again, in verse ten: "*Trust not in oppression*". The reason here, of course, is that oppression is an abomination to the Lord God. Surely David knew what he was talking about. It appears that this also would cause a downward trend on the person who was oppressed. The One David trusted stilled the noise of the tumult of the people. We do not use the word 'tumult' much, but it means a

violent uproar. As we know, David was surrounded by schemers of iniquity and evil. They frequently laid snares to trap him. He thanked God and trusted in Him as his complete defense. In Psalm 27:3, *“Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident”*. As we said, the Amplified version uses this word confident with trust. David on numerous occasions expressed himself when he said, *“In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust”*. *“In thee”* - solely in the God of his salvation because He delivers him from his enemies.

Let us remind ourselves about Daniel, for was he not a strong character who trusted in God and God heard him and delivered him? I know you will be familiar with the accounts, but it would on this occasion be good to refresh our memories. Daniel means---*God is my judge*.

What do we know about Daniel? It is recorded for us in the first chapter of the Book of Daniel that he had understanding in all visions and dreams. He was accounted as a man of righteousness before God. We will look at some of his experiences contained in the first six chapters.

We notice in the first chapter that Daniel kept his uprightness before his God whom he served. Verses 5-7 indicate that King Nebuchadnezzar appointed a daily provision of the king's delicacies and changed his name to Belteshazzar. However, Daniel said *“he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat or wine.”* Belteshazzar is the Chaldean name of Daniel meaning - *Bel's prince*.

As you know, Psalm 146:3 says not to *“put your trust in princes”*. So, the first test came to Daniel: after ten days of eating pulse and drinking water Daniel was fairer and fatter than those who had eaten the king's portion. We move down to verse 17: *“As for these four children Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, God gave them qualities better than the magicians and astrologers, for He gave them knowledge*

and skill in all learning and wisdom.” So, Daniel proved, if it was necessary, that his God had greater power than the King.

Then we have the well-known account before Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel, chapter 2:12 shows that it did not please the king that his learned men could not interpret his dream. He was incredibly angry and furious to the extent he wanted to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. God used Daniel as it were to negotiate with the king on behalf of the wise men. And so it was – he rightly interpreted the dream. In verses 46-48 of chapter 2: *“Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshiped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odors unto him. The king answered unto Daniel, and said, ‘Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret. Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and the chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.”*

Much later, under King Darius who had conquered Babylon, Daniel had his experience in the lion’s den. Darius had signed a writing and decree according to the law of the Medes and Persians, Dan. 6:8,9 that whosoever asked a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of Darius, should be cast into the den of lions. Daniel was found praying to his God and the king reluctantly carried out the decree. He realized that he had been tricked by his governors and satraps out of jealousy of Daniel. However, the king said to Daniel something significant. He said, *“Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee”*. Daniel fully trusted and prayed to God and was saved and delivered. ***“For He knoweth them, that trust in Him”***. God is faithful to His promise.

So, is it not right that we should show our faithfulness to Him by trusting in Him? We never know what situation God may allow us to be in sometime, but this we know: He is ever near in any kind of troubled waters. A few verses from the book of wisdom reassures us. Proverbs 3:21-26: *“My son, let them not depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: so shall they be life unto and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet”*. Now notice verse 25: *“Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the Lord shall be thy confidence.”* **“He knoweth them that trust in Him”**.

How do we accept these things into our hearts and minds? We know it is the calling of God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. What a blessed privilege, what a wonderful and beautiful relationship of sincerity and love. How can we not respond or even deny such favor? There is no greater example for us to follow than Jesus. He, being perfect, still put his whole trust in God His Father. He was and is the only One; (who) being perfect could say, *“I have come to do Thy Will, O God”*: Christ’s perfect obedience to His Father’s Will. Was not Jesus put in difficult situations? And was it not by God’s power that He was delivered? Sometimes we will say we are in a tight corner; in other words, we do not seem to find a way out by ourselves. In the animal kingdom, it is known that when in a tight corner, fear comes, and their way out is to pounce and attack. But it is not so with us, because we have a deliverer. This is why we can put our trust in God. We have a firm conviction of trust with the firm, unwavering belief that God is the Father of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ and we took that belief by faith to ourselves as our Father. We have it confirmed also by His word through His Son. We note how this trust has increased our faith, hope and love. Because we have committed ourselves to God by His Son; we can look forward by faith to the hope of the coming King-

dom and to the establishment of His Kingdom of peace and righteousness.

Because of the graciousness and lavish love the Father hath bestowed or imparted to us, in some small way we say thank you by trusting in Him at all times. This love He has given is in no small measure for there is no greater love than this, that He sent His only Son from the realms of divine glory to this sin-stricken earth. This earth was originally perfect and beautiful. God said, *"It was very good"*. What a difference to what we have said about Nineveh. As we know, there has been a decline since. The Word has it that there will be wars and rumors of wars. Men are living in fear, not knowing what might come upon the world. They try to find satisfaction in things that surround them, but they are temporary and even some of the temporal things they trust in have been taken away. According to the living word, these things are described as a flower, one moment it is there until the heat of the day and then it is gone. But His Word stands forever. The God in whom we trust is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. The Word of God is bound with the golden threads of God's promises. God allows some of these dreadful things to take place so that men's hearts will eventually turn to Him.

We know there will be much weeping and sorrow, much pain and suffering until the time when God will intervene and will wipe away all tears and sorrow. He is a God of love and mercy. He teaches us lessons of patience and endurance, kindness, and love. There will, in time, be peace in the valley of blessings so sweet. Men's hearts will be lovers of God. For He will remove the heart of stone and will give them a heart of flesh. Jesus will not come again to suffer and die. He will come in power and great glory. He will come as the Prince of Peace. He will be to the whole world the Lord of Lords, the King of Salem and King of Kings. His Father is the

One who knows everything and even the likes of us that trust in Him.

We need to stand on the sure promises of God, firm and secure unto the end. We can also, with the conviction of our faith, hope and love, keep always our hearts and minds in the full assurance of knowing that, if found faithful to the end, we shall reign forever with our Father and His Son Jesus Christ. We then shall have a part in blessing all mankind.

"He knoweth them that trust in Him".

P. Webb, England

*Now the Lord is seeking for a special class to constitute his New Creation, and none have been called to that heavenly calling except such as have been brought to a knowledge of God's grace in Christ, and been able to accept that divine arrangement by faith--to so fully **trust** in the grand outcome of God's plan that their faith therein will influence and shape the course of their lives in the present time, and cause them to esteem the life to come as of such paramount value that, in comparison, the present life and its interests would appear to be but as loss and dross.*

*The Apostle's expression, "We walk by faith and not by sight," is applicable to the entire Church of this Gospel age. The Lord's desire is to develop our faith--that we should learn to **trust** him where we cannot trace him. With a view to this, he leaves many things partially obscure, so far as human sight or judgment is concerned, to the intent that faith may be developed in a manner and to a degree that would be impossible if signs and wonders were granted to our earthly senses. The eyes of our understanding are to be opened toward God through the promises of his Word--through a discernment and understanding of the truth--to bring us joy of faith in the things not seen as yet, and not recognized by us naturally.*

Selected

Great is Your Faithfulness

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22.23 NRSV

One of the most encouraging things about a New Year is the word "new". It speaks to us of a time of fresh beginnings, a time when we can put behind us all our failures, all our broken resolves and start anew. In this New Year, let us remember that the Lord's love is all enduring. It will never disappear, no matter what we do or how we perform. His mercies toward us never end; they are new every morning. Let's start each day of this new year with that in mind. We need not wait until the next new year to begin again. We can begin again each day, because God in His infinite love and wisdom has given us a new beginning today. God loves us, in spite of the ways in which we have let Him down in the past, but we can start NEW today. Let us resolve this day to start anew to serve Him with all our heart, all our mind and all our soul! Let us give praise to Jehovah, the God of new beginnings, and thank Him for His steadfast love that never ceases, His mercies that never come to an end, and His great faithfulness. As each new day of this new year passes, may the realization of His great love and mercy toward us spur us on to serve Him with our whole hearts!

Father, thank You for this new day, this New Year. Thank You for new beginnings. Help us to learn from our past, but not to live there. Help us to start fresh each day, knowing that Your mercies are new every morning. Make this day a day that will bring You glory as I learn to live anew in Christ. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

from Quiet Waters Christian Devotions

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou foreverer wilt be.

Let's Be Reasonable

The Lord said, "come now, let us reason together."

Isaiah 1:18

What an invitation! He is telling us that we are able to discuss matters with Him.

According to Webster's dictionary, "Reason" is defined as 'the logical premise of an argument. Also, as a cause, motive, or purpose. Also, to deduce from facts or premises.'

Our Father invites us to reason with Him just as an earthly father might reason with his children. We can do that because we have been given that ability to use logic to reach a conclusion on a matter and in that sense, we are in God's image as we read in Genesis 1:27. "... So God created man in His own image." NIV

We who have dedicated our lives to attempting to follow Jesus, pray for guidance from Him and the Father in our understanding of our textbook, the Holy Bible.

We have been given a clear understanding of the fundamentals of faith, hope, and love as the Apostle Paul summarized in I Corinthians 13:13.

However, some of the details of our faith can be troublesome -- i.e. chronology, covenants, prophecies, types, and shadows, etc. Different opinions on these subjects can cause controversy and divisions.

How can we avoid these troubles? The Apostle Paul dealt with a similar problem in the church at Rome.

In Romans 14:5-7a He said,

"One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone,...."

In making our decisions let us use the scriptures as our guide, just as the Berean church did as noted in Acts 17:11:

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures (Old Testament prophecies), every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

But once we have settled the matter for ourselves, let us not pass judgment on the brother or sister who sees it differently. That is how the Apostle Paul summed up his argument to the Roman problem by writing:

“Therefore, let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.” Romans 14:13

Let us remember our role as prospective members of the body of Christ, always keeping in mind the helping of our brethren in making our *“calling and election sure.”* 2 Peter 1:10

May our Agape love continue to grow!

D. Anas

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? James 4:12

It is in harmony with this thought that the Apostle Paul declares in one place that neither the world nor the brethren were capable of judging him--that only the Lord, who could read the heart and know all the conditions and testings and weaknesses to be striven against, could properly judge. He even declares, "Yea, I judge not mine own self." (1 Corinthians 4:3) It is an excellent plan neither to condemn others who claim to be walking conscientiously as children of the Lord, nor even to condemn ourselves under similar circumstances. We should simply press along day by day, doing the best we can to cultivate the heavenly graces and to serve our Master, leaving all the results with the Lord.

Daily Heavenly Manna

Rewriting History

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the LORD endures forever.” 1 Peter 1:24, 25

An amateur, genealogical researcher discovered that his great, great uncle, Remiss Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana back in 1889. The only known photograph of Remiss Starr, shows him standing on the gallows, rope around his neck. On the back of the picture, is this inscription, “Remiss Starr, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times, caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted shortly thereafter, hanged 1889. “

A family friend rewrote the story of Remiss and this is the way he presented the biography: “Remiss Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana territory. His business empire grew to acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885 he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility. Finally, taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad in 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remiss passed away during an important civic function held in his honor, when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.”

While we find that rewrite of family history humorous, there have been many attempts down through the ages of people determined to rewrite history, to cover up the egregious behavior of past decades and centuries in the name of social justice and equality.

There are people today who deny that the holocaust ever happened. But after World War II, the Jewish nation was markedly determined that history would remember the horrors of the holocaust and the Nazi effort to wipe out a whole race of people. They preserved, as painful as it was, the stories and pictures and artifacts that would document the horrors of that time so that mankind would never allow it to be repeated or forgotten.

There have been many attempts down through the Gospel age of people and governments who have attempted to rewrite history by trying to destroy the Christian religion and eliminate any evidence that it existed, including its one great tangible of the faith, the written Holy Word of God. The persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire was one of those horrifying realities of history. But of the 10 Roman Ceasar's who ruled after the death of Christ, Diocletian (284-305 AD), inaugurated the most venomous and violent persecutions of all. The 10th and last of the Emperors to inflict their wrath on the Christian faith, Diocletian began a systematic attempt to wipe the name of Christ from the earth and from the history books. In A.D. 303, Diocletian issued an edict requiring the uniformity of worship of Ceasar. By refusing to pay homage to the image of the emperor, all Christians become outlaws. Their public and private possessions are confiscated, their assemblies are prohibited, their churches are torn down and worst of all, their sacred writings are destroyed. Those tortured and killed are estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands. Every means was devised to exterminate the obstinate religion.

And yet, as it always does, the truth of scripture prevails, even as God has promised, *"the word of the Lord abides forever."* 1 Peter 1:24

One promise is clear from scripture: that one day *"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."* So no matter how hard fallen humanity rails against Jesus and those who follow Him, the attempt to rewrite His history in this centuries old battle of good and evil, will still only end one way, when Jesus Christ ultimately rules as King of Kings and Lord of Lords over the entire breadth of humanity. The Word of God will endure forever because it is God Almighty who controls and writes the history of mankind.

*"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ... and His name is called **The Word of God**. ... And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, **"KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."**"*
Revelation 19:11,12,16

D. Gorham

Forget Not All His Benefits

Psalm 103

This psalm is the third in a trilogy of psalms 101, 102 and 103. Psalm 101 is a song of mercy and judgment, Psalm 102 is a cry to the Lord for deliverance from trouble and distress, while Psa.103 resolves these issues in adoration and thanksgiving to the Lord.

Psalm 103 is a deeply moving psalm that touches both heart and mind. It tells us that God's people are accepted and forgiven by him. The words used and the comparisons made go to our very hearts and fill us with emotions of thankfulness for our acceptance by the Lord God and of hope for his blessings that will certainly be realised. It is a psalm of adoration and thanksgiving. In it there are no rebukes, no confessions of failure or inadequacy, and no exhortations. The psalm contains many memorable and deeply satisfying similes. It begins and ends with adoration (adoration meaning regarding with the utmost respect), reverence and affection.

Psalm 103:1,2

1. *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

2. *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

"Bless the LORD, O my soul" appears in verses 1 and 2, and again in verse 22, reminding us of the three-fold blessing of Numbers 6:24-26; *"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace"*. *"Bless"* in the Hebrew means 'to kneel, by implication to adore and regard with the utmost respect and reverence' (Strong 1288). *"Soul"* is the Hebrew word "nephesh" (Strong 5315), meaning a living, breathing creature, in the context signifying all human beings, in all their physical and mental aspects.

"All that is within me", the literal rendering of the Hebrew in verse 1 being 'all my inward parts', meaning everything of which my mind, heart and understanding are capable. Let me praise God, wrote David, with all my thought, all my feeling and all my strength. *"His holy name"*, also in verse 1, being the name that is pure and righteous, far above all earthly titles and honours which have their origins in imperfection and unrighteousness.

"Forget not all his benefits" of verse 2 is a reminder not to do as the human heart often does, that is, forget goodness and kindness, and mercy from God. The Hebrew word for *"benefits"* generally means 'retribution' or 'reward' (Strong 1576), and signifies forgiveness and redemption, as well as provision of daily needs, perhaps even prosperity. The psalmist, David, was writing while serving God under the Law Covenant. Perhaps he had this primarily in mind, for the Law provided forgiveness and providential care for God's people. But, it seems, his words go further. Perhaps David did not fully realise the full impact of his words, because the Law could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:6). It was holy and just and good (Romans 7:12), but all people were sinners and those under the Law could not keep it. Being sinners the Law was to remind the Israelites of their abject condition.

Thoughtful, faithful Israelites might have realised, indeed, they should have realised, that they needed deliverance. In the course of time God provided this deliverance in Jesus Christ and the New Covenant, an arrangement that through faith can, and does, take away sin and offers eternal life to the believer in the Kingdom.

Psalm 103:3-6

3. *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*
4. *Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;*
5. *Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*
6. *The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*

Perhaps the psalmist under inspiration knew of the deliverance to come, for his words of promise in verses 3, 4, 5 and 6 will not really be fulfilled until the Kingdom of God is in full world-wide operation. The benefits which come to the believer are entirely due to God's mercy and grace, and not to any merit or anything earned on the part of the believer. The main benefits to the believer now in this age are forgiveness, reconciliation with God, imputation of righteousness and the promise of eternal life in the heavenly places to assist with the blessing of all nations and all families of the earth.

The psalmist continued in verse 3, *"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases"*. As has been said, forgiveness was possible and available under the Law, but the Law could not

take away sin (Hebrews 10:6). Only belief through Jesus Christ can and will do that. Some bodily diseases under the Law could be healed when certain procedures were followed, but not all illnesses could be cured. Earthly sufferings and bodily illnesses can be associated with spiritual sicknesses or iniquities, as in Exodus 15:26: *"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee"*. Christ came as the healer of both. By removing sin, the initial cause, He will finally remove all sickness and suffering, and finally death itself, which is the wages of sin (Romans 6:23).

Jesus gave an earnest of this in combining his forgiveness of the paralytic man with his cure of the body in Mark 2:5,10; Matthew 9:2,6; and Matthew 8:17 quoting Isaiah 53:4 with some alteration.

The *"destruction"* of verse 4 is literally 'the pit', a symbol of the grave, the destiny of all the descendants of Adam. God, through Christ, will eventually raise all human beings from the captivity of the grave.

"Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things". The Hebrew word for *"mouth"* in verse 5 is rendered by Strong as 'finery, ornament' (5716). The Septuagint and other ancient versions render the word as 'desire', and the Syriac version renders it as 'body'. The usual meaning, as in Ezekiel 7:20, is 'beauty' or 'ornament'. It would seem that there may be two ways of understanding this clause, firstly in reference to the mind and heart which God will satisfy with spiritual blessings, and secondly in reference to the body *"so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's"*. The eagle is thought to symbolise youth and vigour, in keeping with the Greek proverb, 'The eagle's old age is as good as the lark's youth'. Hensenberg translated this clause as "Thy youth is renewed like (i.e. so as to be as strong as) the eagle". The understanding of this thought seems to be that the believer under the Law, and the believer in Christ, will live a life of moderation in all things, and will continue in good health and strength, if God so permits.

"The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed". These words of verse 6 are mainly prospective, as the promise to all that are oppressed will not be fulfilled until God's kingdom is established in power and authority over all the earth.

Certainly the Israelites were granted victories by God over their enemies from time to time, and He restored them again to their own land after their captivity in Babylon, but their idolatry and disobedience brought God's punishments upon them until their final rejection, after they themselves, as a nation, rejected their Messiah and the Gospel preached to them exclusively for three and a half years. Similarly, the Christian believer is not promised freedom from oppression and from trial and persecution in this Gospel Age, and many Christians have suffered severe trials and furious persecution even unto death for their faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus. But the declaration of verse 6 will one day be a reality.

Psalm 103:7-10

7. *He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

8. *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

9. *He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.*

10. *He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

"*He made known his ways unto Moses*" said the psalmist in verse 7. God did this in mighty deeds of guidance and deliverance, not merely in words but in actions, beginning with the wonderful and miraculous delivery of the nation from the cruel and oppressive bondage in Egypt.

"*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy*". This deeply-moving and comforting truth in verse 8 ought to have kept the people from the worship of heathen gods of mythical terror and cruelty.

"*He will not always chide, neither will he keep his anger for ever*". "*Chide*" in verse 9 is better rendered 'chastise', which is stronger in meaning. The words "*his anger*" are supplied, but seem a reasonable insertion indicating that God is ready to forgive, and will not hold the repentant sinner's transgressions against him or her, but will remember them no more upon repentance and the asking of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

All believers are greatly and graciously blessed in that "*He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities*". What a wonderful blessing is expressed in these words of verse 10. Believers do not get what they deserve, but on the

contrary are blessed and promised "*great and precious promises*" (2 Peter 1:4), reconciliation with God, life and life more abundant, and a heavenly inheritance. Moreover, as the Apostle told us, "... *Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Psalm 103:11-21

11. *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

12. *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

13 *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

14. *For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

15. *As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.*

16. *For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.*

17. *But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*

18. *To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.*

19. *The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.*

20. *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*

21. *Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*

Memorable Similes

A simile is a figure of speech in which two things are compared in respect of one quality or aspect in which they are alike, while being unlike in all other respects.

The first simile occurs in verse 11: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him". God's mercy is here memorably depicted as infinite.

The second is in the next verse, verse 12. "*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us*". This means that believers are entirely acquitted of their guilt and penalty.

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him". In conjunction with the next verse, verse 14, we gather that the misery and helplessness of our human condition, *"our frame ... we are dust"*, which might well keep us alienated from God, is the very inducement to God to show compassion towards us, as an earthly father might show compassion to his children in need.

"As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more" (verses 15 and 16).

The contrast here is between man's frailty and short duration of life and God's eternal mercy and righteousness. God's righteousness is shown in his faithfulness to his word and his promises to them who sincerely seek Him.

"To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them". In verse 18, the psalmist probably had in mind the old Law, which would have brought blessings and prosperity to the nation of Israel while they were faithful and obedient. Believers in the Gospel Age should have in their minds and hearts the New Covenant which has superseded the Old Covenant. This new arrangement provides spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ.

Verses 19 to 21 are prospective. God *"hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all"*. The psalmist called upon the holy angels to *"bless the LORD", "angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word"*.

Then everyone is called upon: *"Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure". "Bless the LORD, all his works - in all places of his dominion"*. This is a universal cry to be fulfilled only in the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 103:22

22. Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul. The psalm closes as it began: ***"Bless the LORD, O my soul"***.

Russell Collins
New Covenant News, Australia

A Portrait of Jesus: Private Prayer Is Powerful

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." Matthew 6:5



Jesus taught that prayer was sincere communication with the Father and not something that should be treated like a spectacle. The Pharisees prayed publicly to appear holy. Jesus taught us that private prayer is what brings holiness to our lives. From the very start of His earthly ministry Jesus stole away to be alone with His Father. Jesus cultivated this principle by often getting away to spend time with God. When Jesus emerged from His private prayer times with His Father tremendous power followed: demons were cast out, people were healed, the dead were raised and many people were introduced to the Kingdom of God.

Luke 5:16 tells us that *Jesus "often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."* Mark in the beginning of his gospel describes what was a daily practice for Jesus: *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."* Mark 1:35 This was a common practice described by each of the gospel writers.

His disciples didn't understand the necessity of prayer and why Jesus sought His Father for direction, strength and power to heal. They were confused when people were seeking healing why Jesus went off by himself. They had trouble casting out demons, Jesus told them *"This kind can come out only by prayer."* Mark 9:29 The busy Christian can probably identify with the disciples. The demands in front of us frequently take precedence over our need for prayer. Many of us want to spring into action before we take the time to consult our Father and ask Him to prepare us for duty.

The lesson for us is that private prayer brings strength for the weary, direction for the directionless and power to the powerless. We should continually seek our Father's guidance just like our Lord Jesus did. Prayer is not a luxury, but a necessity and it is the most powerful tool we have available to us in this life.

D. Mathewson

Children's Story Corner: God Is in Control



Dear Ones,

Sometimes it seems as if our world is spinning out of control. The Covid-19 pandemic caused many to lose their jobs and end up homeless and in poverty. As a result, more people are becoming criminals. We see protests on our streets instead of parades. You may have friends whose clothes look worn. They might even be hungry. Is God in control of our world?

We are often told that mankind is in charge of the world and of our own future. We are told that we are causing the climate to change and that we can fix it. We are told that we are the reason so many are sick from Covid and we could fix that. We are also told that people are going to "cure" the virus by developing a vaccine. Yet the Bible says God is in control, not man. Psalms 118:8.9 tells us, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD (Jehovah God) than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes."

If you had been living in Israel in 1010 B.C. when Saul was king, it would have seemed like your world was out of control. The fierce Philistine army attacked your Israelite army again. They killed many of your soldiers and even killed king Saul and three of his sons. If you were trusting King Saul to defeat the Philistines and bring peace and prosperity to the land, it would have seemed hopeless. But if you pinned your hopes on God and not on a man, you would know God had everything under control. He had David, a mighty warrior, all prepared and ready to defeat the Philistines.

God even controls governments. He often does this in order to bring to pass what He said beforehand would happen. In Psalms 83, God foretold that the Arab nations would unite against Israel and, as they said, "...wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence." Instead, God would "Let all their princes die...utterly

disgrace them...let them be ashamed and terrified forever...make them failures in everything they do." This is exactly what happened in 1967. Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine said they were going to "exterminate Israel and wipe out all memories of its existence." But in only six days the Israelis, with help from no one else but God, defeated them all. The Arab nations were made to realize that Israel is a force to be reckoned with. Now Egypt, U.A.E., and Bahrain - all Arab nations, have made peace treaties with the nation of Israel.

We need to trust God and keep doing what He told us to do. "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul and mind. ...Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) "...visit orphans and widows in their distress, and keep oneself without spot from the world." (James 1:27) "Pray for kings and all who are in authority ..." (1 Timothy 2:2) Then God will surely do what He said He would do. At Proverbs 3:5,6 we are told, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart." What a beautiful promise found at Psalm 37:3,4.

God is still in control and we have nothing to fear. We can trust Him to make good on His word, to do everything He said He would do. I am praying for all of you. Please send your questions to the editor of this magazine.

Love from your Aunt Nancy Shobe

In God I have found a retreat,
Where I can securely abide;
No refuge, no rest so complete,
And here I intend to reside.

O! what comfort it brings,
My soul sweetly sings,
I am safe from all danger
While under his wings.

Prayer List

"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." (1 Samuel 12:23)



Let us be Prayer Warriors for our Brethren!

Allen, Peggy & Russell – VT	Jones, Arlene - VA
Anderson, Family– WI (d)	Karavas, Anna - CA
Andrada, Delores & Family – CA	Knapp, Jamie – NH
Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d)	Knapp, Joseph – IL (d)
Boswell, Arlene – IL	Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME
Buxton, Jean & Family - UK	Lepitre Family - IL
Carpenter, Gloria – KY	Howes, Paul & Carla - UK
Cline, Ruth – MO	Kingsmith, Beresford - UK
Cooper, Carmela – NJ	Mazzotta, Eva – VA
Csutor, Judith – CT	Miller, Alain – Canada
Day, Ronald – PA	Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA
Dewys, Mary & Family – MI (d)	Munoz, Sue - NY
DiCenso, Sabatino - AZ	Orsburn, Judi – CA (d)
Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA	Parker, Geraldine – CA
Donnarummo, Dan – OH (d)	Penton, Jim – Canada
Duhaime, George & Family – CT (d)	Phillips, Stella – OK
Dunn, Kim - IL	Riggio, Fran – NH
Fantuzzo, Tony – NY (d)	Rowe, Bryan - UK
Feliciano, Carmen - NY	Schultz, Becky & Family – MN (d)
Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI	Schwartz, Ruth – TX
Foster, Jean – IL	Seminoff, Brenda – CA
Gary, Inez – VA	Thomassen, Sandi – NM (d)
Gmiterek Family (d)	Tuscia, Priscilla – FL
Hauslein, Karen – MD	Trent, Thelma – FL (d)
Hawk, Barbara – PA	Weaver, Eddie - NY
Hildebrandt, Lois - FL	Weeks, Jeannie (Mitchell) (d)
Hogrebe, Joan – MO	White, Ken & Joan - NY
Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – VA (d)	Wisdom Hezekiah Ikpo - Nigeria
Iannaccone, Marie & Family – IL (d)	Zychal, Ruth & Craig– NJ

d) = death in the family

Entered into rest:

Mitch Mitchell, France – August 2020
Elaine Niewiemiński – October 2020
Jean Tobey, FL – October 2020
Gene Dewys, MI – October 2020
Bob Iannaccone, IL – October 2020

Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Websites

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their course and have been awarded a Certificate.



Africa

Ransom Course – Evans Tweneboa Kodua, Ghana

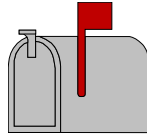
You are invited to view the following websites:

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)
<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship in NH)
<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk> (Bible Fellowship in UK)
<http://www.bbschurch.org> (Lombard, IL)
<https://sites.google.com/site/quietwatersdevotions/home>
<http://www.cartyorkshire.co.uk> (CART)
<http://www.campblessing.com> (Camp Blessing)
<http://www.homechristians.net> (Fraser Valley, B.C.)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.at> (Free Bible Students, Austria)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.org> (Mission Work Bible Students, Austria)
<http://bibelforscher.heimat.eu/> (Free Bible Students, Germany (English))
<http://www.softgrafic.com/bibbia> (Italian Bible Students)
<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News, Austr.)
<http://www.ebbereanos.org> (Berean Bible Students, Brazil – Portuguese/Span)

Luther's concluding words in making his defense at the Diet of Worms, Germany, in April of 1521:

“Unless I am convinced by the testimonies of the Scriptures or by evident reason (for I believe neither pope nor councils alone, since it is manifest they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience is held captive by the word of God; and as it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience, I cannot and will not retract anything. Here I stand; I cannot otherwise; God help me. Amen.”

Letters from Our Fellowship and Readers



From Terry Meyer of Georgetown, CA:

Please use the enclosed donation to help spread the Glad Tidings of God's precious Word. Your magazine has shined God's love, Truth, and Hope for His glorious Kingdom in the hearts of so many around the world over the years. Keep up the good work.

Terry's wife Carlene died on 12/12/2019 and he sent the following written by her about 3 years ago, which we are pleased to republish here

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I thank the Lord for your continued labors of love in His vineyard, spreading the good news of God's glorious plan and helping to encourage all those endeavoring to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

Living in these end times is certainly an amazing and challenging experience. To see prophecies in God's word unfolding before our very eyes is faith building. Though our hearts ache for suffering humanity, we can rejoice in knowing that soon this nighttime of sorrow and dying will be over and will give way to eternal life and joy for all who choose to participate in God's righteous government and arrangements.

I pray we all remain strong, fervent in faith and love, and don't lose heart in the midst of the present fiery trials which test our devotion. Soon this life will be over and the next one begun! May we be faithful and daily seek to praise and honor our merciful Heavenly Father, with thankful hearts, encouraging and uplifting our brethren and yielding ourselves to the transforming work of God's Holy Spirit. Let us always cherish the gift of life we have been blessed to receive from our dear Lord Jesus due to His selfless sacrifice given on behalf of us all.

You're in my prayers for God's strength and continued guidance to be yours in the days ahead. Let us keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and "hold fast the profession our faith without wavering," for He is faithful who promised.

*With my love in Christ, Sr. Carlene
Isaiah 35*

Conferences & Conventions

Note: There is a dearth of physical conventions at this time due to the coronavirus. However, if you are having an online convention and would like to advertise it in the New Creation, please send full information to the editor at least 3 months in advance of your conference or convention.

Donations

Many people around the world appreciate the New Creation magazine. For many, it is their only source of Christian communication. Also, for many, they only have it through the generous contributions of others. If you feel moved to help them in continuing to get the New Creation, please consider a donation to CDMI.

Article Contributions

Please send articles for possible publication to Dennis Gorham,
4 Alicia Street Somersworth, NH 03878
email: dennisgorham@comcast.net

Any information published in this magazine that you know is incorrect should be brought to the attention of the editor at his email address. The views expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the editor or staff of the New Creation Magazine. All of us strive for accuracy but do not have full knowledge.