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Heartbeat

Winter Issue 2016

The Official Newsletter

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

It almost seems impossible Thanksgiving season is upon us again. It is an annual reminder of Paul's command to all believers; for all times: Ephesians 5:20: "Giving thanks ALWAYS for ALL THINGS unto God and the Father, in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST."

May I remind us, this is not a suggestion; but the true sign of a Spirit filled believer. The constant reminders in God's word to believers are totally consistent with the verse in Ephesians 5.

Phil. 4:6; "Be careful for nothing; but in EVERYTHING, by prayer and supplication, WITH THANKSGIVING, let your requests be made known to God."

Psalm 67:3-7; "Let the people praise thee, O God; let ALL the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon the earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let ALL THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE. THEN shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall BLESS US. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth SHALL FEAR HIM."

Please notice, the scriptures say: "In ALL THINGS, PRAISE HIM." How is this possible? By believing His word. II Sam. 22:31; "As for God, His way is PERFECT." When our loved one is taken; when our health fails; when there is financial loss; when there are family problems; when the world around us seems to be crumbling right before our eyes; or we feel isolated or misunderstood. REMEMBER: His ways are ALWAYS PERFECT." This is why is says; "In EVERYTHING give THANKS."

Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know My thoughts that I think TOWARD YOU, saith the Lord; thoughts of peace and NOT OF EVIL, to give you AN EXPECTED END." DO WE BELIEVE THIS? If we truly believe this: we should be able to: "IN ALL THINGS; GIVE THANKS." BY FAITH!

I read once of a farmer whose wife was praising God because, for the first time ever, their crop of potatoes were unbelievable. She said to her husband: "Every potato in the field is a number 1 potato! That has never happened before. Isn't it wonderful?"

Her husband responded to her gratefulness by saying; "Yeah, it is great, but where am I going to get some small potatoes, to feed my pigs?"

As Americans we sometimes feel entitled. Suffering to many of us is when the Holiday Inn runs out of hot water in the middle of our taking a shower; or when our vehicles break down unexpectedly; or when our pet dies.

Maybe it would be helpful for us to be reminded of the circumstances Christ realized would come when He inspired Paul the Apostle to write to us about thanksgiving: Let's take a look at the lives of those first twelve disciples, and ask ourselves if we should reevaluate our present circumstances, in the light of what they experienced while on earth; serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

HOW EACH APOSTLE DIED

All of the Apostles were insulted by the enemies of their Master. They were called to SEAL their DOCTRINES with their blood, and NOBLY did they bear the trial.

- Matthew suffered martyrdom by being slain by a sword at a distant city of Ethiopia.
- Mark expired at Alexandria after being cruelly dragged through the streets of that city.
- Luke was hanged upon an olive tree in the classic land of Greece.
- John was put in a caldron of boiling oil, but escaped death in a miraculous manner and was afterward banished to Patmos where he died a natural death.
- Peter was crucified at Rome, with his head downward: because he didn't feel worthy of being crucified in the same manner of his Savior.
- James the Greater, was beheaded at Jerusalem.
- 7. James the Less was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club.
- Bartholomew was flayed alive.
- 9. Andrew was bound to a cross, whence he preached to his persecutors until he died.
- Thomas was run through the body with a lance at the city of Coromandel, in the East Indies.
- 11. Iude was shot to death with arrows.
- Matthais was first stoned, and then beheaded.

- Barnabas of the Gentiles was stoned to death at Salonica.
- 14. Paul, after various tortures and persecutions, was at length, beheaded at Rome by the Emperor, Nero.

CONCLUSION: Such was the fate of the apostles, according to traditional statements. (*Christian Index.*)

QUESTION: Why should we expect to be treated better in this world than Jesus and His disciples were?

In the light of all this: can we recalibrate our expectations to where we set aside ONE DAY a year to GRUMBLE: and then every other day of the year to "GIVE THANKS ALWAYS" instead of the other way around? Such an attitude will deliver us from defeat; discouragement, compromise and despair.

Pat and I wish all of you a most blessed Thanksgiving and Season of rejoicing in the miraculous coming of our Precious Redeemer, as the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world."

PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS as we look expectantly at the upcoming year.



Ravenhill Quotes:

"If a Christian is not having tribulation in the world, there's something wrong."

"You can have all of your doctrines right- yet, still not have the presence of God in your daily walk."

"Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, "Leonard, you took Me too seriously?"

"If Jesus had preached the same message most ministers preach today, He would never have been crucified."

"If the whole church goes off into deception, that will in no way excuse us for not following Christ."

"The Bible is either ABSOLUTE, or it's OBSOLETE."

"My main ambition in life is to be on the Devil's MOST WANTED LIST."

"When there's something in the Bible that churches don't like today, they call it LEGALISM."

Charles Spurgeon Quotes:

'A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats'.......Charles Spurgeon



PRAISE REPORT

LATEST PRAISE REPORT FROM PANAMA:

Hi just a bit about what's happening in Panama. The TV commercials are starting this week to promote free download of our books, thru Amazon. Com electronic books. The marriage books have been given out to the Indians in the mountains. We are invited to go up in mountains for a 10 day evangelical outreach and to share the books. This will be in an area never touched before. Pray for God's favor in this endeavor. The books will be offered on stations covering over 75% of Costa Rica and much of Peru.

Blessings; Tammy

Pastor Joe Webb

LATEST PRAISE REPORT FROM BOGATA, COLUMBIA: BECKY.

Yesterday my prayers for a partner in this work that is devalued by many and prized by a few were answered. The Pastor had me come forward in his church service and told the congregation that for the first time he had found somebody that believed as he did about marriage.

He almost cried when he introduced me. He so spoke about our books that afterwards I was swamped with those who wanted them, and they quickly emptied my backpack full. This is a church that does not permit divorce, and is so very healthy. Babies and children everywhere, and The Pastor and his wife were busy for hours after the service counseling couples. They also host a ministry for couples. Everywhere in this church I saw a novelty -couples and families sitting together instead of the usual scene of individuals sitting alone or one parent families. Such a wonderful and healthy church! This is our goal.

This same Pastor promises to connect me and the books with other similar churches among the hundreds here in Bogotá.

The places that have accepted our books for sale: Bible League and a major and some minor bookstores (which are selling them at cost) ran out quickly and had to be replenished. A great blessing!!! It shows there is hunger for these truths. Actually there is nothing similar out there in a country where covenant marriages are less than anywhere else IN THE WORLD. Pastor Webb and I did not know that when we were led by (Him), to send books on this subject and for (me) to write one. God did it, and His ways are perfect.

One sister, told me that the book that had reached her hands, had fallen there like "a pearl". "I was about to trash our marriage," she said. Their children are precious, school-age. Now she has been battling for her marriage and is amazed at the changes that have occurred in her husband. "Let us begin again from zero," he said at a recent outing, and they all did a quick dip in the pool to signify this.

Much love to you and the team working with you, Pastor Webb, and your dear wife.

Rebecca Phillips in Colombia

NOTE: PLEASE BE PRAYING for God's favor on Becky and Tammy, as they give themselves to make the covenant marriage truth known to pastors and other Christian leaders in Central and So. America. Most of their responses, thus far have been extremely positive!



The following article was sent to me from a precious Mennonite bishop, and his wife. I have known these folks for many years and watched their walk of faith and optimism through many physical challenges, in both of their lives. Simon and Polly have faithfully served the Lord in ministry and business successfully for many years. This is why this article was such an encouragement to me.

Please feel free to share this article with others you know of, who might be struggling right now. Simon has a special gift to clarify the situations of life and their only true solution in his writings and has been an ongoing blessing to me. Please enjoy!

THE FEAR CHAIR

While getting a monthly IV at the Cancer Center, I noticed an empty chair on the left side of the exit. A closer look revealed it was for a purpose. It was named "The Fear Chair." Upon inquiry as to its meaning, it was explained that people should write their fears and leave them there. The poster on the chair explained its meaning:

The Fear Chair

"Fear is a part of life. It can sit in the car with us, but we will not let it sit in the driver's seat and control us. This chair is a place to acknowledge fear exists, and it does have a eat, but only right here, in this chair.

"Please write your fear on this chair to acknowledge it, and take back the driver's seat of your life."

There was a list of fears written by others. Some of the fears were "my health", "cancer returning", "pain", "the future", "being alone", "flying", "not being there for my kids." I did not add anything to the list, not because I don't experience fears. I am confronted with fears. Satan constantly provides them. Being challenged with cancer, I experience some of the fears already on the list. Listing my fears on the

chair and leaving them there seems humanly impossible. While it sounds like a great idea, the chair lacks any ability to relieve fears. It is just a dead piece of furniture. It doesn't promise caring for me. Neither does it offer peace, grace and strength for my ongoing journey. It does not promise an abiding presence or an eternal future of rest from fear.

David, the shepherd boy who became king of Israel, had legitimate reasons to fear. Much of his life had the threat of death hanging over his head. Even so, he wrote in Psalm 37, "Fear not thyself because of evil doers", "Trust in the Lord, and do good", and "Commit thy ways unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (See verses 1 – 5). I am a believer and according to the Psalms, I should commit my fears to the Lord (not a chair). "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee" (Psalm 55:22).

The New Testament is rather specific what the believer is to do with fear. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:6-7). The amplified N.T. puts an added dimension, "Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him. For He cares for you affectionately, and cares for you watchfully."

The apostle Paul admonishes us to "be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4: 6-7).

The disciples of Jesus were in a ship in the midst of the sea. They were being battered and tossed by the waves from the wind that was against them. Jesus came to them walking on the water. They thought He was a ghost and were afraid and terrified. Jesus said to them, "It is I; be not afraid" (John 6:20).

What are your fears? Don't be afraid to cast them on Him, "for he careth for you." He is your friend.

. He said, "but I have called you my friends" (John 15:15). "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt 28:20). "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus gives us peace in the storm of fear. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth [Fear Chair], give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). We should cast our fears upon Him, for He is preparing a place of rest that is free from all fears. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3). With these blessed promises, the sincere believer can identify with David, "I sought the Lord, and heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalms 34:4).

The sincere believer who is a part of Christ's body, the local church, may experience the touch of Jesus through caring brothers and sisters. Singing songs like "Tell It to Jesus Alone" may have a nice soothing ring to them. However, the Scripture says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Sometimes "he careth for you" through other believers. Taking your fears to Jesus may lead to a touch from Jesus through one of His dedicated children.

This is what Paul experienced. "For, whom we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus" (II Cor. 7:5-6).

Fears! I experience them. But I want to commit them to the Lord who "causeth us to triumph in Christ." And be "a sweet savor (aroma) of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish" (see 2 Cor. 2:14-15).

"Fear is a part of life." But thanks be to God who invited His saints to cast them on the risen Lord who is alive forevermore. As I walkout past the Fear Chair after my monthly IV treatment, I can again commit my fear to the Lord with the assurance that He "careth for" me. As song writer Charles Tindley, Jr. aptly wrote: "Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there."

Special Message

Pat and I extend our heart thanks to all of you who have been a vital part of all the Lord has done this past year. We realize we are only vessels, depending on the Lord completely for any victories we hope to witness. YOU are the ones who make this ministry all possible, and we thank the Lord for all of you! We have come through this year, having experienced more exposure around the world than any other time in all the years of this ministry. It is the Lord's workings, and we stand in awe of His faithfulness, and how He honors all of our Without each of you who have efforts. committed yourselves to make all of our efforts succeed, we want you to know we are very grateful. YOU are the confirmation that we are right where we should be, and doing what we should be doing. We refuse to look back or slow down. If EVER this message was needed; it is RIGHT NOW.

Pat and I have told the Lord, we will go through every door He opens before us; to the extent He provides. Whatever HE orders; HE provides. We do not feel we can be good stewards if we overextend financially. Thus; YOU are the ones who indicate what we can accomplish in 2017. Thank you for being such a vital part, and a constant encouragement to us, as we believe greater things for 2017. Jesus told us to "OCCUPY, till He comes." We are responsible to "sow the seed;" while He is responsible for any fruit. Jesus said: "Without me, you can do NOTHING."

Pat and I extend our prayers and hopes, that each of you will experience a joyous holiday season with your loved ones. If the angels "rejoiced" at His coming; shouldn't we?

Your fellow workers and Christ's servants.

Joe & Pat Webb Joshua 1:9

SPECIAL NOTICES

Our new E-mail addresses, are: josephwebb@cpr-ministries.org and josephwebb@cpr.org and josephwebb@cpr-ministries.com.





First Class

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