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A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison

*Fishers of Men Ministries
Jesus Loves You!*

JUST A THOUGHT

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it because the time is near.” Rev. 1:3 NIV

Where were you the day the world stopped turning? Some of you may know that question as a familiar line in the Alan Jackson song written for 9/11.

No storms here in central Illinois interfered with my radio station as I switched the station to country music. Never the less, that song comes on and never fails to send chills through me. I will never forget where I was and what I was doing when the Trade Centers fell to terrorists’ plots and the days following we relived it on news stations.

But as the song took me back to 2001, I also began to think of all the profound tragedies I have witnessed in my time. We all, no matter the generation have witnessed some. Tragedies that we are able to tell you where we were and what we were doing at those moments: Oklahoma City, the Shuttle Challenger explosion, Waco, TX, Desert Storm, Vietnam, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Holocaust, the Cold War, etc. You understand my point. As I thought of all these tragedies my family and I through generations have witnessed, the Spirit spoke to me – what will your children witness?

After these events, we are quick to blame someone or actually say if I would have been there, I could have done this or that. “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.” I Cor. 10:11 NIV

You see, the bottom line is we didn’t and couldn’t stop them. After each event, we questioned who the person next to us was because they don’t think the same, look the same, speak the same; everyone becomes suspicious to us. Jesus, Himself, told us we would be divided. “Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.” Luke 12:51-52 NIV

Jesus warns us that brother will turn against brother. When the enemy is allowed such a hold as division amongst us, we lose sight of things Christ Himself gave us the power to defeat. The Word of God gives us a forewarning of a future tragedy to come, though no one knows the time or the day; we are to be prepared. The forewarning has been written for over two thousand years and it does not have to result in the worst tragedy man will witness since the crucifixion of Christ; however, for many it will be just that. As Christians, believers, and followers of Christ, it is our duty to tell others. Christ Jesus is coming; the good news is we will go with Him. But what about our children, our spouses, our parents, family members, friends and neighbors? Will they go with Christ or will they be left to face the tragedies that are foretold?

In the past tragedies we have witnessed, hundreds of thousands of people were affected. Whether or not we knew anyone, we mourned for them, for the pain their loved ones felt. We wanted to help in some way (donating blood, money, supplies). Yet in the foretold coming wrath of God nothing then will help, only accepting Christ will save anyone and even then suffering will continue. In this we have the chance now to make a difference. To join together as the body, the church, Christ calls us to be and help guide those who are blinded by darkness of the world see the light of Christ. Have you shared Jesus with someone today? Because those who are left when Christ returns will face so much more than those tragedies we remember.



“Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.” I Cor. 10:24 NIV

Your Sister in Christ, Missi

NEW EVERY DAY
Lamentations 3:22-23



Start the New Year out with something good for a change. Start out with GOD in your life and be refreshed with the blessings, the love, the hope, the promise, the faithfulness and compassion. For these, along with tender mercies are new each and every day that we are in Christ.

We no longer have to wander from here to there trying to figure out how to get out of the troubles we may be in. We only have to be refreshed in the love of GOD. He will then show us how to be the best we can be and how to go about the days of our new life in the best way.

He is awesome! He will give, at no cost to you, a newness that can only come from knowing you are going to Heaven, to be heirs in the Great Kingdom of God. Thank GOD for a new day. Praise His Holy Name, which is above all names.

Take the step into a new life on this a day of the New Year. You will then celebrate for the whole year, not just for the day!

Prayer: Glorious Lord, thank you for the New Year. Thank you that we are made new in Christ every day. Today I declare that I will stand in faith to you always. Amen! Amen!

Brother Ronald H.

**MINISTRY PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE BIBLE STUDIES
AND/OR BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.
A Partial List Compiled by Brother Ben**

Program and Address

Type of Study

Open Bible Club
PO Box 100
Roan Mountain, TN 37687

Simple Bible Study. Good for taking new converts through the Bible.

Ark Ministries of America
PO Box 1152
Chandler, AZ 85244

Lengthy Bible Study. Will have to pay postage both ways.

American Bible Academy
PO Box 1627
Joplin, MO 54802-1627

Catholic Home Study Service
Religious Info Bureau
Attn: Fr. Oscar Lukefar, Cm General
PO Box 363
Perryville, MO 63775-0363

You will need to get a Catholic Bible that has the apocrypha for this one.

Catholic Worker
36 East First St.
New York, NY 10003

Free Bi-monthly Newsletter

Christ Truth Ministries
PO Box 610
Upland, CA 90786

Crossroads Bible Institute
PO Box 900
Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900

Mt. Zion Bible Institute
2603 W. Wright St
Pensacola, FL 32505

Great Bible Study - Free tracts and books
"Calvinistic Group"

Emmaus Bible Corr. School
2570 Asbury Road
Douglass, IA 50430

Endless Studies, all pretty simple

THE “U” IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you’ll see it’s true,
You can’t spell out JesUs and not include U.

You’re a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that’s why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell resurrect.

Isn’t it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

”Go into the world and tell them it’s true
That I love them all – Just like I love U.”

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don’t they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He’d like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

***From Encouragement Ministries
Yesterday Is History – Tomorrow is Mystery
Today is a Gift***

A LITTLE LEAVEN

“Evil company corrupts good habits.” I Cor. 15:33 NKJV
Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 15:33; I Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9

When we hang around people their characteristics and mannerisms are transferable to us. Usually at first we may be shocked by someone’s words or actions, but as time moves on their behavior seems normal and we soon adopt some of these traits – making them a part of our own behavior.



That is why Paul told us “not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” (2 Cor. 6:14) You can see it in the Old Testament how Israel allowed other nations to co-exist with them in the Promised Land – and in turn these nations influenced Israel to sin against God.

In our present existence we can’t help but be around unbelievers or lukewarm Christians – but whether we let their ungodly habits influence us or not we can help.

The solution is in how much time we spend with God in relation to how much time we spend with the “leaven.” Also, remember, these same people can be influenced too – for God and Christ Jesus.

Thought for Today: Let us be so filled with God and His light that we are influencing others with godly behavior instead of allowing others to influence us negatively.

*Christ Above All,
Your Brother Chip*

The Foundation – Lesson #5 by Brother Adrian

PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-15 & Philippians 4:6

(S.G.) Prayest – “to pray to God i.e. supplicate, worship:-pray (x earnestly for) make prayer.” To talk to.

Note: What we’ve read (Matthew 6:5-15) is an example of how our prayers should be structured. It’s a mold or template, to help us understand what basics should be covered in our daily prayers.

Matthew 6:5-15

Vs.5 – Prayer is not a show. Don’t be like those whose intent is to be seen

Vs.6 – What does it mean to enter into my closet?

(S.G.) Closet – “A chamber on the ground-floor or interior of an oriental house (Gen. Used for storage or privacy. A spot for retirement.): -Secret chamber, closet, storehouse.”

Now the question is, is this literally “Go into your closet.” No it’s not. We learn it’s not literal because of the example of Jesus Christ. (Luk. 9:29) and from the apostles (Acts 20:36-38). Both examples, they prayed in front of other people. Demonstrating that a secret chamber is not necessarily a literal physical place. It’s about the intent of my heart. The inner sanctuary / closet of the heart. Am I praying in public to be seen? Prayer is about intent of the heart. Vs.7, 8 – more words in prayer don’t equal success in prayer, nor does using the same word over and over again.

(S.G.) Vain – “(through the idea of tentative manipulation, i.e. unsuccessful search, or else of punishment; folly; i.e. (adv.) to no purpose;-in vain.”

(W) Vain – “Not yielding the desired outcome: fruitless, <A vain attempt to escape> 2.) Lacking substance or worth: <vain chit chat>...”

(S.G.) Repetitions – “to stutter i.e. (by impl) to prat tediously:-use vain repetitions.” I should say what I have to say and move on.

Vs.9 – This is how your prayer should go.

(S.G.) – After This Manner – “In this way (referring to what precedes or follows):-after that, after this manner. As even (so), for all that, like (wise) no more, on this fashion (-wise). So (in like manner), thus, what.” This is (Mat. 6:5-15) A mold to which we should form our prayers. So we’ll do a brief word study of the passage (Mat. 6:9-13)

(S.G.) Hallowed – “to make Holy, i.e. (cer.) Purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:- hallow. Be holy, sanctify.

Vs.9 – So praise is a necessary part of prayer.

Vs.10 – May your kingdom rule & your will be done. My submission to God and His will/desire. Declare yourself His servant.

Vs.11 – Daily Bread. This Daily Bread is understood by realizing the image that Bread is a basic fundamental for life.

Vs.12 – Forgiving people is so important because it reflects the condition of my heart. So asking for forgiveness should be done in my daily prayers.

Vs.13 – Keep me free from temptation. Then more praise.

We pray all these things in Jesus name. Why? 1) He is the author and finisher of our faith. (Heb 12:2) It’s only through Jesus that we have access to the Father. (Jn. 14:6)

Note: In Matthew 6:5-15, notice He (Jesus) doesn’t say what position or direction we should be facing or whether we should be kneeling, holding hands, or standing. In fact, we find examples of all types of positions. I Kings 8:22 (Hands Up), Exodus 4:31 (Heads Bowed), II Kings 20:2 (Laying in Bed) Daniel 6:10 (Toward Jerusalem. For Him, this was to the west.) God says, “...that anything I ask according to His will It will be done. John 14:12-14 and I John 5:14, 15. Regardless of position or direction I face.

See how God responds to prayer! We should know that prayer is one of the most effective tools we have. James 5:16-18 and Psalms 66:16-20. This is exactly the reason that prayer should always and continually be in our mouth. I Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 18:1-8 (k.v. 5)

Prayer is one of the 3 Building Blocks to being a good solid Christian. Prayer, Study, Fellowship.

A Message from MOMM

If this newsletter has been given to you by someone else, write to me at Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, c/o Bethany Church, 5403 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111, and your name will be added to the mailing list. Our request is that when you finish reading the newsletter, please pass it on to someone else for their enjoyment and spiritual food. If you enjoy writing and have a desire to share a message with other inmates, we welcome Bible and faith-based articles. No matter where you are and what your situation, God can bless you this month. *A little kid asked Jesus...how much do you love me? Jesus replied, “I love you this much.” And he stretched his arms to the cross and died for us.*