

My Thoughts for Sunday December 29, 2013

Happy New Year Encouragement

I am going to avoid making a New Year's resolution for 2014, as I believe, too often, they are set aside and ignored shortly after they are made; however, I would like to make some observations and propose some alternatives. First, now that the Christmas Holiday is past, I wish to encourage all to ponder the glorious Birth of our Savior throughout the coming New Year, knowing that soon He will be coming again in all His Glory to take His followers to our permanent home in Heaven to be with Him in eternity.

1. Many Christians today are appalled by some of the decisions and rulings made by our leaders in this country; however we must these leaders were placed in their positions by the vote of the people. We must also realize that ultimately God is in control, they are there for his ultimate purpose. I believe we have a couple of methods to realize change in this situation;
 1. We still have the ability to vote for another;
 2. We have the power of prayer and an open channel of communication to God's ear to appeal for change and to ask for God's intervention in the hearts of the lawmakers.
2. We get constant news flashes about people, professed Christians and non-Christians, striking out in anger and defiance at many they feel are living in sin. Do we so soon forget we too are sinners and deserving of the same end result for our sins, death? "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye!" (Matthew 7:3) Were we not at some time directed out of our sins and shown the proper path to repentance? When our Savior died on the cross and was raised to life in heaven was it not for the sins of all people? Who are we to decide some sins are more damning than our own? I feel the time has come when we need to truly live our faith in Jesus and follow His direction;
 1. "Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)
 - 2 "Come, everyone who is thirsty, and drink waters that never run dry."(Isaiah 55)

Sinners everywhere are heavy laden and thirsty although many are not aware of the healing available to them thru the merits of Christ's sacrifice.

3. We all wish our nation would turn around and grow closer to God, but isn't it more important that we, as the Church and professing Christians, grow in our godliness and thus give evidence that we justly deserve the designation as Christians? Let us be the visible evidence that Jesus is truly alive and working in those who love Him. We as Christians need to supply the vehicle to all the lost souls, on the road to hell, and lead them to the wonderful saving grace in our Lord. We have His Word and His Grace and His command to spread the Word in love to those who are hurting.

Join me and let this be our "New Year's Encouragement" for 2014, and may the Peace of God that passes all understanding be with us throughout this New Year.

Your Webmaster