

NEW COVENANT PRESS

NEW COVENANT CHURCH "NEWSLETTER" Georgette Snook Editor Issue # 11 February 2019

A GREAT PRAYER FOR THIS YEAR

Charles Spurgeon once said, "If thou be a child of God, thou wilt seek thy Father's face, and live in thy Father's love. Pray that this year thou mayst be holy, humble, zealous, and patient; have closer communion with Christ, and enter oftener into the banqueting-house of His love. Pray that thou mayst be an example and a blessing unto others, and that thou mayst live more to the glory of thy Master. The motto for this year must be, 'Continue in prayer.'.... He also once said, "Dwell in the light of thy Lord, and let thy soul be always ravished with His love." May that be true of all of us this year.

WHAT'S NEW AT NEW COVENANT?

The first new thing you will see when you arrive at the church is the brand new striping in the parking lot. Then, for those of you who have not gone into the Fellowship room for awhile, you will be surprised to see that the floor is now covered with a nice coat of cement. Sure beats the old floor. But what's the most noticeable of all, is when you go into the auditorium. You'll wonder what happened to the familiar church seating arrangement. (The chairs have been rearranged so that some of them are in a semi-circle along the left and the right side of the room facing each other.' and with some of them connecting the two sides in the back of the room. You may have to crane your neck a little to see either the back or the front screen when singing. (Now's a good time to find a new seat if you were tired of sitting where you were.)

And we really got a surprise when our creative Pastor Randy used an unusual illustration one Sunday for his sermon, which was entitled "Change." He was saying that Mr. Hershey's chocolate bars kept up with the times by making changes over the years, in form and in packaging, but not in the delicious recipe. And the church needs to make changes too, but not in content. So to illustrate his illustration, he nibbled on a chocolate bar from time to time while preaching! Never saw that done before. Then to top it off, when the sermon was over, he had little chocolates passed around to us! Then the next Sunday, he passed out little notebooks to go with that sermon.

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

In the first few chapters of the book of Revelation, we learn what Christ has to say about the seven churches in Asia. Not all of it is good. What He says to the church in Laodicea begins with a rebuke: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15,16. Our modern churches have been compared to this lukewarm church. Can we not be considered to be somewhat complacent as a whole? Do we not figure that we are wealthy, because we have so much worldly wealth and advantages compared to the rest of the world? How do we compare spiritually with the persecuted churches in the East, those who give up everything, even their lives, for the sake of Christ? We must stop being so lukewarm! God is disciplining us through what our country is like today, isn't He? let's respond to His invitation in 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Jesus wasn't lukewarm in His love for us----let's not be lukewarm in our response to that love.

PRAY!

Whatever else the Lord may work in us, prayer is much needed---prayer for those in the grip of satan everywhere, and prayer for our relationship and obedience to Him, that we may have the blessings He has promised to those who are His own. So many people on this earth are without Christ, and He has commanded us to go and tell people about Him. Are we just leaving that task to “somebody else?” We can’t all be missionaries to a foreign country, but how about our own neighbors? (And who are our neighbors, anyway?) We need to pray for ourselves that we will become witnesses right here at home. So many lost people are dependent upon our prayers---even those who do not realize it---people all over the world who are living in terrible conditions---Christians who are suffering for their Faith, ---those who are ill---those who are living in sin. Let us pray that the Lord will give us eyes to see the many desperate needs around us, and give us the desire to pray, to help, or do whatever the Lord tells us to. It all starts with prayer, and will continue and end with prayer, both for ourselves and the rest of the world. So Pray!

PRAYERFUL POSITIONS

Trivial as it may seem, the question of what position to assume when praying can be on our minds at times. The Scriptures address this question by providing us with a number of ways people prayed:

KNEELING---Daniel 6:10, Isaiah 45:23, Romans 14:11, Ephesians 3:14, Philippians 2:10

FALLING ON THEIR FACES---Psalm 72:11, I Corinthians 14:25, Revelation 4:10 and 7:11

STANDING---Mark 11:25

LIFTING THEIR HANDS---Psalms 7:11 and 68:3, I Timothy 2:8

BOWING DOWN---Psalm 95:6

Or we can simply bow our heads, clasp our hands, and close our eyes. But just PRAY!

(No doubt the story of the farmer and the well is familiar---he said that the best prayer he ever prayed was when he fell head-first into that well!) God likes heartfelt prayers!

POLITICAL PRAYERS

(I originally wrote this in 2013, but with several minor changes, it sounds like it is current!)

“All people are born alike—except Republicans and Democrats.” (Groucho Marx). That seems to be all too true of this country today, as we enter into this president’s third year of office. The two opposing political parties are working towards some very opposite results. No matter who had won, one half of the country was destined to be jubilant, while the other half was angry. There has been bitter dissention for the last two years, and it will no doubt be the same for the next two years as well. Think how sad it would be if we were to enter God’s presence divided into two camps each praying and working against the other. We are instead to have one mind in Christ. We’re to pray for and work towards seeing God’s will done right here in earth as it is in heaven. And we are exhorted to pray for our leaders and all who are in authority. That’s no matter what we may think of them or their policies. The wellbeing of our whole nation is in the hands of those we have elected. And they are in God’s hands. It is our job to pray sincerely for them that God will control their hearts and minds and cause them to do what is for the good of all. May the Lord draw us closer to Himself and to each other and help us to work and pray and be an example for what is right in His sight no matter what our political views may be. G.S.

