

NEW COVENANT PRESS

NEW COVENANT PRESS "NEWSLETTER" Georgette Snook, Editor Issue #48 February 2022

BACK IN CIVIL WAR DAYS AGAIN

We're in a civil war; oh let us pray for peace,
And pray with all our hearts that hate will not increase.

Yes, here we are, living in a civil war again; a war between two ideologies. Our country is still as divided as it can be between the Left and the Right in our thinking. How long are we going to be this way? After all this time, one would think that we could come to some kind of agreement over what is good and what is not good for our country. Not so. Seems like some of the problems are over who gets to make the rules, set the financial world in place, and be in power generally. And that leaves us in turmoil and trouble, no matter which side we may be on. What a time to experience!

We all have to live with each other, side by side, and the rules and mandates should be fair and equal no matter who we are---rich or poor, ordinary citizens or powerful rulers. Everyone should obey the same rules, and they should be made with consideration as to how they affect those who must live under them. But when disagreements occur, let us not hate those who are on the other side. Jesus made it plain that He forgave those who so cruelly mistreated and killed Him. Let's follow His example, and pray that He will give us patience with our "enemies". Let's pray that God will have His way and that we will peacefully follow it.

HOMELESS AND HUNGRY

How many times have we seen that sign or something similar in the hands of a downcast man or woman standing at an intersection or in a parking lot? And how many times have we turned a blind eye to them? (too many times indeed.) Are we suspicious or compassionate toward them? What would Jesus do? Maybe we cannot help them as we would like to do, but even if not, we can pray for them. But for the grace of God, it could have been us in that predicament! It used to be that the advice given to us was to give the person food but not money, as it could be spent on drugs or alcohol. Is that still true? Maybe, but in these days of a bad economy, the person may be as desperate as we would be if we were homeless and destitute. For most of us, it is hard to imagine being in that condition, and let's hope and pray that we will never be so. But it does happen to real live people---just like us, or friends or neighbors. And those with the signs are not always to blame. The Bible tells us, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me" (Matthew 25:40) Perhaps the Lord has placed the hapless person in front of us to see if we will act with compassion and wisdom. Let us pray for discernment and obedience to His promptings. We'll be glad we did.

ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE

ATTEMPT SOMETHING THAT IS SO IMPOSSIBLE THAT UNLESS GOD IS IN IT, IT IS DOOMED TO FAILURE. (This is on a picture of a plaque in an email sent to us by missionary friends of ours, Bill and Laurie Keyes.) What interesting advice; it seems like these days so many things we pray about are just impossible. Satan has such power that our prayers just can't be answered the way we hope, or so we think. But we must have faith, for God is the God of the impossible. And He will have His way with the affairs of this world. So PRAY, and ask that His will be done. Nothing is impossible with God, and He won't fail, (sometimes in spite of our best efforts!)

OH, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT!

Did you ever say that? (Or, how many times have you said that?) Probably more times than you can remember. It's not good when our bodies outlive our brains. Or at least it seems like that's what's happening. And it's not just about Alzheimers either. This short term memory loss is unfortunately much more common than that. And there's no use going into denial about it. Everyone else will notice it even if I don't.

And please forgive me if I forget your name or ask you the same question twice, or if I don't remember the answer you gave me the first time. I do forget names, who said what, did I or didn't I? What was it that I was supposed to remember to do this morning? On and on, It's disgusting, embarrassing, humiliating, a real nuisance, and I can't remember what else. Oh, yes, sometimes it makes me sound like a liar, if I say one thing one time and another another time. Yuk! So please don't believe me if I get confused and say something stupid that you know is wrong. I won't mind if you set me straight---I'll soon forget the conversation anyhow.

The good thing about this annoying short term memory loss that plagues so many of us is that---uh---well---I can't remember if there is any good thing! If you think of one, don't forget to let me know. And I'll probably fail to recall what you are talking about. Maybe you can put it in writing and pray that I won't lose the paper.

Years ago, we knew a lady who had made her living driving a school bus. But then in her old age had become so confused that she could not even find her way home when in familiar territory. Some of us are on that forgetful journey right now. I'm not quite that bad yet, but sometimes I think I may be getting there. Of course, it's not just my problem; we are all heading in the same direction as we age. But the Bible says, in Psalm 119:16, "I will not forget Thy Word." Let that be an encouragement to us, Let us just trust the Lord in this, Let us remember that He is there for us always, even in our most awkward moments, for the things of the Lord are the most important things in our lives.

CHRISTIAN CARING

"Make every effort to add to your faith goodness--knowledge'---self-control---perseverance---godliness---brotherly kindness---love.) II Peter 1:5-7

Someone is standing there, on the outside looking in, someone who is lonely, whose heart is full of sin.
Someone comes, seeking love, not knowing where it's found; someone is waiting now, in chains of sadness bound.

Someone is in need of you to lend a helping hand; someone is pleading too, for you to understand.
Someone will turn away without another word if someone who can won't lead him to the Lord.

Do you know anyone like that? Someone who is in need of understanding, love, forgiveness, or acceptance? Someone looking for a safe place? We are all able to possess these godly attributes mentioned by Peter through the power of knowing the God who has saved us. We can escape the corruption of the world and instead become more like Christ. We can put off the critical and unloving attitudes that mark those around us who do not know the Savior. Let us be sure to look to our Lord Jesus to make any needed change and keep us from being selfish, cold-hearted, and uncaring. We can be spiritually strong and fruitful if we open our hearts to those around us and bring them into our fellowship and the fellowship of the church.

