

NEW COVENANT PRESS

NEW COVENANT "NEWSLETTER" Georgette Snook, Editor Issue # 10 January 2019

PRAYER POSSIBILITIES FOR 2019

The old is out and the new is in. We've been praying for a lot of things, some for a long, long time, and now we will have many opportunities to pray for new things as the year progresses. So how about praying for those Christians who have left their first love? The organization *Every Home for Christ* puts out the Daily Prayer Watch, which in the December issue asked for prayer for the United Kingdom. The request: "Pray that those who once walked with God and were part of a church family but are now prodigals will come home to the Father. Also pray for churches that have planned fun days and social events to reach out to family and friends who need to know God's love again." (Sounds like us!) So let's do that---it's relevant to our country as well.

We all, no doubt, have been praying for folks who were caught up in the Camp fire and all the others, but while calling people to come after their photos with Santa, I received a request to pray for the animals as well. It's just heartbreaking to think of them, isn't it? So let's pray for them all when praying for the people. And remember to thank God that we have not suffered like that so far. So far.

And what about the concerns the Lord put on our hearts from day to day? Let's pray that we will be sensitive to His leading and stop and pray for what He directs us to.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

In II Timothy 3:1 – 5, we are told that we live in perilous times in these last days. We surely do. There are so many wicked people among us, including those who are lovers of their own selves, covetous, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, false accusers, despisers of those who are good, traitors, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the powers thereof. Not a complete list---there's more. In Mark 13, Jesus has a discussion with Peter, James, John, and Andrew, regarding the end of the age, which we often call "the last times." They wanted to know when this would be, and what would be the signs it was about to occur. (Read that chapter and note how many of those things are happening right now in various parts of the world.) So we can praise God that we won't have to live here much longer. For in verse 27, we are told that God will send His angels to gather the elect together from everywhere. Verse 32 tells us that no one knows just when that will be. Even Jesus did not even know---only God. So what time is it now? Later than we think.

WHAT A WORLD WE LIVE IN!

Will 2019 be any better, or any worse, than last year was? Who knows; who can say what will come to pass in this new year? Last year, there were many disasters here and around the world. And many blessings as well. We have to take them as they come, the good and the bad. As the saying goes, whatever will be, will be. In many ways we have no say in the matter, no control over what happens. But we do have control over our own actions and reactions. We can determine to give them over to God, to trust His judgment for what we experience. Whether technological threats, wars, disasters, animosity from those around us, illness, poverty, etc, etc, life can be rough. But with God we can live victoriously. And how wonderful to know that we will not be here on earth forever living with pain and troubles all around us and in our own lives. We can rejoice that we won't have to always, but instead can look ahead to the heavenly world. What a world that will be!

OUR TIME IS COMING

In our earlier years, those of us who are Seniors went about our our daily lives blissfully unaware that the world would become what we are now experiencing. We could not have believed all that is going on at this time, though to the young folks among us it is perfectly normal. But isn't it fascinating to observe all the events taking place these days and to realize that they were predicted in the Biblical descriptions of the Last Days! (Of course, there is still controversy between those who do and those who don't believe that we are actually living in those last Days.) But we can't read the Old Testament prophecies or the New Testament warnings about exactly what is happening worldwide at this very moment without recognizing that those prophecies are indeed being fulfilled.

Daniel was an interpreter of dreams and a man who himself had dreams and saw visions given to him by God. He listened to the angel at the bank of the river who described what is happening today. He could not comprehend what he was being told, but the angel said that at the end of days, folks were going to rise up and receive their rewards. ("Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will wake; some to everlasting life, others to shame and contempt." Daniel 12:2 NIV). He would surely rejoice to see our times, for he would at last understand what the angel had been talking about.

Many centuries have passed since Daniel's encounter with the angel, and countless multitudes are "sleeping in the dust." But the time is coming when they will awake! How thankful we are to be among those whose names are found in the Lamb's book of life, for we will rise up with Daniel to receive our rewards, or perhaps we'll just rise up to begin with and not even "sleep" with those multitudes. Let us praise the Lord that we are living in such exciting times! G.S.

OUR IMPORTANT PRAYERS

Do we ever get tired of praying? Does it seem like God is expecting too much of us when He wants us to spend time discussing other people's problems with Him? Or how many times do we not know what to pray for to begin with? Those things happen to all of us, don't they?

So what is the big deal about prayer in these days, anyhow? The needs of the world are too great not to pray for! We cannot go in person to help out with everyone's problems even if we wanted to, and even if we could help them. And besides, God has told us to and even commanded that we pray, and to pray unceasingly. (Luke 18:1---we ought always to pray.) And we know in our hearts that prayer is where the power of God is to be found.

Praise the Lord that what we cannot do, He can. And even though we don't like to think that God will not act unless we pray, He's got His reasons. So the Bible directs us to do so. God listens and answers when we pray for what is His will in various situations. We have our directive; we must make it our business of first importance. We must take time; we must obey when God moves us to pray.

What should we pray for? God's will to be done, and Him to be glorified in all things that happen; people we know---physical and spiritual well being, relationships, problems, their prayer requests; our military and our young people; sinners or all sorts; disasters and those in trouble; revival in this country and everywhere; pastors and other Christian leaders; missionaries; ourselves, and so much more. But who shall we not pray for? Scripture says not to pray for wicked and unrepentant people who refuse to listen to the Lord, (Jeremiah 7:16, 11:4, & 14:11); I John 5:16 tells us that there is a sin unto death that we should not pray for; and Jesus said in John 5:19 that He was not praying for the world (those wicked ones), but for those who belong to Him. But we are not God, and cannot know who will ultimately repent, and who will not. So unless God makes it plain that we should not pray, we can pray for everyone He brings to our attention. We are all in need of all the prayer we can get! Amen.