

Careline newsletter

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SEEING INTO THE FUTURE FROM A KNEELING PERSPECTIVE

Pastor Dennis encourages us to see the new year ahead from a perspective that involves being on our knees, which are bent in prayer and having our noses buried in God's Word.

It's finally over? 2020 is gone and 2021 is upon us! We're in the clear! Right? Not quite. What lies ahead ONLY GOD KNOWS! This is going to be a year of, "Trust the Lord." Our nation is in total shambles due to all that we have encountered over the past year. There are lots of questions. We ALL have questions. No one is exempt to the feeling that we're not exactly sure what comes next. However, where we look for answers is crucially important and many people are looking for answers in all the wrong places. Lots of confusion and misguidance to the answer of all this mess. It 's like having a sharp pain in your side and when you call the doctor over the phone, without blood work, or a physical examination and without medical records, they diagnose you with appendicitis. Really? Would you trust that diagnosis? The only thing a doctor could tell you without the proper information is that you have a problem, but he or she would be hard pressed to say exactly what the problem was or what to do about it.

Similarly, we have misdiagnosed what is ailing our country. We want to blame systemic racism, economic inequality, police corruption, etc. The problem is the same problem mankind has always had and that is the wicked, darkness of our sinful , selfish hearts. Our hearts are wicked, they are cold, they are selfish, they are cruel, they are abusive, they are liars. Without the light of Christ to recharge, reawaken, renew, and rebirth our hearts, this problem will NEVER be resolved. NEVER. No amount of social reform, government money, racial equality, economic reform, none of it will fix that. The ONLY remedy is Christ. WE NEED NEW HEARTS. That is what the Bible has diagnosed, LONG ago. Without this, the prognosis is grim. Our world is terminal, we already know that, but without the life-changing, heart-changing power of Christ, we do not stand a chance as a country. It is up to US. The world does not have, nor can it understand and hope to offer the truth of the gospel. It is up to US. So, the question is, how in the world are we going to make a dent?

REMEMBER THE OLD HYMNS

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise,
Forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take
And shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there

—Joseph Scriven
SEE THE HYMN STORY (p.2)

We just finished celebrating Christmas. We celebrated the coming of the Christ. People missed Christ when He came the first time. Our mission as a church is to give as many people as possible the opportunity to meet Christ and not to leave this life missing Him. I have been talking to several pastors and all of us have come to the same conclusion: we don't know exactly how that is supposed to look in the climate of the world today. There are all kinds of opinions of course. Sermons have to be shorter, (and probably some of you would say AMEN!) online delivery has to be crisper, flashier, more professional., etc. Well, since I'm not the "online" expert, I won't try to pick those things apart except to say that if we are concerned primarily with performance or presentation, we will get similar results. I can agree somewhat with making sure we are presenting our best, especially out of a stewardship mindset. He deserves our best. However, great performances and slick preaching does not lead to worldwide revival. I've not seen evidence of that historically and not today. Great movements of God are just that. It is a work of the Holy Spirit to see people come to salvation one at a time or en masse. Are we allowing ourselves to be empowered and filled with the Spirit to the point where He can use us as a tool, a vessel at any point He desires when He is ready to gather people to Himself? As Paul said in the book of Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." The closer our walk with Him is, the deeper we are in His Word, the more sensitive we are to His leading, the more He can do what He wants to do. Don't hear me wrong. I'm not saying God can't accomplish His work without us. He certainly can. But once we have come into relationship with Him, He wants to use us. He wants to fill us with His power, His mindset, with His Word.

So, that said...what comes next? I believe the Church will need to commit themselves to wearing through the knees of their pants for the foreseeable future. We need to be read up in the Word—every single day. Memorize it. Saturate your person with it. God's Word is powerful. It speaks, through all the ages, in every circumstance and in all languages. Why do we neglect it? If we spoke our own words every minute of everyday to help tell others about Christ, we would still not be as effective as one scripture of God's own Word. Let's become conversant, familiar, experts with His Word. Just read it. Get to know it. You will have the very MIND OF GOD on all matters. That's what I want. Don't you?

Last but not least, let's pray. Let's take God's very Word back to Him. Let's lay it at His feet. Let's allow Him to speak back to us in our hearts, through His Word, and in the circumstances that surround us. We then take what He has said to us and we live obediently. Without walking this closely with Him, I can't see how the Church will influence the world on her own. IT MUST BE A WORK OF GOD, HIS SPIRIT, HIS SON. Are we trusting Him? Are we talking to Him? Are we saturated in His Word? Are we on our knees, humbling ourselves in His presence? That should be the "resolution" for every Christian. The time is now. CBC leadership is committed to this. Join us!

In Christ,
Bro. D

I CHRONICLES 16:11

"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."



WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS: The Hymn Story

One of the most helpful hymns in popular use is Joseph Scriven's hymn on the friendship of Jesus, the comforter and burden-bearer. Scriven (1820-1886) was a native of Dublin, Ireland, born in 1820. He graduated from Trinity College in his native city. At the age of twenty-five he emigrated to Canada, and lived there until his death at Port Hope on Lake Ontario, October 10, 1886.

When a young man, he was engaged to be married to a lady whom he had known and loved for a long time. All preparations had been made for the wedding ceremony and the date had been fixed. But shortly before the wedding day arrived his promised bride was accidentally drowned, and he was plunged into the deepest sorrow. From this sad experience came a deep sense of his dependence upon Christ and of the great truth so helpfully expressed in his lines:

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!*

Out of the intense sympathy wrought in his heart by this experience, he wrote the hymn to comfort his mother in her own sorrow and sent it to her in Ireland. How it came to be first published is not known, as he had not intended it for general use. Indeed, for some time after it was printed its authorship was unknown, being sometimes incorrectly attributed to Dr. Horatius Bonar. After Scriven's death, however, he became recognized as the author of the hymn that has blessed so many thousands of believers.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 CarolAnne Larson
3 Virginia Nichols Regular AM Schedule	4 Bill Russell CBC Building Closed Thru 1/15 for cleaning	5 NO IN -PERSON Celebrate Recovery Meeting — VIRTUAL	6 NO IN-PERSON GATHERING ZOOM ONLY	7	8 Elisandro Leos	9
10 Donna Aaron Carlos Rodriguez NO IN PERSON AM GATHERING — Facebook LIVE ONLY	11	12 Becky Jaimes NO IN -PERSON Celebrate Recovery Meeting — VIRTUAL	13 Cheryl Halla Cheri Martin NO IN-PERSON GATHERING ZOOM ONLY	14	15 Brittan Castle Lari Locke	16
17 Jim Owen NO IN PERSON AM GATHERING — Facebook LIVE ONLY	18 Mattie Martin	19 NO IN -PERSON Celebrate Recovery Meeting — VIRTUAL	20 NO IN-PERSON GATHERING ZOOM ONLY	21	22	23
24 SS Classes ZOOM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM IN-PERSON GATHERING RESUMES — Also via Facebook LIVE	25	26 NO IN -PERSON Celebrate Recovery Meeting — VIRTUAL	27 NO IN-PERSON GATHERING ZOOM ONLY	28 Judy Glover	29 Rowan Castle Alyssa Reyes	30 Jennifer Candelaria
31 John Clarke SS Classes ZOOM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM IN-PERSON GATHERING RESUMES — Also via Facebook LIVE						

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

This Is The Way...

I hope everyone is doing great as we look to a new year. 2020 has been tough and no one is sure of the future. We do not know what 2021 has in store for any of us. We do know that God remains in control. He is not caught off guard like we are. He is not frustrated. He knows what He is doing! This is so comforting to me. God still loves us and is still on the move. I have been saying during this period of time that you cannot quarantine the gospel. It is the good news that Jesus came to save us. It has not changed and it continues to move forward. We too will continue to move forward.

One thing that is planned for 2021 is our Impact Weekend April 9-11. We have decided to move the date forward to get us all past the cold, flu, and COVID season. We will continue to offer this weekend because we believe it brings value to the lives of students and families. I'm excited to announce that our Impact Weekend theme is "This is the Way." If you don't know what The Mandalorian is, Google it. It is a Star Wars spinoff and has been the hit series of 2020 and is still going strong in ratings. Most of our young people know this series and understand what "This is the way" means. The lead character says this throughout the show. It refers to a way of life. It reminded me of words found in Isaiah 30:21, "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it', when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left." This was God's instruction to His people and was given to the prophet Isaiah looking forward to the new covenant that comes through the gospel of Jesus. The new covenant restores a right relationship with God. This right relationship happens when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and make him the Lord of our lives. When Jesus becomes Lord our life we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then leads us in the way we should walk. The Bible says that the sheep hear the voice of the shepherd. Jesus, the Great Shepherd, is the one leading us in the way. We are called to walk in it.

Even in 2020, followers of Christ are still called to be disciples who make disciples. We have been called to do this since Jesus was here. One thing that I have realized though is that this is not something that comes from great church programs, but it comes from meeting together with other believers. It comes from meeting in church and individually with each other and challenging each other to walk "in the way." This has been done in various ways this year, even through using online options like Zoom. It does require that we engage with others and challenge them to follow Jesus. It is living a life of obedience. It also means that we share our testimony and share the gospel with others. It requires that we get with new believers and teach them how to follow. It is a lifestyle of following Jesus. It is not a study or a program. It is a way of life. "This is the way!"

It is my plan to continue in following Jesus with the goal of making disciples. Our college students and youth are dedicated to continue forward in being followers of Jesus who will advance the gospel and see the world changed. My hope and prayer is that all of our students will participate in our Impact Weekend, but more importantly, that they will choose to follow Jesus daily. It is my prayer that Calvary Baptist Church will continue to be a church of Jesus followers no matter what the future holds. Let's move forward trusting our God and sharing the good news of Jesus.

In Christ,
Randy McDaris

