

GOODNEWS LETTER

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LOOKING BACK

Looking back on these *GoodNews Letters* certainly shows a lack of compositional skills. I've improved; which one would expect, but there is still much more to learn and put to practice when it comes to writing. I'll try hard.

In the beginning, I see that too many thoughts were presented with only 'one-liners.' Thus, some earlier issues are a rough read.

I am now aware that I need to use connector words and phrases in order to give a better 'flow' of thought content. While, I'm sure there are many more inadequacies, at least I know that abruptness needs to be eliminated when going from one point to another.

But, when I look back, I have to think as a Christian should. We cannot be discouraged of our failings or we might forget the reason we are looking, in the first place. Sure, we'll lose many battles for the Lord; yet, we know that the war - as a whole, will be and **has** already been won by Jesus.

So, we look back only to strengthen our forward look; something that is repeatedly done in the Bible. Its historical lessons serve as reminders that God is good, all the time. His powerful blessings of the past transfer to the present and provides strength for what lies ahead.

Many, many glorious events of God intervening in Israel's history are recited throughout Scripture. "I will sing unto the LORD, for He hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea," Moses wrote (Ex 15:1).

Clearly, the future hope of the nation of Israel was built strongly upon what took place in their past. David said, "He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel," Ps 104:7.

Scripture after Scripture show that God's people always had hope - for this life and, beyond this life, as Job so wonderfully expressed (19:25, 26). "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God."

Such a glorious hope of the future is only possible if it is built upon a foundation of past experiences of trust and reliance; something Job knew a lot about. His testimony warms our hearts; especially, when God gives His assessment of His servant, Job. "For there is no one like him on earth, "a blameless and upright man, fearing God, and turning away from evil," Job 1:1 & verse 8.

And, looking back is something that New Covenant believers need to do, as well. We must remember that our hope has even been put to music in the song, '**On the Solid Rock.**' *"Our hope is built upon nothing less than Jesus Christ and righteousness."*

Although, our experience of salvation may be only a few years old, it is settled in antiquity; being based on the solid **Rock** that lived over two thousand years ago. Because He lives, our future hope is firmly set in the Gospel message that defines the past work of Jesus Christ: **His death, burial and resurrection.** Praise the LORD!

And so, as Israel looked forward, they did not always know what was ahead. At times, they feared, greatly. But, when Israel sang a song of what God did in the past, they remembered their glorious past and received a present strength that caused every Israelite to rise up to meet challenge ahead.

Isn't this exactly what we must do today? Singing of past Spiritual lessons, learned by experience, fills the heart with powerful joy. But, it comes not of this world. Joy of the Holy Spirit emanates only from the Person who created this world, Jesus Christ. *"What can wash away my sin (past and present)? Nothing but the blood of Jesus"* (that was shed long ago).

So, when "looking back" over past issues of the *GoodNews Letter*, I am encouraged to continue on exploring God's word and writing about it, enthusiastically. I realize that some thoughts are not too profound. Amusing, perhaps; but, what does that do for anyone's eternity? Sorry. I'll try to improve.

Nevertheless, writing on the LORD and His word has brought Him closer to me (or, the other way around). By explaining His way, His work and goodness that He accomplished in His Son, Jesus, is thrilling to me.

Yes, I'll continue. But, I will remind myself to: *"Study to shew yourself approved; and, "that all Scripture is given by inspiration"* (2Tim 2:15; 3:16).

In the final analysis, doctrine, doctrine, doctrine is the only thing that matters, really. And, this means that the Christian diet has to consist of eating and drinking of the Lord, Jesus Christ, only (John 6:56).

This is especially true for the pastor, preacher, teacher and certainly, for all try to express God's love in written word. God's Word has to be based fully on the words of Jesus recorded in John 6:63. *"It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the WORD THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE"* (Jn 6:63).