

GoodNews Letter

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HAVING THE NEW AND WALKING IN IT

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come to meet him, and I will sup with him, and he with Me," Rev 3:20.

Celebrate with Jesus this New Year by reading God's word. He will be right by your side. That's my prayer for 2010.

Through God's word, I pray that all the saved will study the meaning of the Lord's church; that they will learn that it is His Spiritual institution left on earth to represent Him until He returns.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

My prayer is also for the members of the churches. Without question, they must study what it means to walk in the light of the of New Covenant Church. Yes! The days are evil, I agree. But, it's also true that we have only a short time left before the life ends and the New begins.

So, - as they say - "**Let's Step up to the plate**" and be counted faithful in this last days. Let's start on January 1, 2010. **That's why the Bible was written.**

Notice how highly Jesus speaks of those who appreciate their NEW position. "**Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear,**" Matthew 13:16. And, while the Bible was partially written in order that the lost ones would come to Jesus, personally, notice to whom it was written!

In the heading of the Epistles of Paul, you'll see that he wrote to assemblies of saints (see Ephesians 1:1). The Bible was written to churches or members of churches. So, we see immediately that there's a purpose for uniting with a New Testament Church.

The church body is where fellowship occurs. The church is a place for every person to learn about his New Position; its blessings and commitments.

When Jesus commissioned the Church to "**Go**" and "**preach**" and "**baptize**" and "**teach**," He intended that all its members observe His words.

Therefore, we have to know the Bible's contents. And, if you think about the body of Christ as an institution, you can't help see that it's a place where the Holy Spirit dwells. Acts 2 speaks of His filling the room where the church gathered.

Thus, when Jesus said, "**Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (age)**" (Mt. 28:20b), He meant that the church will never go out of existence. God is habitating His people in the church as He did in the Tabernacle of the Old.

Notice Paul's writing "To all be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:" (Rom. 1:7) on the subject of baptism: "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection," (6:5).

The above words are what Missionary Baptist have always taught. And, if we listen to the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, we hear him explain man's spiritual condition, before and after knowing Christ.

In chapter four, Paul lays out **our position before the New Testament was established**. He begins from a Old Testament position.

Then, Paul explains that Jesus fulfilled the Old, writing about our NEW position of the New Life that we have in our Lord.

Noting that Jesus was the fulfillment of the position of the Jewish promise, Paul tells us that gentiles also may enjoy the blessing of the promise by being grafted into it.

However, Paul isn't concerned here with lost and saved or, the faithful and the unfaithful. Paul's letter covers man's past, as well as, the present and future blessings of man. The change comes when man meets the Savior.

Paul is explaining what it means to trust Jesus in the free pardon of sins and to have the blessings of knowing Him, personally and on a daily basis.

While, he includes the death of Jesus, Paul boldly states that Jesus rose from the dead. Paul want us to see the physical body of Christ - His work and glory and, Paul wants us to realize our position of testifying of Him, as well.

Thus, he describes the New Position, stating that Christ is risen and has a glorified body; a position that the church now enjoys. She is also risen with Him. Her light continues as She stands solely within and upon the work of Her Head, Jesus Christ.

Then, Paul proclaims His glory and the responsibility of the church in his next letter to the Ephesians. "Unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus throughout all ages" (3:21).

I. A LOOK AT THE CHANGE: HEIRS (Ch.4, v 1)

a. "Heirs" are members in the position of inheriting with Christ at His Second Coming. In this case, its the Galatian Church. But, the position also applies to all members of the body; those, who are faithful to its teachings.

In other words, the change comes when we trust Jesus. Yet, once we are born to the promises, we are taught to be immersed into the body and live out what Christ accomplished. He died, we died. He rose, we raise. He lives and, we live. This church is living testimony of His work.

The church is to obey the tenets that Jesus taught Her. But, we are not alone, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, who testifies to us that, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments," (Jn. 14:15).

Do we love Jesus? Well, Paul avows that, "The love of Christ constrains us" (2Cor 5:14) to work out our salvation. Those who love Christ always attend faithfully, love one another, preach the gospel and support missions, that's church work.

II. LOOK AT WHERE WE WERE BEFORE CHRIST (Ch. 4, vs. 2-7).

As Paul looks backward, he compares positions of the Old and of the New Covenants. If we know where we were before we knew Jesus, we might appreciate our New Position better. We will even walk in it; by His grace, of course.

- a. We were under tutors & governors (V2).
- b. We were "children." Not full grown sons (V3).
- c. We were under the Law (V5).
- c. But, in the fullness of time, "God sent forth His Son...to redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons," 4:4,5.

The old is gone, the new is here. Let us all read, pray and fellowship within the New in the coming year of 2010.