

NEWSLETTER 2020-2

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: December 18, 2020

Re: **Christ in in You the Hope of Glory!**

Greetings, beloved Brothers and sisters, it's such an awesome blessing and opportunity to have this privilege in Jesus Christ, to whom be praise glory and honor!!

The season in overshadowed by various challenging situations: COVID19 Pandemic, unemployment, racial conflicts, political upheavals, moral decline, etc. We could get into more specifics such as the effects of losing loved ones, the overburdened medical and other workers, those facing potential evictions or foreclosures, etc. but we know what is happening and must continue praying and doing what we can to help.

The incarnation of Jesus Christ (example see John 1, NB v. 14) was something long anticipated, in fact, a promise was made when Adam and Eve transgressed (Gen. 3:15); it was anticipated for centuries and noted by Paul as a "*mystery*" (Col. 1:26). This mystery, beloved, is "**Christ in you**"; Christ is "**the hope of glory**" (Col. 1:27). Despite the odd circumstances being experienced there is hope in Jesus Christ!! He is not a baby in a manger but the "risen Savior!" Him who was victorious over death and hell and is alive forever (Rev. 1:18). He was the answer when He came to earth and He remains the answer today!!

The Christmas story is in essence one of "**hope and glory**" wrapped in the amazing and boundless love of God. Sin is the "foulest monster" that entered the earth but God has provided a way out of this dilemma through Jesus Christ. Time is available only for a brief reference, note a few pointers:

The experience of Christmas can be realized every day because it's about **God's love for us** demonstrated by giving His Only Son (**Rom. 5, NB Vv. 6-10**).

God's Love Liberates Luke 4:18-19

"Acceptable year" goes back to the Old Testament "Jubilee Year" which proclaimed liberation for indentured servants and for the land (Lev. 25:8-55).

Jesus Christ proclaimed a greater liberation, a time of reconciliation with God (Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18; etc.) and freedom from the tyranny of sin (John 8:36; etc.).

God's Love Lifts Up! Psa. 40:1-6, NB Vv. 1-3

Verses 1-3 presents a celebration of the gracious help of God. We are in a time when so much adverse things are happening but our anchors hold in Christ the Solid Rock!!

Note in verse 1: "**I waited . . . He inclined**"! This is assurance that God will also come to us in our waiting upon Him.

In verse 2, we see the vivid imagery of the “**horrible pit**” and “**miry clay**” but it’s evidently clear, it is definite, nothing can remove the reality of divine help!

The Refrain of “He Lifted Me”

From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me,
from shades of night to plains of light,
O praise His name He lifted me!

God’s Love Lightens Isa. 9:1-7, NB v. 2

Darkness overshadows this world in so many ways and unfortunately even among many who profess to know Jesus Christ. Despite the darkness there is Light!!! The Light of hope! The Light of deliverance! The Light that outshines all despair and doom! Etc. (Matt. 4:15-16; etc.)

The Apostle John also referred to Jesus as “the light” (John 1:9). Jesus referred to Himself as “the light of the world” (John 8:12). Light is used extensively during this season and it is our prayers that these “lights of Christmas” will remind everyone of Jesus Christ, the true “Light of the world”! See also John 1:4-9; Eph. 5:8; etc.

This subject regarding “God’s Love” is far reaching and much more could be noted, for example “God’s Love Leads” (Isa. 48:17; etc.). The hymn reminds us that there is indeed wise and wholesome leadership in God: “He leadeth me, O blessed thought”. I do have to close but my primary concern is reaching out to everyone at this special time of the year and that we focus on **Jesus Christ the hope of glory!** (Col. 1:21-29, NB v. 27). Jesus Christ living in us is our assurance of future glory and eternal life. Only His dwelling and our continual intimate communion with Him can dispel any doubt about obtaining heaven. To have Jesus Christ is to have life (Rom. 8:11; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 John 5:11-12). Beloved, in closing, I dedicate the hymn “The Love of God” to you and family!!

Corrie Ten Boom, noted:

“Who can add to Christmas? **The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.** The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.”

Website Update

To date we have published ten lessons in the new series “Accept the Challenge and Move On”. We are currently in process of adding to this series Lessons 11 and 12, which should be done by this weekend if not within another few weeks. Another two lessons are in process and should be entered by mid to late January. As a reminder, after the lessons are completed I submit them to my son who adds them to the website; his continued support is highly appreciated especially with the schedule that he now has. Overall, beloved, your continued prayers are highly appreciated. May God be glorified in all that we do!!

Col. 1:26-27 Amplified Bible

The mystery of which was hidden for ages and generations [from angels and men], but is now revealed to His people (the saints). To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within and among you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory.”

It’s my prayer that you and family will have a blessed and wonderful Christmas and a continuation through 2021. I also continue to urge you to be careful and abide by wise counsel as we work through these days. We have a vaccine but we are not out of the tunnel. Beloved, you are loved and appreciated. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!! GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU!!**

“May the God of hope fill you with all peace as you trust in Him, that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:13).

Yours-in-Christ

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