

Meeker Christian Church
12-29-24
New Year

The birthday celebration for Jesus is over for another year - or is it actually just a kick off for the new year of celebrating Jesus in our lives?? Everyone I know has become a year older, some wiser, some every more knowledgable, some more beautiful or handsome, and still others have – well...We have just become a year older! --- But there is a salvo of hope and accountability for everyone from God's word: We have seen in the Christmas story that GOD took care of Joseph and Mary to the smallest detail. And for the Christian HE is taking care of us to the smallest detail. I closed last Sunday by repeating this prayer for you which was given by inspiration to Paul, by the same caring GOD who cared for Joseph and Mary: You are to take this prayer very personal: Ephesians 1:18-22 15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

The babe of Christmas is today the head of our Church. In that,- I believe that this Christmas celebration is just the beginning for a new year to look forward to and participate in as a church body. And in that conviction and confidence I declare - 2025- here comes Meeker Christian Church!

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new ... There you are -- the fact you are a Christian, having pledged your being to His righteousness and endorsed it with your baptism makes is spiritually legitimate that we consider this new year incorporated in that scripture "ALL THINGS have becoming new". They have become new because of our new attitude, new circumstances and involvement in Kingdom service as explained, in the scripture reference:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now “all things” are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

God and Christ are two thirds of the triune Godhead. You know that and accept that because God’s divine word, the Bible says that, and therein we find our faith growing and conviction for steadfast obedience characterized because we are spiritually growing up with the right attitude that all Christians are ambassadors are about doing God business. We are the tools of God’s righteousness being demonstrated on earth while the rest of the world have become tools of the prince of the earth who is satan.

cont. verse 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Our Christian experience in 2025 and the rest of our earthly lives are to be messengers by our testimony of God’s desire for all to be saved and rescued from the clutch of sin that is destroying lives on earth into all eternity. -- That attitude and activity is to be analogous with the term and description of being “Christian.”. Just like water may be steam, liquid or ice it is still water in different forms with different functions. SO are all Christians according to our spiritual gifts and personal commitment.

This teaching is all reinforced by the Apostle John by quoting Jesus while on earth in John 12:23-36 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Jesus was prophesying what was about to happen in His personal earthly life by using an illustration to show that those forever, who chose Him as the path, directive, and authority, for righteousness --by choosing HIM learning and growing in service with the Holy Spirit.

In Colossians:2-4 it says: 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. When you accept Jesus as Lord and Savior you die to the unmitigated power and authority of sin and Christ who is our life appears, becoming a follower of Jesus is not only awesome in this life but has a position being readied to fulfill with Jesus upon His return to earth - a return categorically opposite to the helpless baby of Christmas.. He comes in all the power and authority of Heaven and the angel armies...

Let me share 84 years of experience and I believe that your presence here this morning means you are adding your own earth Christian age experience to validate every word of scripture. We are given life to learn as we go along. We are given experiences that will make us more effective for the year at hand.

Romans 8:31 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Application: Two commitments for you to carry into 2025:
Priority #1 For the LORD.

Priority #2 For your family

Romans 8:31 - 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

If we are cooperating with GOD He is guiding us. If we are not cooperating with God - then He will not be cooperating with us.

A practical and Meeker Christian Church application of this sermon then is with the presumption we have chosen Romans 8:31 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Keep that verse in mind as we go along, perhaps even as a theme verse for 2005...???

I have been doing what I call brainstorming with the elders these past 3 years. That means they have been asked to read and pray about the thoughts shared. So what you are about to hear, they have already heard. And frankly some of you have initiated some of these thoughts for our discussions.

First let me explain something: My theology has not changed, I still think the rapture could occur at any time. But in my mind - that only adds urgency for us to utilize every possible tool and resource we are given and inspired by our Heavenly Father to use - to reach others with the saving message of salvation

and promise of a heavenly inheritance.. We are to be as efficient as possible, to use our gifts, talents, resources, creativeness, inspiration to build the church body. Here is just one scriptural example of my passion: Luke 14:15-23

15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" 16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' 22 And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

God is giving us reason to believe He has planned and is prepared to do some ministry blessing through this fellowship of believers. For example - what the elders have heard, The city building code requires that we have space for parking before we can expand by building. We need education space for faith formation classes right now, along with leadership for that area. And I pray nursery space and worship seating following up. We need to understand and ask for Heavenly instruction for what it takes to cause folks to sincerely and with anxious accord establish fresh habits for learning, and doing.

And hear me carefully -That is what the parable application may well be for us if we hitch the Meeker Christian Church team to a wagon of faith - filled with people ready, willing and able to make and share in earthly preparation for a great heavenly banquet...

All this is why I say this Christmas Celebration is the initiative and inspiration for thinking beyond the dim zone of comfort into the luminescent heavenly light of kingdom service. Let's purposefully look for what God has in mind and is busy even now with the Holy Spirit inspiring Your thoughts and visions.

I am very boldly prompted in my spirit by the Holy Spirit to ASK YOU to prayerfully consider what you have heard, what the Holy Spirit is saying in your own thoughts and goals.

There is an urgency with prophetic fulfillment all around us. There is an urgency because just about every week someone we know and love is passing away. I personally expect the call anytime! But until then, my goal for all of us is to take as many as possible away from the abyss of eternal punishment to heavenly perfection.

Christians, put this verse on the mantel of your heart: Romans 15:13
13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you are a Christian be great encouraged with this verse, but if you are not a Christian listen to the invitation:

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jesus came for you, this invitation time is for you .. if you are ready to accept Jesus and become a Christian come forward and speak to me as we sing --- or if you have thought about transferring membership to this fellowship of believers, then is also a very heartfelt invitation to you to join us.