

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great humility and a prayerful heart that I present this year's Circular Letter. My hope is that these words will contribute positively to building God's Kingdom and will not be a stumbling block to anyone seeking salvation.

What is a Circular Letter?

A Circular Letter is intended to be distributed widely to share information, provide guidance, or offer encouragement. Biblically speaking, it can also help clarify the interpretation of scripture or doctrine. Its purpose is to edify and uplift the body of believers, strengthening both soul and spirit.

As I contemplated the topic for this letter, my prayer was for simplicity and directness. I wanted to convey a message that resonates with the core truth of our faith:

To start let me quote this "There is a prize at the End of the Race; This prize is worth your Consideration."

The first part of this quote is from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians, while the second part reflects sentiments shared by Sabert Nichols and others.

One of Apostle Paul's notable Circular Letters is the book of Ephesians. Originally written to the Church of Ephesus and other early churches in Asia, it has transcended time to reach us today. Paul's letter declared the Gospel of Salvation revealed to the Apostles as a true source of wisdom, available to both Jew and Gentile.

Though I do not claim to possess the knowledge or spiritual depth of Paul, my intention is to write with the same boldness he displayed, proclaiming Jesus Christ as the only way. Paul completed his race with faithfulness, and he confidently anticipated the crown of righteousness reserved for all who love His appearing.

In this broken world, we would do well to emulate Paul's boldness in sharing the Gospel. Scripture provides us with many examples of exemplary faith and courage:

- Like Abraham: who embarked on a path of uncertainty because it was God's will. By faith, he obeyed and journeyed to an unknown land, trusting in God's promise.
- Like Moses: who chose a difficult path, forsaking the comforts of Pharaoh's house to suffer with God's people. His faithfulness came with great sacrifice but also with eternal reward.
- Like David: who recognized and believed in a cause greater than himself, standing up against Goliath with unwavering faith that inspired others.
- Like Jonathan: whose infectious faith encouraged the King's army to act decisively, demonstrating that a strong and passionate faith can inspire others to rise to their calling.

As we walk or run this path of salvation, let us lean on God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit for guidance through His Word. Let us embody meekness and humility, drawing inspiration from those who have gone before us. Personally, I am reminded of the love exemplified by my father, Elder Sabert Nichols, who preached of “Great Love in the Heart of God’s People.” I also remember the wisdom of my former moderator Danny Dixon, who encouraged leading with grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness, as Christ has shown us.

Let us also be more like Paul, who was not afraid to step outside the confines of tradition and church policy to reach more souls for the Kingdom. We must remember that “traditions of men make the word of God of none effect” and can be a stumbling block to those outside the faith. At the same time, we must be cautious not to let our churches and associations be unduly influenced by the world and its distractions.

So, dear Brothers and Sisters, let us:

- Be as bold with the Gospel as Paul was.
- Choose a Godly path like Abraham, even without knowing the destination.
- Opt for a righteous path like Moses, even when it is difficult.
- Stand firm for a cause greater than ourselves like David.
- Exhibit faith as infectious as Jonathan’s.
- Cultivate love in our hearts as Sabert Nichols did.
- Show grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness to others, mirroring the example of Christ.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:19-24

"I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be a partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."

Let us press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Lastly, as we run this race, let us not be afraid to step out of our comfort zones to approach sinners boldly yet with meekness and humility that only the Spirit of God can provide. Yet at the same time, hold fast to the Gospel, our Faith, and the good parts handed down to us by the patriarchs that have gone before us. Safeguarding God’s word and the old path and stand there within that path.

If there has ever been a time for organizations, associations, and true scripture-based churches to unite and overlook each other's faults, it is now. Recognize that no church, association, or organization is perfect. We all fall short, and for our shortcomings, may God have mercy on us all.

Yours in Christ,  
Elder David Nichols