

January 5, 2022

Bible Study

We welcome our sisters in Christ: Jackie, Sheri, Shelbia, Magge, Carolyn, Carol, Barb, and Retha.

Our DVD for today is good news. Its our hope and promise for the future. Today, Dr. Jeffress talks about the new heaven and new earth. Its reality...and is going to happen quickly. We are down to the renewing of the earth and heavens. This is not something we need to be curious about because the word of God is very, very good!

We have family and friends who are not saved that we are praying for at 8 am in the morning, every morning. Please join us at that time to pray for the unsaved.

2 Corinthians 11:23

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

This is the beginning of where Paul talked about all the things that had happened to him. All his trials and tribulations. This chapter brings us hope; and helps us learn from the sufferings of others. We can all learn from this; how God used the sufferings and trials of others to bring victory to believers.

Sister Shelbia opened our meeting with prayer:

O Father God,

Forgive my sin and keep me pure for I am poor and needy. We are very very thankful to you. Its all your wonderful mercy and love. We praise and thank you. YOu have us functioning and are providing for our needs and this wonderful lesson waiting for us here. I know you have who you want here. Help us listen and get this into our very beings and what Dr. Jeffress is teaching and help us get ready for the rapture. Its going to come. I praise you for each lady and their families. We praise you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE LIKE - PASTOR JEFFRESS

What is heaven going to be like?

What is it that really awaits us on the other side of the grave?

One writer has said, "every joy we experience here on earth including the joy of reunion with family or friends, is only an inkling...only a whisper of what awaits us". Every spectacular sight we view in this world, whether it be the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, or Lake Victoria, those sights are only pencil sketches of the full, full color retention that will be a part of the new heaven and the new earth. And yet as spectacular as heaven is going to be, its amazing how little information is in the Bible about what heaven is going to be like.

I sometimes wonder why is that?

Why doesn't God tell us more about our eternal future?

Perhaps one reason is God knows we can't comprehend what heaven is going to be like?

Remember when Paul was caught up into the third heaven?

He saw sights so spectacular he didn't write them down. He couldn't speak about them. Maybe that is the reason we don't know more. We just couldn't understand it.

Or perhaps its because God knows if we knew what really awaited us, we wouldn't be able to concentrate on our responsibilities in this life. We'd be thinking about the next life. We'd be kinda like parents who put in front of their children a meal of potatoes, meat and broccoli; and over on the side they put desert. A big ice cream Sunday.

Most kids, most adults would have trouble focusing on the meat, the potatoes and broccoli. They'd want to go straight for desert.

Perhaps God knows that would be our tendency. We'd want to get out of this world as quickly as we could if we knew the future God has planned for us.

Now the Bible doesn't tell us everything about heaven, but it tells us just enough to whet our appetites and to motivate us to live obediently for Jesus Christ the short time we are here.

And today, we are going to look at some of the revelation about the new heaven and new earth that God has prepared for us.

If you have your Bible's turn to **Revelation Chapter 21**.

We are now in the next to the last message in this year long series of the book of Revelation.

I want you to notice that John talks about the new heaven and new earth in **Revelation 21** by giving us 3 revelations about the new heaven and new earth.

Each one begins with the phrase 'and I saw'. The first revelation is about the new heaven and new earth. Let's look at **Revelation 21:1**.

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Remember where we are in the book of Revelation. Christ has returned to earth for everyone to see at his second coming. He has begun his millennial rule - the 1000 year reign when Jesus rules the earth and satan is locked up.

And then at the end satan is loosed to lead one final rebellion against God. At the end of the rebellion, God deposits satan into the lake of fire; and not only that, the present heaven and earth are going to be destroyed by fire. John says he saw suspended in place a single solitary throne - the Great White Throne; and Jesus was seated on that throne and all the unsaved dead since the beginning of time were raised for everlasting judgment and the Bible says if any mans name was not written in the book of Life, he was cast into the lake of fire and tormented there day and night forever and ever.

When we come to chapter 21 the present heaven and present earth have been destroyed completely. I heard one pastor say recently, if you don't like what man has done to the environment, just wait until you see what God does to it. He's going to destroy everything. Its going to be completely done away with.

Now don't send me any letters. I'm not saying we are not suppose to be good stewards of the environment, but don't get in love with this world because it is going to be completely destroyed to make way for the new heaven and new earth.

So that is what John says - I saw the new heaven and the new earth and he adds the phrase there was no longer any sea. That's fascinating because today 3/4 of the world is water.

60% of your body is water. And yet in the the new heaven and new earth the only water that will be there is the River of Life that we will look at next time.

The first thing John saw was the new heaven and new earth.

The second feature of John's revelation was the center of that new heaven and earth, which was the new city, Jerusalem.

Look at verses 2-4 at the characteristics of this new city. John says:

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Its important to note that whenever we talk about heaven in the Bible, we have to determine which heaven God is talking about.

The word heaven is used 4 Specific ways in the Bible. 1-4 describe the things of heaven.

1. Atmosphere, the air we breath, where the planes and birds fly.
2. Outer space, sun, moon, planets and galaxy's are.
3. Where God is right now. The residing place of God. Where you and I and our loved ones go when we die. To be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.** It was the 3rd heaven that apostle Paul was caught up for a momentary visit to heaven. Where is that 3rd heaven? I have no idea. Nor does anyone else. But here's the mistake many Christian's make. They think the 3rd heaven where God is,

is going to be our eternal dwelling place, but the Bible says this is only a temporary place for us. When we die we go up wherever God is to be with him. We are aware, awake and conscious, but this is a temporary place.

4. The final heaven is the new heaven that is yet to be created. Its going to be mainly centered right here on earth. This earth will be our final dwelling place. That blows most peoples minds, but listen carefully to the final promises of scripture: The Bible is very clear about what our ultimate destination is.

Psalm 37:9-11 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Matthew 5:5 says 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

We sing that old gospel song, this world is not my home, I'm just a passing through. That's only half true - it is true this present world is not my home, but there is a future world that will be my home. We were made for this world. One writer says it very well, 'Paul Marshall says this world is our home, we are made to live here. Yes, its been devastated by sin but God plans to put it right. Hence we look forward to joy, to newly restored bodies and to living in a newly restored heaven and earth. We can love this world because it is Gods. It will be fully healed, becoming what God intended from the very beginning.

You know John said, do not love the world or the things of the world. He was talking about the ground, planet earth, he was talking about the world system that is opposed to God. But we can love this world because one day God is going to restore this world to its ideal state like it was in the garden of Eden. We are made to dwell here forever and ever.

Notice in verse 3,

3 And I heard a great (loud) voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he (God) will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

John said I saw this new heaven and earth coming; and saw the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven to earth.

John says he saw the tabernacle coming down so God could dwell with men. We are not created for up there. We were created for down here.

I think of Dr. Chriswell about that. He said, If I thought I was going to be sentenced to some planet 100 million miles away, that I know nothing about, I couldn't get excited about that. I'm from this world - I'm created for this world and I love everything about this world except the sin, the tears and the death; and that will be gone forever!

That's exactly what John says in verse 4:

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

That's what John saw. He saw a new heaven and a new earth; and he saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven to earth.

The new Jerusalem will be the center piece of the new heaven and the new earth. Notice the architect of this city:

The fact that there's going to be a literal city that will be the capital of the new heaven and new earth is no mystery. We found that in scripture from the very beginning. Remember, in

Hebrews 11:10 says For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker (architect) is God.

Now I want you to notice the member of the Godhead who is responsible for designing and building the new Jerusalem.

He identifies himself in verse 5 of Revelation 21.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Apparently, John was so overwhelmed by what he was seeing that he forgot to keep writing. The Lord says, keep on writing because everything you are seeing is faithful and true.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Who is the builder of this new city - he says I am the Alpha and Omega, used in Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

What I want you to see is that Jesus Christ, the son of God, is the one who designs and builds this new city. **When Jesus left this world he went into heaven. He went back for 2 reasons. Right now Jesus is doing 2 things for your benefit:**

1. He is praying for you to God the father. **Hebrews 7:25 says Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.** But he is doing something else for you as well.
2. He's building a new home for you. He is in heaven preparing the new city, the new Jerusalem. We sometimes get so overcome by the beauty of Jesus's words. **John 14:1-3 that we don't see what he is saying: 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

Jesus is the architect of the new city, called the new Jerusalem. It's good he was a carpenter because he knows how to build things. It's going to come in handy in this new heaven and new earth. I think of the new Jerusalem as the best possible place to reside. Right now, Jesus is building that new city. John says he saw the new Jerusalem coming out of the clouds, to earth.

Who are going to be the new inhabitants of this city, the new Jerusalem? God answers that question in verse 7

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

The only people who are going to have a place in the new Jerusalem are those who are overcomers.

What does he mean overcomers? He uses that same term in **Revelation 3:5 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

I want you to see that this phrase Overcomes does not refer to a special class of Christians. It's those that truly believe in Christ and are going to obey Christ and overcome the trials and tribulations of this world. John says this in:

1 John 5:4-5 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

If you overcome, if you're victorious and living for Christ in this world, you have a place in the new Jerusalem.

But notice who will not be in the new Jerusalem. Who will not be part of the kingdom of God. Don't let people tell you that everyone is going to heaven. Everybody is NOT going to heaven. That is NOT true!

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Have you heard people say they don't like fire and brimstone kind of preaching? People who say they don't like that had better get use to it cause that's where they're going to be. You can't believe the Bible and not believe in fire and brimstone. The Bible says there is not just one destination for people. There is two. You can't believe in heaven and reject the idea of hell. Jesus spoke more about the reality of hell than he did about heaven itself. There's a group of people who won't be in heaven - those who don't overcome the world. This list is similar to what Paul said in:

I Corinthians 6:9-11 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

Be not deceived: neither fornicators (people who have sex apart from marriage), **nor idolaters**, (To practice idolatry doesn't mean you bow down a little wooden statue. To be an idol worshipper means you love something more than God.)

nor adulterers, (Those who have sex outside of marriage. They are unfaithful in their marriage. By the way, Jesus said, the lust in your heart for someone who is not your mate is the same as adultery.)

nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (homosexuals). Have you heard people (even Christians) say the Bible doesn't condemn people in the New Testament. We don't pay any attention to that.

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

In the New Testament it says that homosexuals will not have a part in the kingdom of God. Christian's need to be reminded of this today.

Just this week I was reading a story about a so called Christian couple who were married. The husband was a writer of children's books; and the couple came out to say that the husband has discovered he is gay and we are getting a divorce but we celebrate that John has finally discovered who he is and we're going to love each other still and raise our children together and we will celebrate that John has discovered who he is.

Homosexuality, adultery, all of these things are abominations to God and have no place in the kingdom of God.

None of these are something to celebrate - it is an abomination to God! None of these will inherit the kingdom of God.

Wait a minute Pastor, are you saying that if someone has done these things he won't go to heaven? If that's true, then no body is going to be in heaven.

All of us are guilty of one of these sins - if not in deed but in mind and heart. This passage is not saying that if you've ever done one of these things you can't be saved.

Paul says in verse **I Corinthians 6:9-11 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,**

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But you were washed and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the spirit of our God.

Listen to me, I don't care what sin you have committed, how long you committed it, how deep the stain of your sin. If you have trusted in the blood of Jesus Christ you are saved and secured forever! You have a place in heaven. You have a place in heaven forever. There is no sin you commit for which you cannot be forgiven. But, if you've truly repented of that sin; and truly asked for forgiveness of that sin, you are not going to go back and regularly practice that sin.

No one who practices these sin has a place in the kingdom of God. That is what John is saying here.

We've looked at the inhabitants of the city. Now let's look at the description of the city in verse 9 ***9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.***

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Now there are some Bible scholars who believe that this magnificent city, the new Jerusalem will come down from heaven during the Millennium and will be suspended between earth and heaven; and those of us that are resurrected at that time will spend time in the new suspended city. They think this new Jerusalem will go back up into heaven while the current Jerusalem will be destroyed by fire.

That's a nice idea. I don't know if its true or not. There's nothing in the Bible that supports this. John says at the end of the Millennium, after the present heaven and earth have been destroyed, I saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven.

Look at verse 11

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

The word Jasper could be any number of stones.

Most people think the jasper stone is a diamond.

And what John is communicating here is that

This city will be flooded with light. Its going to be absolutely filled with light. which is the chief characteristic of the new city, the new Jerusalem.

When we designed our beautiful new church campus, I asked the committee to do something for me. I said, let's have lots of glass, grass, water and all the possible lights in it that we can. I wanted this place to be bright because heaven is going to be bright.

The new Jerusalem is gonna be a place of brightness.

Let me get up on my soap box for a minute:

I don't understand churches that try to be as dark as they possibly can. You walk into the worship center and all the lights are down and they stay down during the entire service.

The Bible says as Christians, We are children of light - not of the darkness.

Our worship here should be as much like heaven as possible. Its going to be illuminated with light. There will no longer be a sun or moon because the Glory of God will illuminate everything. The Bible says we are preparing for heaven on this earth.

Looks like some are preparing for hell - a place of darkness. The Bible says there will be a place of complete darkness. A place of complete darkened and gnashing of teeth. The new Jerusalem will be a place of light.

Let's look at verse 12

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Oh! No, I'm not going there. I will remind you that the Pope said walls are not Christian. The new Jerusalem will have a great and high wall and 12 gates.

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

God has a plan for believing Israel and the church. In the new heaven and earth, they come together.

Look at verse 14:

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Here we have a coming together - God has a plan for Israel and a plan for the church, but I think this distinction will come together. This distinction will be gone and the two will come together.

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

Have you ever worried that heaven will not be big enough to accommodate everybody?

How could it be big enough to accommodate everybody? There's another answer too. This city will be bigger than we can possibly imagine.

The angel has a measuring rod. Look at verse 16.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

1500 miles - length, width, and height are equal. $1500 \times 1500 \times 1500 =$

Let's just look at the width - this city has more than 2.25 million square miles.

305 square miles - Manhattan Island.

Here you have a city that is 2.25 million square miles. That means if you took

the new Jerusalem and dropped it down in the middle of the United States,

its borders would go from Canada to Mexico, from the Apalacian Mountains to California. That is one big city. But remember, its not just a square - its a cube.

It is 1500 miles wide, high, long. Do you know how big that is?

The average skyscraper story is 12 feet high.

That means if this city is 1500 miles high it will be over 6060 thousand stories high. That blows the mind.

Some of you think 'surely he's speaking symbolically.' We're not to take this literally, are we?

17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

This drives a stake in the thought that this is a symbolic definition. John is saying that angels use the same measurement that human beings use.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

What they communicate to us is that heaven will be a spectrum of beautiful colors. It will be more gorgeous, more beautiful than anything we've ever seen or imagined.

John says I saw a new heaven and a new earth; and he saw a new relationship with God.

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

We will have a new relationship with God!

Man will be in perfect relationship with God.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

There will be no church buildings or temples. In the Old Testament this was a place to offer sacrifices to God. But man will be in perfect relationship with God.

Look at verse 23:

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

There will be no night there.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Its gates will never be closed; and nothing unclean will come into the city but only those whose names are written in the Lambs Book of Life.

There will be no more night there. That is the new Jerusalem God has planned for us.

Of all the characteristics of the new city - of the new heaven and earth, I think perhaps the one that hits home for most of us is that promise in **Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

You know when I was younger I did a lot of funeral services with Dr. Chriswell. And I remember when he said, the promise is there shall no longer be any death.

What would this promise mean?

There will no longer be any mourning. What would this mean for a person who no longer has to say goodbye to the person they love the most in this world?

No more pain. What could that promise possibly mean to somebody whose shoulders had not buckled under the pressure of this world.

No more tears. What would that mean to someone who had never suffered tremendous hurt or loss in their life?

What would these promises mean to us?

Every problem we have one this life, every problem you face today will only increase your appreciation of the new heaven and earth one day.

You know what's interesting? The Bible never Diminishes the suffering you may have right now, but the Bible adds one word to it...what you experience now is not your external future. The Bible says one day God will wipe all death, mourning, pain, or tears for the first things have passed away.

One of the mistakes we make when we think about eternity, is that we separate eternity from our existence on earth. Not so.

We think when we die, and when we go to heaven or hell we magically become other people. Heaven or hell is just a continuum of the life we begin living on earth.

Randy Alcorn says, "Earth leads directly into heaven just as it leads directly into hell. Life here on earth is a running start into one place or the other. The best of earth is a glimpse of heaven. The worst part of earth is a glimpse of hell. Earth is the in between world. Touched both by heaven and hell, affording a choice for us between the two".

Sister Shelbia says she wishes we were together to share what we got out of this wonderful teaching. Its all so good - I want to find out a couple of things meaningful to me:

Knowing Jesus is praying for us.

He is preparing a new home for us.

He's a carpenter, so its gotta be right.

The fact that the new Jerusalem is 1500 miles wide and long and high is overwhelming.

But this is all true!

Know that overcomers are going to be there.

Overcomers are those who believe Jesus Christ is the son of God and have accepted him as savior.

All true Christian's will be in this wonderfully prepared place.

I wish we could share what we got out of it, but I know each of you got what God wanted you to.

The New Year is going here!

I am more intense on this year that I've ever been and am seeing more intensity of true believers.

Dwight Jones is having a devotion every day and his church is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. They have the word of God going on CD on line.

Several people are praying at 8 am each morning for the unsaved. I plan to join in and I know others may want to as well.

Some of you may have seen this thing to:

7 things to quit in 2022:

1. **Trying to please everyone.**
2. **Fearing change.**
3. **Living in the past.**
4. **Putting yourself down.**
5. **Over thinking - this one got me really thinking because I tend to overthink things.**
6. **Being afraid to be different.**
7. **Thinking you're not good enough.**

These things cause me to think about again, **WHO AM I?**

The list I have - I still have copies of. I'm going to do a few at a time until we get thru every one of them.

WHO AM I? We are starting a new year so I'm starting at the top:

I am the salt of the earth.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

I am the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

I am a child of God.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

I am a slave of righteousness.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing his inheritance with him.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

I am a temple, a dwelling place of God, His son and His life dwells in me.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I am a member of Christs body.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

I am a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

I am a saint.

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

1 Corinthians 1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Phillipians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Collosians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am Gods workmanship, his handy work or am new in Christ to do his work. *Ephesians 2:10*

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

I am a fellow citizen with the rest of Gods family.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

I am going to quit until next time. It is very important that we know who we are as the devil wants to defeat us any way he can.

We need to put on our spiritual armor every day with the blood of Jesus over us, our family and everything that pertains to u

Ephesians 6

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.**
- 2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;**
- 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.**
- 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**
- 5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;**
- 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;**
- 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:**
- 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.**
- 9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.**
- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**
- 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**
- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**
- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**
- 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;**
- 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**
- 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**
- 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**
- 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,**
- 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**
- 21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:**
- 22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.**
- 23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.**

Updated Prayer List: Pretty heavy, lots of people struggling, and Christian's are being attacked more than I've ever been aware of.

Ron and Marilou - Ron has Pneumonia and he got 3 new prescriptions; Marilou has possible pneumonia. She is getting a scan.

Steve and Carolyn who are holding their own. We are praying frequently for them.

Jerry and Kay - God is blessing in so many ways in all of these cases. Jerry has one more chemo in two weeks and then he will have a full body scan, but no cancer in his organs at this time.

Sharon - headache issues - another little episode yesterday with no clue about what's causing them.

Sharon's grandsons Alex, and Jessie - who has covid. She is breast feeding their 5 month old baby.

70 active cases of covid in Madison County.

Dana and Leah Fulton - type A flu

Tommy was better, but didn't want to expose others last Sunday.

Alfreda Winick - a little better with covid

Larry Green got a good report but has tests to do and a number of trials. January 12 - Larry has an appointment with a Lung Doctor; and Jackie Green

Sarah Denkler - for continued recovery

George - knee surgery and was back in the hospital after Christmas.

Barbara, Della, Ruth Ann, Barbara Hart with several issues.

Caroline, Dane

Summer Rose got to come home for Christmas - want to keep her and her family on our prayer list.

Wayne and Magge - Magge is doing better, but they have a move ahead of them which is draining.

Judy Barron's sister in law, Shirley and Lawrence. Lawrence has swelling in his legs and feet; Shirley has no appetite.

Shawn - throat cancer

Elsie - cancer

Families of Lee Pinkley, Mike Winick - who lost Sandy and the Crowell family who lost their mother.

Ashley and Scott

Rob - testing coming up

Mr. and Mrs. Lush - need prayer

Bill and Anita Hill with covid

Ronnie Hill had a stroke, pneumonia, and a kidney problem.

Peace of Jerusalem, Israel, those countries surrounding Israel are all ganged up to attack Israel.

Christians world wide - protection, provision and to strengthen their faith cause there's a lot of world wide persecution.

Pray for David - don't know how he is, but couldn't be there Sunday

Dwight Jones - his heart and mind and soul needs to be protected for him and his family

Pastors - to guard against deception; and that they will preach Gods bottom line truth for salvation

True Christian leaders we have - Josh Hawley

All Christian's to have a person revival and put on their armor every day.

Unspoken requests.

TWO VERY IMPORTANT VERSES:

KEEP OUR EYES ON ***TITUS 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;***

1 PETER 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Closing prayer:

Father God,

We are so thankful for your love and your Word. We are thankful for today's meeting. Our hearts are heavy for those people and issues on our prayer list but we know that you are aware of every person's need and that you have this under your control.

We thank you for the gift of your son, our savior. Help each lady who is here today to receive exactly what you want them to receive; and give us courage and strength to share your Word with others. Please send the Holy Spirit to our friends and family members who do not know Jesus as their savior. Please bless our lives so that we are productive for your kingdom.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.