

The Grace of God



"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us..." (Titus 2:11-12).

Dec. 30, 2007 (Vol. 7)

Another Year Gone

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We sing "swiftly we're turning, life's daily pages, swiftly the hours are changing to years. How are we using life's golden moments, shall we reap glory, shall we reap tears?" We have again reached the last Sunday of a year. All the days that have past behind us we shall never reclaim. All the time spent for whatever purpose and in whatever manner cannot be altered.

What can be said of this past year? Have we drawn closer to the Lord? Have we learned more of His word? Are we stronger now than a year ago? Do we attend services more faithfully than a year ago? Pray more? Serve more? Forgive more? Do we dress more modestly? Have we kicked sinful habits (like smoking, drinking, cursing, gossip)? Do we have better control of our desires, our tempers, our tongues? Have truly put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge and conformed to the image of Christ (Col. 3:5-11)?

Does this description describe us? "12 Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; 13 forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: 14 and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful." (Col. 3:12-15)

Do we "16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. 17 And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord

Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."? Does the word truly dwell in us richly? We truly teach and admonish each other? Be it in hymns and spiritual songs, word or deed? Do we do all in His name (by His authority)? (Col 3:16-17)

Are we praying for open doors for the gospel (Col. 4:2-3)? Are we "redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5)? Is our speech always with grace (grace teaches Titus 2:11-12) and seasoned with salt (salt hinders corruption and adds the flavor of Truth) (Col. 4:6)?

May our prayer ever be as Epaphras': "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, saluteth you, always striving for you in his prayers, that ye may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God." (Col. 4:12).

The Truth About Prohibition borrowed

Over and over we hear it said, "You can't legislate morality." As an example they say, "Look how prohibition failed." You need to know . . . THE TRUTH ABOUT PROHIBITION

Through the years, there has been a useful body of pertinent research done by well-recognized historians on the general background of Prohibition.

For example, Bernard Weisberger, a nationally-recognized historian who writes a current-events column ("In the News") for the popular historical journal *American Heritage*, recently addressed the widespread (mis)conception that Prohibition "didn't work." Among the facts cited by Weisberger are:

"Prohibition did reduce drinking. The average annual per capita consumption of alcohol by Americans of drinking age - that is, the total alcoholic content of all the beer, wine, and distilled spirits they consumed - stood at 2.60 gallons" in 1910. In 1934, after more than a decade of prohibition, Weisberger reports the per capita average of 0.97 gallons.

"Census Bureau studies show that the death rate from chronic or acute alcoholism fell from 7.3 per 100,000 in 1907" to "2.5 in 1932, Prohibition's last year. Deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, one cause of which is alcohol abuse, dropped from 14.8 per 100,000 in 1907 to 7.1 in 1920 and never rose above 7.5 during the 1920's. Economic

studies estimated that savings and spending on household necessities increased among working-class families during the period, possibly from money that once went to drink." These are not the propaganda of some biased zealot, but the factual report of a nationally known historian. Futhermore, Weisberger reports that one reason why Prohibition may be commonly thought so unsuccessful is that even the above improvements were achieved with a minimum of enforcement. He continues:

"Drinking might have been cut back even further if more resources had been devoted to enforcement. In 1922 Congress gave the Prohibition Bureau only \$6.75 million for a force of 3,060 employees (including clerical workers) to hunt for violaters in thousands of urban neighborhoods, remote hollows, border crossings, and coastal inlets. State legislators were equally sparing: in 1926 state legislatures all together spent \$698,855 for Prohibition work, approximately one-eighth of what they spent on enforcing fish-and-game laws. Even so, by 1929 the feds alone had arrested more than half a million violaters. "

Nor is this "new" information; a 1968 article by historian of science John C. Burnham of Ohio State University in the Journal of Social History revealed even more data along the lines Weisberger adduces. To imply that attempts to restrict alcohol sales can't be effective ignores the available evidence. Professor Norman H. Clark's 1976 study, Deliver Us From Evil, makes a persuasive case that during Prohibition, arrests for drunkenness and alcohol-related crimes declined markedly.

Of course, a much earlier author reminds us across the ages that "Wine is a mocker, strong

drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov. 20: 1).

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Sawyer Sims, Jean Gambrell (back), Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard, Wesley Geer, Mag Bumbalough, Mary Cox, Monie Petty, Dave Poteet (NHC 225), Marilyn Poteet-Langford, Betty England, Joe Smith, Thelma Klein, Nathan Hill, Ed Williams, Michelle Austin, Lydia Poe, Larry Bumbalough, Jake Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Carolyn Williams, Kenley Streeval. Matthew Taylor (leukemia), Joyce Simmons Wagner, Lorene Myers (Rece's Grandmother), David Price (David Price's father), Bill Frazier (cancer), Michelle Cunningham (Lydia's sister), W.C. Randolph (Jamie Sims' grandfather), Emma Featherston (Adam's grandmother).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Radio Program** - Every Sun. 2pm, AM 1050 WSMT
- **Home Bible Study** - Resumes Jan. 12 & 26, 2008
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Dec. 30
- **GM** - Ron Daly, April 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

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OBEY THE GOSPEL!!!

- Hear (Rom. 10:17)
- Believe (Mark 16:16)
- Repent (Acts 17:30-31)
- Confess (Rom. 10:9)
- Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)
- Live Faithfully (Rev. 2:10)

North Sparta church of Christ

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