

REMINDER

John Wesley's Prayer for the New Year -

Each year, John Wesley - the founder of Methodism - would begin the New Year with a "Covenant Service." The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God. Scriptures read at this service included Deuteronomy 31: 9-13, Jeremiah 31: 31-34, Psalm 50, and John 15: 1-8. The Prayer of Invitation from this service is as follows:



Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go

to Christ, and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall.

Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

I make this covenant with you, O God, without guile or reservation.

If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.

Mighty God, let this covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Building In The New Year

Well, the Year 2011 is here, and it hardly seems possible that 365 days have passed - it seems like only a week or two ago we were beginning 2010. It's hard to believe that we begin a seventeenth year together as pastor as of January first. We count it a privilege and high honor to be here, serving our Lord Jesus Christ with you.

It is always interesting to see how people plan to live and act differently during the upcoming year. They make "resolutions" to define how they plan to conduct themselves. Yet, very few people ever seem to look back on the past twelve months of their life and, seeing how far they fell short of the glory of God (see Romans 3:23), vow to get right with Him and live for Christ more this coming year than they did during the previous one.

Here's a short list of New Year's Resolutions that wouldn't hurt any of us to adopt -

In The Year 2011, I Resolve That -

I will do more than belong -

I will **participate**.

I will do more than care -

I will **help**.

I will do more than believe -

I will **practice**.

I will do more than be fair -

I will **be kind**.

I will do more than forgive -

I will **love**.

I will do more than earn -

I will **enrich**.

I will do more than teach -

I will **serve**.

I will do more than live -

I will **grow**.

I will do more than be friendly -

I will **be a friend**.

Think and pray on this - **then act**.

I am convinced that the Year 2011 is going to be a wonderful year for us as a church! So many **good and marvelous** things have happened these past few months that convince me this is true.

For example, in 2010, we saw God -

□ *Add many new members to our fellowship, all of whom are faithful, loving followers of Christ!*

□ *Help our people knock on hundreds of doors of people in our town, inviting them to be our guests at our church, and sharing Christ's Gospel with them!*

□ *Provide the funds necessary to replace the ruined compressor in our Education Building HVAC system!*

□ *Keep our church going, financially - even though we were few in number. Typically, some 50% of our active families give tithes and offerings each month, and unheard of ratio in church ten times our size!*

□ *Used our Ernie Knight Benevolence Ministry to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to thousands of needy people and provided enough food to them to prepare tens of thousands of - all at no cost to our church whatsoever!*

□ *Use our Sunday School to bring exciting, helpful lessons from the Bible to our lives every Sunday.*

□ *Draw our people closer together!*

All these things, and so much more that I could recount, tell me that God is at work here at our dear church, and, if we will stay close to Him (and each other), the Year 2011 promises to be one of the most exciting and fruitful we've seen in a long time!

It's amazing to me how fast the years go by. Sixteen years ago seems so recent, yet so long ago. So much has happened during our time together. Please allow me to say how grateful I am to all who have supported and encouraged us in the faith during these years. Your prayers, love, and Christ-likeness is an eternal blessing to us. Please also allow me to thank you for your loving support during the home-going of my parents-these were difficult times for me, personally, but God, through His Spirit and all of you, made letting them go Home less difficult.

May I urge all our people to "stay by the stuff" in 2010, for God is, indeed, preparing us, I believe, for a tremendous outpouring of His Spirit. Let us be faithful to prepare for it so we will not be left behind when it comes.

Devotedly yours and His,

Todd W. White

***Our Lottie Moon Offering For
International Missions Will Be Received
Through Today. Please Prayerfully
Consider What God Would Have Your
Gift To Be.***

TEN WAYS TO HELP YOUR PASTOR, YOUR CHURCH, AND YOURSELF

by Ron Hood

1. **Treat him with the proper respect.** Treat him the same way you would a doctor, a lawyer, or a politician. A pastor's role is more important than all of these professional roles because he is God's appointed leader for you and your family. Therefore esteem him very highly in love for his work's sake (I Thess. 5:12-13).

2. **Follow your pastor as he follows Christ (I Cor. 11:1, Heb. 13:7).** Never blindly follow anyone but always follow the man of God who is following Jesus Christ as set forth in the Word of God (Phil. 3:17-21).

3. **Pray for him often (see Eph. 6:18-20; II Thess. 3:1-2).** You know how much opposition you receive from the world, the flesh, and the devil: your pastor receives even more, therefore, pray for him!

4. **Obey him as he admonishes you and teaches you the Word of God (see I Thess. 5:12 and Heb. 13:17).** These verses teach that you should submit, obey, and follow.

5. **Do not speak against or listen to any gossip or slander about your pastor.** I Tim. 5:19 reads, "Against an elder receive not an accusation...", and Eph. 4:29 reads, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...". Prov. 6:16-19 teaches that God hates for us to hurt people with words. Listening to gossip and slander is just as much a sin as speaking it.

6. **Support him financially so he can keep his mind on the work of the ministry (see I Tim. 5:17, 18 and Phil. 4:10-19).** The ministry of the Word of God is twice as important as just making a living. If a man cannot properly care for his family, he will be distracted from the ministry. It costs your pastor just as much to live as it does you, and in some cases more because of the additional transportation and the way he is expected to dress.

7. **Encourage your pastor.** Tell him when he has helped you. Eph. 4:29 teaches that we should speak that which edifies. You minister grace to your pastor when you tell him how he has helped you. He will be a more effective, dedicated servant of God if you give him some feedback on his ministry to you (see Prov. 3:27). It will also be very encouraging if you tell your Sunday School teacher, husband, or wife, and children how they have helped or been a blessing to you. Praise doesn't cost - it pays great dividends - in the home, in the church, in the school, and on the job.

8. **Be patient and understanding with your pastor, his spouse, and his children.** Do not expect your pastor or his family to be perfect - they are human. John 1:5, and James 5:17 teach that a man of God has the same human weaknesses and temptations that we all face.

9. **Stay busy serving the Lord.** This will bless your life and be a tremendous encouragement to your pastor. You have a spiritual gift, so use it. John 13:17 teaches, "If ye know these things, happy

are ye if ye do them." Happiness doesn't come from knowing what is right, happiness comes from doing what is right. Therefore, serve the Lord.

10. **Be a blessing to your pastor, your family, and all who know you by being a soul winner.** People all around us are lost in sin, dying and going to hell. Do all in your power to win them to Jesus Christ. Tell them what Christ has done for you and what He can do for them. Reflect on what your salvation means to you and then realize that those who are lost in sin need the same joy, peace, assurance, and hope that you have. ■

Test your NIV -

Instructions: Using the New International Version Bible, answer the following questions. Do not rely on your memory. As the Bible is the final authority, you must take the answer from the Bible verse (not from footnotes but from the text).

1. Fill in the missing words in Matthew 5:44. "Love your enemies, _____ them that curse you, _____ to them that hate you, and pray for them that _____ and persecute you."
2. According to Matthew 18:11, why did Jesus come to earth?
3. In Matthew 27:35, when the wicked soldiers parted His garments, they were fulfilling the words of the prophet. Copy what the prophet said in Matthew 27:35 from the NIV.
4. According to Mark 7:16, what does a man need to be able to hear?
5. According to Luke 7:28, what was John (teacher, prophet, carpenter, etc)? What is his title or last name?
6. In Luke 9:55, what did the disciples not know?
7. In Luke 9:56, what did the Son of man not come to do? According to this verse, what did He come to do?
8. In Luke 22:14, how many apostles were with Jesus?
9. According to Luke 23:38, in what three languages was the superscription written?
10. In Luke 24:42, what did they give Jesus to eat with His fish?
11. John 3:13 is a very important verse, proving the deity of Christ. According to this verse (as Jesus spoke), where is the Son of man?
12. In John 7:50, what time of day did Nicodemus come to Jesus?
13. In Acts 8:37, what is the one requirement for baptism?
14. I Timothy 3:16 is perhaps the greatest verse in the New Testament concerning the deity of Christ. In this verse, who was manifested in the flesh?
15. Who are the three Persons of the Trinity in First John 5:7?
16. Rev. 1:11 is another very important verse that proves the deity of Christ. In the first part of this verse Jesus said, "I am the A_____ and O_____, the _____ and the _____."

Conclusion: Although little space is provided for your answers, it's much more than needed. If you followed the instructions above, you failed the test. If you would like a perfect score, take this test using the Authorized King James Bible.

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NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Volunteers Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of December 26, 2010

Sunday School ----- 21
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 47
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 23
 Wed. Evening, 12/22/10 Service ----- 25

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of December 26, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 801.10
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 4.00
Total Received for Week of 12/26/10: \$ 805.10

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**

INSURANCE FUND REPORT THIS MONTH:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received since 12/05/10 ----- \$ 114.04
Amount Still Needed By 01/06/11: \$ 159.04

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

