December 17

Modern Life

What the World Needs

 We were watching a TV show, where movie critics were saying that movies now days seem to need a happy ending for people to go and see them and encourage others to go as well. We discussed that, saying the world at this point (which was 1990) has so much trouble, hate, hostages, drugs, wars, crime AIDS and other incurable diseases that people need to go away from the movie theater feeling good in order to face the real world of darkness.

 There was also a new drug coming out that was worse than crack and they had just closed a tunnel between the United States and Mexico for drug traffic. The question is still 21 years later – When will all of this end? The only way all this will end is when the Lord comes again. This next statement was written in 1990 and yet at this writing in late 2011 has not happened it was written that “Hopefully this will be read in the New Earth and we will not know of such pestilence!”

 We can have happiness without drugs, we can face today and tomorrow with confidence, confidence that we get through Jesus Christ, he gives us peace, hope, love, strength and understanding through the Holy Spirit.

 Give up your old person and put on the new person in Christ. Put your faith and hope in the tender watch care of Jesus, you’ll never be disappointed! Praise the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 19:14

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, a special prayer today, for those hooked on drugs may they see that their high is only temporary but your love and peace is eternal, it will never fail.

December 18

Christian Life

Waiting on the Lord

 We, as Christians, have been waiting centuries for Christ’s second coming, Paul may have thought that he or even some of those he was teaching would still be alive – Read: I Thessalonians 4:15. But Paul goes on to say it doesn’t matter, if we are alive or dead on that day – Read: I Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

 We have been waiting a long time, but this is no time to give up – Read: Hebrews 10:23. That is the promise that He will return also – Read: Hebrews 10:25.

 As we wait on the Lord, we must not sin purposely – Read: Hebrews 10:26.

 The wait has been long, but it will be worth it, to see the Lord face to face and to live eternally with Him in heaven, don’t become discouraged but encouraged through God’s love and strength.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Hebrews 10:27

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to wait patiently, in these last days, for your promised return.

December 19

Christian Life

Being Prepared

 Our lives are made up of becoming prepared, we send our children to school to prepare them for secular life, we prepare meals, worksheets, briefs but many times are unprepared for what we know is going to take place, the weekly garbage pick-up or some deliveries, even though we know they are going to take place.

 We know the Lord is coming again – Read: John 14:2, 3.

 The Lord at this very moment is preparing a place for us; we need to be in constant preparation of our soul when He comes to collect His own we will be among those that He will take with Him.

 The best way to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s coming is to study the manual for preparation, The Bible!

 In the Bible it talks about the Day of Preparation – Read: Mark 15:42.

 TODAY is our preparation day, for we may not have another day in this life, a sobering thought!

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Thessalonians 5:7, 8.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to prepare and be prepared so that I will be ready to stand before you as pure and blameless as humanly possible.

December 20

Christian Life

The Tribulation

 In recent years the teaching is that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation takes place and that is good because the Tribulation is a step beyond ordinary suffering – Read: Matthew 24:21.

 Tribulation of such a terrible degree will be a sign of the end times – Read: Matthew 24:29.

 A wonderful promise of the Lord for the end times was given to the prophet Habakkuk – Read: Habakkuk 2:4.

 If the Tribulation comes and the Church is not raptured, depend on the Lord and be steadfast in your faith even onto death because you will be rewarded – Read: Revelation 7:14.

 If we are washed in the blood of the Lamb and have remained steadfast in our faith we will be saved in spite of the Tribulation, it will not be easy but doable. Pray and be strong during these end times.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 8:31

PRAYER THOUGHT: I pray I will be raptured and not have to endure the Tribulation but if not, O Lord, help me to endure the Tribulation and remain faithful to you.

December 21

False Prophet

We will Know it is Jesus

 Our world is full of cults and religions that profess other than Jesus or others besides Jesus or even others that think they are Jesus.

 Peter, Paul and John taught about false teachers, Paul tells Timothy – Read: I Timothy 4:1.

 Peter says – Read: II Peter 2:1

 John relates – Read: I John 2:18

 We have false prophets and demon worshippers, we have to be careful not to be taken in, and sometimes that is hard. Jimmy Jones started out as a regular preacher, got a taste of power and went off the deep end, killing and finally killing himself and for what?

 There will be no mistake when the Lord appears – Read: I Thessalonians 4:16, 17 (The Rapture of the Church). This seems very clear we will know when Jesus returns for the Church.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 24:30, 31

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me never to stray from the faith and to wait upon your return and not be taken in by false teachers or teachings.

December 22

Salvation

The Final Judgment

 When Christ does return there will be a final judgment – Read: Matthew 25:32, 33 & 46.

 It seems quite awesome to think about a judgment of all the people on earth, just counting those alive at this time would be quite a gathering! (Nov. 2011 the population of earth was 7 billion). That shows the finite mind of man and the infinite possibility of God. We don’t know exactly what God’s plan is how judgment will be orchestrated, but rest assured God does.

 We do know that we all will stand in judgment – Read: Romans 14:10-12.

 We have had to be accountable to lots of people in this life, parents, teachers, bosses and spouses but in the end we are accountable to GOD, the Supreme Being. Views have changed since I was a child that this judgment is not for salvation or damnation, for Christians, but for placement in the heavenly realm.(Revelation 20:12) Those who are not Christians, have not accepted Jesus as their Savior will indeed know at this point they should have accepted the invitation when and if they had a chance.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 17:31.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I live my life, ever mindful, that I will need to be accountable to God for my thoughts, words and deeds, help me, O Lord, to live accordingly.

December 23

Salvation

Old World/New World

 Jesus’ second coming will be the end of the world as we know it now – Read: II Peter 3:10.

 But those of us who believe have something to look forward to – Read: II Peter 3:13. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to live in a world where righteousness was at home instead of evil and sinfulness?

 As we have said before we can depend on the promises that God makes – Read: Revelation 21:5.

 Righteous Children of God, we have many wonderful things to look forward to, do not give up hope but remain steadfast in your hope that all things God has promised will come true. God ALWAYS keeps His promises. We have the best of everything, when we are taken to our eternal home, what could be better?

 Revelation 19:14 seems to indicate that the believers that were taken up in the Rapture will be returning with Christ, riding on white horses to reign over the New Earth with Him. As Children of God we have nothing to lose by following Jesus, but a decaying world!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Revelation 21:1

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my faith in your promises, O Lord, keep me patient for the Day of your return and the establishment of a New Heaven and Earth

December 24

New Life

KNOWING We are Saved

 The question is; How do we KNOW we have eternal life? In the first letter John writes, he gives us the answer – Read: I John 5:13, 11, and 12. If we believe in Jesus with our heart, not just head knowledge but also heart knowledge, we can KNOW we have eternal life.

 With this knowledge – Read: I John 5:14, 15.

 These verses, for a Christian, should be very reassuring and bring peace to know we have eternal life and that we can come into the presence of God in prayer and ask according to His will. He knows what is best for us and we should rely upon His direction.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I John 5:20

PRAYER THOUGHT: Praise you, O Lord, for giving me this knowledge of salvation. Thank-you for always being there.

JUST A NOTE: The intent here is to create an interest in the End Times, Rapture, Tribulation – to study it on your own or to get involved in studies that outline timelines, prophesy to get a more complete understanding of the subject.