December 25

Christmas

Happy Birthday Jesus

 What we need to strive for today is Christmas with the true spirit intended, Jesus was born to bring peace, love and hope into the world, not an excuse to buy roller skates, dolls and expensive electronic gifts. We need to remember it is Jesus’ birthday and give our gifts to one another remembering what Jesus said - Read: Acts 20:35b.

 It is hard today to get into the spirit of Christmas with all the commercialization of Christmas. Everything is bought, years ago when popcorn, paper and cranberry chains were made to decorate the tree, families spent hours together preparing to decorate.

 Remember God gave us his Son, His ONLY Son, Jesus, our gifts to one another can never match that and they are not expected to, all God wants us to do is remember the reason for Christmas, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, to spread joy and love in our little corner of the world.

 There had to be a Christmas, a birth, in order for there to be an Easter, a death, a sacrifice for our sins and a resurrection to eternal life.

 This Christmas put your hands, your money but most of all your heart into Christmas.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 2:11

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help this Christmas to be the best year because my heart is in the right spirit of care and love.

December 26

Christian Life

Prayer

 Our only tool of communicating with God, Jesus’ death tore the curtain in the Holy of Holies to allow anyone, not just the Priests to approach God. We have Jesus to take our pleadings and praise to God – Read: Hebrews 7:25. Jesus pleads for us, sort of like when we were children, we did something wrong at Grandma’s house she would plead for leniency from our parents, same with Jesus, he understands what the world is like and pleads to God in our behalf.

 Use prayer for all needs praises and hopes God can do ALL things! Nothing is too small or too large for God. God does care and he wants to be bothered with our prayers.

 Remember the mechanics of prayer, Praise, forgiveness, thankful heart, praying for others and our needs.

 Our prayers have to be sincerely prayed and have the faith that God can and will answer- Read: Matthew 21:22.

VERSE FOR TODAY: James 5:13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to call upon your name, O Lord, not only in good or bad times but at all times.

December 27

Christian Life

Forgiveness

 Our lives are filled with people that wrong us, whether on purpose or by the “slip” of hand or tongue.

 Jesus teaches – Read: Luke 17:3-4. We need to be ready to forgive others as many times as it take to live in harmony.

 We have to forgive if we expect to be forgiven by God. In the Lord’s Prayer, each time we say it we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others, so we have to forgive others before God will forgive us – Read: Mark 11:25.

 Forgiving is one thing, forgetting is another, we can forgive but always bear a grudge in our heart against the person, God does not work that way, he forgives and has no memory of the sin and so should we – Hebrews 10:17. We must practice forgiving and forgetting.

VERSE FOR TODAY: II Corinthians 2:7

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, help me to forgive others and to be able to completely forget the sin against me and to know that you have forgiven my sins and forgotten them when I confess unto you my wrongdoing.

December 28

Christian Life

How to be Faithful

 Faith is a personal thing, it is rooted and grounded in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, Paul writes to Timothy, giving him advice – Read: I Timothy 6:11-12. Have you taken hold of eternal life? How “good” was your confession?

 Have you worked to build that faith through the year(s)? On the rocky road of human life, striving for the perfect life is all that we can do this side of heaven, running the best race we can.

 When we accept Christ we have to learn to live for Him – Read: Colossians 2:6, 7. Sink your roots deep in the love of the Lord and don’t ever let that root be damaged or cut, but keep your faith growing stronger.
 Read, pray, fellowship and work daily to build your faith in Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Timothy 6:13, 14

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to be steadfast in my faith and to grow to a more understanding of your will and way for me.

December 29

Christian Life

God’s in Control

 We talked about this in the beginning of the year, how God created and keeps the world together, isn’t it wonderful how God is in control, in control of everything we can’t control, like the weather, keeping oceans and lake s in their shores, flowers and trees growing. It is wonderful to know someone bigger than we are keeps it all together.

 God has set a time for everything and Solomon in Ecclesiastes says it best – Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

 What a comfort to know God is in control and all we have to do is put our faith in Him!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Ecclesiastes 8:13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you O Lord, for being in control, may I never doubt your decisions for me and may I strive to fulfill your will in me.

December 30

Christian Life

Birthdays

 This may seem a strange title for today, but today is a person’s birthday, very dear to me and a good time to reflect on a year gone for him as well as a pretty well gone for us. We sometimes get downhearted as we see our lives pass before us; time seems to be going faster and faster.

 As each day passes we must not think of it as our lives passing but as heading for a new and better life with Jesus. If we like our lives here on earth as we should we don’t want to die but we know we will sooner or later so we shouldn’t lament about the passing of time. We can’t do anything about it anyway and we can best use our time searching and researching the things of God.

 Jesus lived such a short time here on earth, only thirty-three years, but he used his time wisely, learned the things of God, and started about his Father’s business at age twelve. Even if we die young or what we consider young, we need to use our time on earth wisely, it is not the quantity of time but the quality of time we are given.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Revelation 14:13

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to look to you as my life passes and look forward to the live you have in store for me in your Kingdom.

December 31

Christian Life

The Last Day

 This is the last day of this year; it could be the last day of the rest or our lives. As we reflect on the year gone by, have we lived up to our own expectations? Could we have done better in the things of God? Forgiving one another? Loving one another? And sharing with those in need?

 Today is the end but if we are blessed enough to have tomorrow, it is a new beginning as every day is but it is also a new year, another chance to know and get in tune with God.

 If you have read faithfully this year you know you have salvation, know how to pray, to forgive, to remain faithful, to know you can rely on God’s promises and to have peace and love beyond any human understanding. Who in this life has given you more or can give you more, than Jesus? Don’t waste another minute, confess your sins, give your testimony to knowing Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized into the family of God! There is no bigger better family to be associated with in this life and through eternity!

 Hopefully these short lessons have peaked your curiosity and you will go back find a day and read more about the subject, like Daniel, read the whole book, see what it is all about.

 I hope you have had a good year and that the coming year will even be better.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 3:5, 6

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for another year and help me to be and do even better in the coming year.