



II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

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## THE CHURCH'S GAME PLAN FOR 2022!

The game plan for a Christian in 2022 is no different than it was in 1922. Pray, read your Bible, walk with God, be in church, tell others about Jesus, tithe, keep yourself clean, steer clear of compromising relationships, etc.

The game plan for our local New Testament churches is also unchanged. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, the Epistles and Revelation. The Lord's agenda is still the same today as it was in the first century. Get out the Gospel, win souls, plant churches, preach the Word, teach the truth, help converts grow in the Lord, fellowship with those who will strengthen your faith.

*"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."*—Eph. 3:21.

We can do this because the Lord ordered it and He will help us.

—Sword of the Lord

## LET ME GROW LOVELY

Let me grow lovely, growing old—

So many fine things do:

Laces, and ivory, and gold,

And silks need not be new;

And there is healing in old trees,

Old streets a glamour hold;

Why may not I, as well as these,

Grow lovely, growing old?

KARLE WILSON BAKER

## In Days Gone By

On Aug. 2, 1914, Rachel

Saint was born in Pennsylvania. She was a missionary to the Auca Indians, and a Wycliff Bible translator.

## OLD PREACHERS

I have a friend who is ninety-six, and he is still preaching. Last year, we were both preaching in a meeting in Houston and he said, "Pastor, now I'm getting some age on me. If I start repeating myself, I'd be really happy if you would come and put your hand on my shoulder and ask me to have a seat and we'll have the next speaker." He stopped for a few minutes, then turned and said, "Preacher, now if I start repeating myself..."

—Dr. Tom Wallace

## Defeating the Deadly D's

When you become discouraged or feel depressed, it might help to know that you are not the first Christian to do so. You should also know that allowing your "down" spirit to dominate you will inevitably move you toward despair and do you real damage.

So take note—there is a way to come through these dark valleys.

...

Do you ever get down in the mouth and feel that the world has come in on you?

Elijah did. He "sat down under the juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die... O LORD, take away my life" (I Kings 19:4).

Paul did. "We were pressed out of measure, above strength, inasmuch that we despaired even of life" (II Cor. 1:8).

Spurgeon did. He said, "Personally I have often passed through the dark valley of despair!"

Alexander Whyte did. His biographer, G. F. Barbour, said of him, "Resolute as was Dr. Whyte's character, he had seasons of deep depression regarding the results of his work in the pulpit and among his people."

John Henry Jowett did. He

wrote to a friend in 1920, "You seem to imagine that I have no ups and downs, but just a level and lofty stretch of spiritual attainment with unbroken joy and equanimity. By no means! I am often perfectly wretched and everything appears most murky."

Andrew Bonar did. He wrote in his journal July 4, 1857: "I was very melancholy, I may say, on Saturday evening. The old scenes reminded me of my ministry and this was accompanied with much regret for past failures. I see in retrospect so much that was altogether imperfect and so much that was left undone."

G. Campbell Morgan did. On the tenth anniversary of his marvelous ministry at London's Westminster Chapel, he astounded his congregation by saying, "During these ten years, I have known more of visions fading into mirages, or purposes failing of fulfillment and of things of strength crumbling into weakness than ever before in my life."

Often God's children dejectedly ask with the psalmist, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me?" (Ps. 42:5).

Through grace, we can be victorious over spiritual depression. "Now thanks be unto God; which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" (II Cor. 2:14).

—Walter Knight

## He Knows Us by Name

Isn't that a blessed thought! The meeting between our Lord and Mary after His resurrection gives us a lovely picture of what that means to us individually who belong to Him.

She knew Him when He simply spoke her name—"Mary." It was only one word; but with it came recognition, relief and reassurance. It told her that the very One she had known and loved, had not left her desolate but was alive again and had conquered Death.

Our given names are very personal. Sometimes acquaintances of past years forget and

when we meet they do not remember our names.

But the Lord Jesus knows everyone who is His and He never forgets our names. We have His sure word for it: "The Lord knoweth them that are his" (II Tim. 2:19).

And I can believe that everyone who goes to sleep in Jesus and awakes in His glorious presence doubtless hears Him speak his or her name, as His weeping friend did in the garden, when He said with such love and tenderness, "Mary."

—Viola Walden

## SOME RAIN MUST FALL...

Into each life some rain must fall... By poets we are told... That's why they make umbrellas for... The young and for the old... The fact that you are young in years... Is not a certain sign... That you will escape the heartaches, or... Your world will always rhyme... For God, somehow, sees to it that... We all will have our share... And somewhere on this road of life... We'll have a cross to bear... Some folks are glad to carry it... They always wear a smile... While others make an awful fuss... And Providence defile... So why not learn this simple prayer... And say, "Thy will be done,"... Then you'll not need a raincoat when... Your rainy seasons come.

## GOD'S WORD IN SYMBOLS

1. The Mirror, to show us ourselves as we are and may be (James 1:23-25).
2. The Laver, to wash away our sins and defilement (Ephesians 5:26).
3. The Lamp and Light, to guide us in the right way ((Psalm 119:105).
4. The Milk, Bread, Strong Meat, and Honey, affording sustenance and satisfaction to the believer (Hebrews 5:14; Psalm 19:10).
5. The Fine Gold, to enrich us with Heavenly treasure (Psalm 19:10).
6. The Fire, Hammer, and Sword, to be used in the warfare of life (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17).
7. The Seed, to beget souls in God's image and to plant harvest fields (Matthew 13).

—A.T. Pierson

## WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

There are four kinds of people in the world. They are:

The Tired

The Retired

The Tiresome,

and the Tireless.

What we need in the church is less of the first three kinds and more of the last, the Tireless.

## I KNOW THAT GOD IS HERE

Though I cannot feel Thy hand, I know 'tis there;  
Thine ear bent down to catch my every prayer;  
My Father's tender glance to strengthen me  
When I in darkness grope unseeingly.

Thy Presence fills this humble place;  
Thine arms are 'round me in unseen embrace;  
And oh, dear Father, though I cannot see,  
I know that Thou art here to comfort me.

—H. P. McDonald

# Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

\*STORIES  
\*EVENTS  
\*VIEWS  
\*NEWS



## BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE!

One of the things I've noticed that causes concern among some believers in Christ is that of not knowing for sure they are really saved. They don't doubt that you can be saved, or doubt that you can know for sure that you are saved, but they struggle with whether or not they have personally exercised sufficient faith to be saved. By not having the assurance of salvation it often prevents them from living a successful, happy Christian life. Fear and doubt torments them and destroys their effectiveness for the Lord.

On the other hand, assurance of salvation brings great peace and joy to those believers who know for sure they are going to Heaven when they leave this world.

The problem for people who lack assurance is that they look to themselves and not to Jesus and His Word. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith, and not us. The basis of assurance is in His faithfulness, not ours. If you put your confidence in how you feel, what you understand, or what you accomplish or don't accomplish, you will never have assurance. How you feel, fail or succeed has nothing to do with salvation or assurance of salvation.

The Calvinists, who believe you are either predestinated to Heaven or Hell, have no assurance of salvation. They don't know until they die whether they went to Heaven or Hell.

The Armenians, who believe you can be saved and lost, saved and lost, etc., don't know either...until they face their final test to see if they made it or not. Both of these beliefs produce the curse of insecurity.

But, those of us who have put our trust and faith in the shed blood of Christ, have assurance of salvation because He alone can save and keep us saved. Our salvation is not found in our faithfulness, but His faithfulness. Your faithfulness and good works, big or little, do not take you to Heaven. Your security and assurance is found in Jesus Christ alone. We work for Christ because we are saved, not to be saved. Read Ephesians 2:8-9, I John 5:13 and John chapter 10.

-contributed