

2021 New years message...not about going forward but being who you are meant to be in the world...light shining in darkness in Darkness

Do you know the world has many forms of government which rule over /nations/lands some of the most common are Dictators, those ruled by a Monarchy, Communism, Democracy, Fascism, Republics, Anarchy, Czars, Parliament, Constitutional Monarchy, Military Juntas, Commonwealths, Islamic republics, Emirates, Marxist, and Socialist...Republic they all can have pluses and they all have definite minuses but ultimately they will all fail...

Why? For corruption is the way of wicked and nothing attracts the wicked like power.... for power reveals the corruption of the heart ...and Corruption always involves the trampling of rights and perpetration of injustice ... and this takes place in greater and less ways through out the world and in every government..

Proverbs 17:23 *The wicked take secret bribes to pervert the course of justice.*

tell conversation with Jesus ...why are you allowing evil to prosper? How long? Jesus responded in my heart...look at the justice I received...corrupt religious leadership...

Corrupt religious leadership...

Mark 14:55 *Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council^[h] were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any. ⁵⁶ Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. ⁵⁷ Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony: ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'" ⁵⁹ But even then they didn't get their stories straight! ⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" ⁶¹ But Jesus was silent and made no*

reply. Then the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” ⁶² Jesus said, “I AM.^[i] And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand^[i] and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, “Why do we need other witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?” “Guilty!” they all cried. “He deserves to die!” ⁶⁵ Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. “Prophecy to us,” they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away.

Corrupt government Pilate meets with him and sends to to Herod who sends him back...so Pilates does t this...

Luke 23:13 Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, ¹⁴ and he announced his verdict. “You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. ¹⁵ Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. ¹⁶ So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him. We pick up the injustice in John

John 9:1 Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. ² The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. ³ “Hail! King of the Jews!” they mocked, as they slapped him across the face. ⁴ Pilate went outside again and said to the people, “I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty.” ⁵ Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, “Look, here is the man!” ⁶ When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” “Take him yourselves and crucify him,” Pilate said. “I find him not guilty.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders replied, “By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God.” ⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever. ⁹ He took Jesus back into the headquarters^[a] again and asked him,

“Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. ¹⁰ “Why don’t you talk to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?”

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.” ¹² Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ ^[b] Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.” ¹³ When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, ^[c] “Look, here is your king!”

¹⁵ “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back. ¹⁶ Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

All this absolute corruptness served God's ultimate purpose... speaking to his disciples on the night he was arrested

..after Peter tried to save him...

***Matthew 26:** ⁵³ Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands ^[a] of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? ⁵⁴ But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?”*

***John 12:30** Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. ³² And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”*

- **How is he cast out? one person at a time...in every generation...until the Lord comes... Why? because corrupt government has been with us for Satan is the ruler of this world...and he is absolutely corrupt..and this is where the battle lies...**

- **but the enemy makes that difficult:**

2 Corinthians 4:4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God

- **blind means to live in darkness... one of the ways he blinds people...is to blame God for evilthey are blinded in their minds to Christ... so they judge God by what goes on in the natural...as if that is all there is..**

But God did not leave us in that condition...But he brings light to this world...that they may see...and believe..

ChristmasA light shined in darkness. Jesus

*Isaiah 9:2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great **light**. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a **light** will **shine**.*

- **and when you see and believe something incredible happens...**

John 1:12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

- **This goes on in every generation until the Lord returns Why?**

1 Timothy 2:³ This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵ For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.

Today the light still shines...

John 1: ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

- **listen Jesus gave his followers this description to his followers and he gave it in the context of what his people are to this world...not what**

they would become but what they are.... light to this world..for that is what he is..

JN 8:12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

- **this is where you will find your passion...what we were made for... because your work will no longer be work...but it is transformed into a labor of love and purpose.... you and I were designed to work in that which blesses others...which draws them to Christ**
- **Jesus said his followers are what he claimed himself to be...**

MT 5:14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

- **this is where you will find your passion...what we were made for... because your work will no longer be work...but it is transformed into a labor of love and purpose....you were designed to labor in love....you and I were designed to work in that which blesses others... When Jesus stated that his followers were lights to the world he said they were to be like him to the world Jesus goes on to explain some *things about light*...**

Jesus goes on to explain some things about light...

One ...the lamp is lit by someone else...the lamp is lit by a light...Jesus the lighter...we are the lamp...the lamp does not light itself it is lit by another Two it is not lit to be hid...but to be visible..

Explain light in a roman/Jewish household... Oil fired lamps are critical in a land without electricity...in America we do not appreciate this fact ...but much of the world would.

- **Lit once and then kept lit all the time or transferred the light while the oil was refilled...when they left the house the lamp was placed under an earthen shelter..kept lit...but used to avoid accidental fire...**

*****So Jesus is saying that we are light in our house and in our city...we are meant to shine light in it! We are meant to be visible...**

- **interesting because sometimes we try to be invisible... usually because we do not feel we measure up to what we think the light in us should display...**
- **But don't you see...that is part of what God wants the world to see...authentic light... when we try to act like were all together when were not...it is a fake light...it is deceptive...it is not how we really are...**
- **There are a number of aspects to good deeds One of the good deeds is being a real Christian in our world...not perfect but growing, when wrong admitting it**
- **not judging but loving, yet speaking truth with grace, knowing we too fall short... basically living life in the open... we are meant to be seen...**

*****Secondly light is used to guide... not only does Light illuminate darkness, it directs and lights the way to go, brings clarity, use the example of a flash light... it not dependent on how big the light is...**

- for a little light will direction in a larger dark room....
- We do not have to be a huge beam give light...we just have to be light...
- **the Key is staying lit! because if we stay lit...we will in time begin to draw people to follow...they will get curious!**

- **That is our mission in 2021!...**

but there is a principle at work here... the more light principle....

LK 8:16 “No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. ¹⁷ For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.

¹⁸ “So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”

- **the light in a follower of Jesus will give off more light over time or less light over time...depends on what is hidden or not disclosed...and brought out into the open...**
- **you see God’s light working in us reveals that which is still in darkness...when that is brought on and dealt with....our light grows in its capacity to lead others, who have similar darknesses.**
- **our light shines brighter and more effectively in the world we live in... and the opposite is true...**
- **So the immature thinks complete change is done in a flash by God or once done never to be dealt with again...and especially never to fail in it again..... they are wrong on all counts...**

The apostle Paul explains this...

PHP 3:12 I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. ¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

➤ **It takes a long time to reach your maturity in Christ ... so what does the light of a maturing person look like?**

- **In a worried world the follower of Jesus should stand out as calm**
- **In a depressed world the follower of Jesus should be the flavor enhancer of Joy**
- **In a fearful world the follower of Jesus should stand out as fearless**
- **In an unstable world the follower of Jesus should stand out as a model of stability and steadfastness in the midst of change**
- **In a selfish world the follower of Jesus should stand out as the flavor of selflessness**
- **In a world filled with pain, follower of Jesus should stand out for their compassion a healing balm**
- **In a world filled with confusion, the follower of Jesus should stand out for their understanding...**
- **In a world filled with hate...we should stand out for our love..**
- **living under the King and according to the government of the Kingdom of God becomes the focus of our lives... ..**
- **The fact that Jesus has invited you to be in his family and on His ministry team should do wonders for your self- confidence and create high expectations...you have not been created for a meager existence... explain ruled emotionally by the corruption around us....**
- ***EPH 2: 10* For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**
- **You are on a Mission from God and the world is our overall objective, and your environment is your assignment...**
- **go into 2021 focused on that...be who you are ! light in darkness.. shine**
- **end**

when all earthly governments collide one day with and be brought under the ruler ship of King Jesus! and the world will have Kingdom government ...A new King is coming and even now is at work among us establishing his Kingdom...

John 1:10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.

- **[Acts 1:3](#)** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about **the kingdom of God...**

- **The Kingdom of God is advancing..toward final restoration...**
- ^{Rev 22:3} No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. **And they will reign for ever and ever.**

Jesus said you guys are the real deal...you are salt and light to this world...so let what you are be displayed....

Look we live in a dark corrupted world becoming even more corrupted...the news media show us all the times... So when Jesus speaks of us as being light...

- **he speaks of us as a gift to the world of extreme value and importance ..and as an essential promoting and sustaining life... and if we are not that then what is our value to the world?**
- **and he says we are light... dispels darkness allows one to see.. and light gives guidance...**

The fact that Jesus has invited you to be in his family and on His ministry team should do wonders for your self- confidence and create high expectations...you have not been created for a meager existence... explain....

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The kingdom of God has a government ...that is ruled by justice and rights

[2 Corinthians 4:4](#)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God

That is why Paul says...

Galatians 3:26

So in Christ Jesus you are all **children of God** through faith

- Through Jesus You now have the rights of a child of God
- it is not feelings it is a legal kingdom right!
- My core identity is a child of God by Right...just like I am an American by right! I was born in this country
- I was born into the family of God...in the kingdom of God...I have rights...
- This is what John tells us...

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God**—

- Right now we live by faith waiting for the establishment of that country united with the heavenlies called the kingdom of God

Heb 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. **14** People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

1 John 3:10

This is how we know who the **children of God** are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister

Romans 14:17

For the **kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 4:20

For the **kingdom of God** is not a matter of talk but of power

Luke 13:28-30

New Living Translation

²⁸"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. ²⁹And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. ³⁰And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then."

^v *Matt 5: 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

¹⁴ *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*

¹⁵ *Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they **may see your good deeds** and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **Jesus said you guys are the real deal...you are salt and light to this world...so let what you are be displayed...And the good deeds you do displayed to the world...that this world will come to glorify God...through them...**
- **in other words the world will see who you are truly, and benefit from your deeds and then they will be drawn to Godif you lose who you are...what value to the world are you?**

To us today salt is something taken for granted, in fact most of us never even think about it until we either cook or eat...or have to limit its intake for health reasons...but let me share a couple of facts with you about the importance of salt to life...literally life...

Lets start with salt... Salt or sodium chloride is extremely important ...it is an essential element in the diet of all human and animal and plant life.

Salt is made up of sodium and chloride ..sodium and chlorine tightly bond together and is soluble only in water and a very few other fluids.

It is an essential life promoting and sustaining mineral.

- **Salt is odorless but has a distinctive taste**
- **Most biological tissues and body fluids contain a varying amount of salt.**

- The concentration of sodium ions in the blood is directly related to the regulation of safe body fluids
- Saline 0.9% sodium chloride in water is called normal saline...what they give you at the hospital to replace fluids, to treat dehydration and for intravenous therapy and to prevent hypovolemic shock.
- Salt is conductive so is capable of carrying electrical current and is also called “Electrolytes” The average American consumes 7 pounds of salt a year and 500 pounds during their lifetime.
- It is one of the most effective and widely used of all food preservatives...
- it was a key ingredient used to preserve Egyptian mummies.
- It’s industrial and other uses are almost without number.
- Salt has great current as well as historical interest..
- Salt served as money at various times and places, and it has been the cause of bitter warfare and until the 1900’s salt was one of the prime movers of national economies and wars. It played roles in most every conflict... high tax on salt was a contributing cause of the French revolution ...the English attempted a salt embargo against the colonist during the American revolution, and many, many more.
- Humans are unusual among the primates in secreting large amounts of salt by sweating...
- Throughout history salt was one of the valuable commodities known to man...salt was taxed from as far back as the 20th century BC in china. During Jesus’ time salt was used as currency...hence the term salary... “sal” salt and “solde”
- And the saying...”he is not worth his salt” can be trace to Greece where slave were traded for salt...
- The Romans also salted their vegetables...hence the term ...salad
- The French gave us the word soldier... whose root is salt...a soldier was salt paid...or allotted money to purchase salt..

- Many cities throughout history were founded because of their proximity to salt mines...and both Cincinnati and Detroit are on top of active salt mines.
- The ocean is 3.5% salt and if it were evaporated the salt remaining would make a 180 mile high wall one mile thick all the way around the equator...with 90% of that salt being pure table salt.

So ... Salt is life giving and life sustaining...but it is something else... salt is a preservative...it is what is called aseptic...it halts decay... Jesus says you are salt to this world ...wherever you are decay should be halted...you will not change a corrupt heart but your influence will help stop it's spread...

so in the planning of your life do something that blesses people and you will find fulfillment.. and never work another day in your life...

listen...Jesus came to earth motivated by love of humanity... his labor/work was born out of love...he endured the cross out of love...therefore it was not just a passionless job...it was full of purpose...full of joy....sorrow became bearable...pain became bearable...the goal was paramount! So whatever labor , self sacrifice , work , pain, it took to accomplish the job was acceptable.

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102410A The More Light Principle Acts 10

It may well be said that this is the greatest compliment the Lord could pay anyone...for in it Jesus commands the Christian to be what he claimed himself to be...

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- Jesus commands his followers to be what he claimed himself to be...

JN 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

this is why I want us to find our passion...what we were made for... because your work will no longer be work...but it is transformed into a labor of love....you were designed to labor in love....you and I were designed to work in that which blesses others...and in that we will find we love itbecause if you do you will never work another day in your life... you will labor...but the motivation is love....****