



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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FIRST CHURCH OF GOD: 3RD. AVE. & HWY. 508 ONALASKA, WASHINGTON 98570



A YEAR OF TIME

*Steven B. Cloud,
Pulpit Helps, Vol. 14, # 2*

Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove dis-comforting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2012 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 366 days, 8,784 hours, 549,000 minutes, 31,622,400 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yes-

terday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The New Year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

WHEN GOD RESTORES WHAT THE LOCUSTS EAT

Friday, March 10, 2006
by Os Hillman

I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten - the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm - My great army that I sent among you. ~ Joel 2:25



God brings about both the good and the bad. The seasons of famine have a divine purpose in our lives. They accomplish things that only these hard places can accomplish. But there is a time when those hard

places have accomplished their purpose and He begins to restore. God did this with the nation of Israel after a season of famine and devastation.

Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for He has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten - the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm - My great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will My people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will My people be shamed" (JOEL 2:23-27).

God wants each of us to know that there is a time when He will restore in order to demonstrate His gracious hand in our lives. He is a loving Father who tenderly guides His children through the difficult places. If God has taken you through a time of lean-ness, know that He is the restorer of that which the locusts have eaten. Wait patiently for Him to bring this about in your life. He will do it.

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DETERMINATION

By Author Unknown

In 1883, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting New York with the Long Island. However bridge building experts throughout the world thought that this was an impossible feat and told Roebling to forget the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical. It had never been done before.

Roebling could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge. He thought about it all the time and he knew deep in his heart that it could be done. He just had to share the dream with someone else. After much discussion and persuasion he managed to convince his son Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge in fact could be built.

Working together for the first time, the father and son developed concepts of how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could be overcome. With great excitement and inspiration, and the headiness of a wild challenge before them, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge.

The project started well, but when it was only a few months underway a tragic accident on the site took the life of John Roebling. Washington was injured and left with a certain amount of brain damage, which resulted in him not being

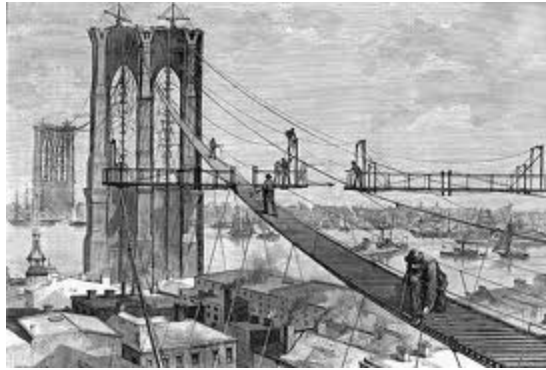
able to walk or talk or even move.

"We told them so."

"Crazy men and their crazy dreams."

"Its foolish to chase wild visions."

Everyone had a negative comment to make and felt



that the project should be scrapped since the Roeblings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built. In spite of his handicap Washington was never discouraged and still had a burning desire to complete the bridge and his mind was still as sharp as ever.

He tried to inspire and pass on his enthusiasm to some of his friends, but they were too daunted by the task. As he lay on his bed in his hospital room, with the sunlight streaming through the windows, a gentle breeze blew the flimsy white curtains apart and he was able to see the sky and the tops of the trees outside for just a moment.

It seemed that there was a message for him not to give up. Suddenly an idea hit him. All he could do was move one finger and he decided to make the

best use of it. By moving this, he slowly developed a code of communication with his wife.

He touched his wife's arm with that finger, indicating to her that he wanted her to call the engineers again. Then he used the same method of tapping her arm to tell the engineers what to do. It seemed foolish but the project was under way again.

For 13 years Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally completed. Today the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge stands in all its glory as a tribute to the triumph of one man's indomitable spirit and his determination not to be defeated by circumstances. It is also a tribute to the engineers and their team work, and to their faith in a man who was considered mad by half the world. It stands too as a tangible monument to the love and devotion of his wife who for 13 long years patiently decoded the messages of her husband and told the engineers what to do.

Perhaps this is one of the best examples of a never-say-die attitude that overcomes a terrible physical handicap and achieves an impossible goal.



ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
EVENING SERVICE 5:00 PM

MONDAYS

LADIES BIBLE STUDY
2:00 PM

TUESDAYS

AL-ANON MEETING
6:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

SOUP & SANDWICHES
6:00 PM
BIBLE STUDY
6:30 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th

LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th

CHURCH POTLUCK
FOLLOWING MORNING SERVICE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18th

SENIORS ON THE GO
12:00 NOON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th

AMERICAN LEGION
6:00 PM

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

It was early January, and we were sitting around our friends' fireplace when Ron brought out a stack of pine branches. Nancy

explained that she had read of an old tradition where each person placed a pine branch on the fire and made a wish for the New Year.



We began talking of our wishes. We mentioned cars, color TVs--all sorts of fun luxuries. Then my thoughts flashed to the new meaning in my life since I had joined a prayer group. I wanted other people to know God as I did. And so as I placed my branch on the crackling fire, I quietly prayed, "Please let one person, just anyone, be drawn closer to the Lord because of me."

I remembered the prayer often in the months ahead as I tried to be always available as God's witness in church meetings, Sunday school and social activities.

In August the thought occurred to me--What if someone wanted to know more about the Lord and I didn't have the answers for them? I began reading the Bible, studying lives of men whom God had transformed, and reading devotional classics. But nothing seemed to materialize.

Suddenly it was December 31. I remembered my prayer wish and tried to think who it was that I had brought closer to the Lord. I finally had my answer--no one! I sat for a few minutes trying to understand. Then I said, "Lord, I know You answer every prayer. I believe. I trust You, but where is my answer?"

And in that next moment, the Lord spoke to me in words I could almost hear. "Don't you know it is you and I who are closer?"

And, of course, He was right. Our friendship had deepened; I did know Him better. My New Year's wish had come true.

◆ *Received from Mary Noland*

MY NEW COAT

(Author Unknown)

I have a new coat; it was designed by God and given to me by Jesus Christ. All I had to do to receive this coat was to believe in God's only Son.

I find it fits me perfectly unless I allow myself to become puffed up with foolish pride, then it's too tight. If I walk with my head high, trying to be above those about, then it is too short. But if I walk humbly as I should before God, it fits me just right.

How is the coat made?

The shoulders are wide and roomy so that I can help my fellow man carry his burdens.

The collar is made of God's mercy, yes, and the mercy of God's promises. First that I may become his child and second, that I will one day dwell with Him in that home prepared for His saints.

The cuffs are narrow, so that there is no room to tuck away grievance and hard feelings toward my neighbors.

The pockets are oversized, One is for the love of God; the other is to hold my love for my fellowman and all humanity.

There are three buttons on my coat, which stands for faith, hope and charity. I check on them often so that none becomes loose or lost.



The lining is made of God's forgiveness, which I need so often that I, want it next to me at all times.

The belt is made of God's love that encircles me every-day.

The material is thick enough to protect me when the storms of life come my way, but not too thick that I will not be able to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit who guides me.

There are many threads in my new coat, but not one thread of doubt that God's promises are true,

Do you wonder about the

color of my coat? Why, it's the color of Jesus' eyes that must sparkle when a lost soul accepts Him.

I will need my coat all through life. When I travel through the valley of death and when I view the future, I will always wear my new coat.

◆ Received for Mary Noland

WHEN YOU SAY... GOD SAYS...

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible.

(Luke 18:27) And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

You say: "I'm too tired"

God says: I will give you rest.
(Matthew 11:28-30) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you.

(John 3:16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I John 3:1) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient.

(II Corinthians 12:9) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

& Psalm 91:15) He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

You say: "I can't figure things out"

God says: I will direct your steps
(Proverbs 3:5-6) Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things.

(Philippians 4:13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

◆ Received from Katie Jackson

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Z



If my memory serves me correctly, no one came up with the answer to last month's quiz. The answer is found in the second chapter of Luke, when Jesus was presented to the Lord.

The answer is Jesus and the priest who officiated.

Here is this month's quiz.

I saw them coming through the mountains made of brass.

They were coming swiftly they were coming fast.

Four different chariots drawn by horses strong and clean.

They were different colors strange as it may seem.

There were horses of white and horses of bay

Horses of black and red what else can I say.

They went to the North, they went to the South.

They were doing God's will walking about.

Now tell me my name if you think you know

But you better be quick and not too slow.

A candy bar will be yours if you're on the ball.

Happy New Year to one and to all.

NAME YOUR BENEFITS

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young engi-

neer fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

The engineer said, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer said, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks' vacation, fourteen paid holidays, full



medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50%

of salary, and a company car leased every two years - say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

And the interviewer replied, "Yeah, but you started it."

◆ Received from James Sparks

SEVEN QUESTIONS:

1. The word has 7 letters
2. Preceded God
3. Greater than God
4. More evil than the devil
5. All poor people have it
6. Wealthy people need it
7. If you eat it you will die

GOD IS WATCHING THE APPLES

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on



the apple tray: 'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples...'



◆ Received from Hugh McDonald

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Com-



mandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the command-

ment to 'honor' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

◆ Received from Hugh McDonald

WORD IS NOTHING

1. Nothing has 7 letters
2. Nothing preceded God
3. Nothing is greater than God
4. Nothing is more evil than the devil
5. Nothing is what poor people have
6. The wealthy people need Nothing.
7. If you eat Nothing, you will die.