



Vol. 3, No. 01 – January 3, 2016

EAST COLUMBUS BULLETIN

Our Nation's Puzzle

by Mike Thomas

A father wanted to test his daughter's knowledge of the geography of The United States. He found a page in a magazine that had a map of the country and tore it into small pieces. He gave it to her and said, "Go in the other room and see if you can put this together." After a few minutes, she returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she finished it so quickly. "Oh that was easy," she declared. "On the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I put Him back where He belonged, then our country just came together."

If only our nation would live with such wisdom!

There are many things we will not change in our world. Crime will always be here, thieves will always take from others, poverty will always be a problem, racism will always exist as well as falsely charged, and lazy people will always take advantage of generosity. But, we can change how this nation "tastes" to God. Namely, we can be the salt of the earth so that this world is more palatable to Him in delaying His judgment (Gen. 18:27-32). We can vote for godliness, then pray for our leaders "and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (1 Tim. 2:2). We can obey the righteous laws of the land in promoting goodness, "not only because of wrath but also for conscience's sake" (Rom. 13:5). We can glorify God in our body and spirit, "which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20). We can teach others to place Jesus first in life to find peace and happiness (Matt. 11:28-30).

Hence, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Pro. 14:34). And, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:28). Get the picture?

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 p. m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting 6:15 p.m. (TBA)
- The Pines Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Mon. 5:00 p.m.
- Cady Hill Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
- Recorded sermons and Gospel Meetings can be obtained by signing up in the foyer or going to the church website at <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/> or contacting Steve Coburn.
- Kevin Kay addresses submitted Bible questions in his sermon on the 1st Sunday of the month. Don't forget to submit questions.
- Next Gospel Meeting – March 2016 with Brett Hogland

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Jack Burkes, Eula Mae Harliss, Burt Wheeler
- **Limited Health:** Frances Barham, Joyce Monasco, Joyce Ratdiff, Willena Woods
- **Under Care for Cancer:** Sheree' Woods, Carolyn Johnson
- **Sick:** Lynette Coburn's father Harold Young is under hospice care. April Green continues to battle with neurological issues. Eula Mae Harliss has pneumonia. Nancy Williams is recovering from pneumonia.
- **Deaths:** We are saddened by the death of Adriana Borst, mother of Desiree' Wilson on Friday December 18, 2015. We extend our deepest sympathy to all the family.

Bible Question:

What resolution was uttered by Joshua that every Christian would do well to adopt in this New Year? (Read: Josh. 24:15)

Your Answer:

10 Biblical Resolutions for a Happy New Year

After a holiday break, as we counted down the 10 top posts for 2015, we are ready for a new and exciting year in 2016. Of course, everyone desires good health, prosperity, peace of mind and successful endeavors for the new year. However, Google revealed some rather unusual searches for New Year's resolutions.

The top 10 Google searches that people made in December for 2016 resolutions included the predictable how to remove stress and how to lose weight. But also making the top 10 were How to write a letter of recommendation. How to write a resignation letter. And even how to cook kale chips, cook cabbage, and crochet a beanie! Really? I've got a better list. And they are all Biblical. Here are 10 wishes that we send to each of you to make your 2016 the best year ever.

- (10) *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."* (Jas. 4:8)
- (9) *"I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word."*
(Ps 119:16)
- (8) *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thess. 5:16-18)
- (7) *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:5)
- (6) *"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* (Rom. 12:1-2)
- (5) *"Consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."* (Heb. 10:24-25)
- (4) *"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* (Matt. 7:12)
- (3) *"Then (Jesus) said to them all, "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*
(Lk. 9:23)
- (2) *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matt. 22:39)
- (1) *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment"*.
(Matt. 22:38)

You can probably think of some other important ones, that I've omitted. But I believe these will keep you busy for 2016...

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

ARE YOU STILL PRAYING "THY KINGDOM COME"?

I am!

In that prayer Jesus taught us to pray two thousand years ago, He told us to pray *"thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"...* Some have narrowly seen this instruction as to apply only to the ESTABLISHMENT of the kingdom (since the kingdom has already been here for many years, we do not need to pray for it).

Sometimes God's "kingdom" refers to His "realm of rule", or His exercise of His reign. While God IS always in control, no one would say that His authority has been respected or submitted to worldwide. And even though His "kingdom of Christ" has been established its potential is for endless expansion, as another soul submits to it – so it is continually "coming" in that sense. But, Christ Himself clarifies the point: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." That does not mean that everyone will submit to it, but that His purpose and will for all – whether submissive or not – will finally be imposed. He speaks of such a time in Php. 2:10 *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* As far as we are concerned, ready or not, when He is ready, He WILL have His way!

That will be a "great and terrible" day! For some it will be a goal reached to finally be taken to be with Jesus – GREAT! To most, it will be the bitter harvest of a life which would not yield to the authority of God – TERRIBLE! The ending is entirely up to us.

Aubrey C. Belue

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall
Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant
Preacher: Kevin Kay

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Comments are welcome for improving this bulletin which is published on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to send articles you have found helpful and instructive as well. Be sure to give credit to the source so it can be properly cited. See or call Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com. (EW)