

# The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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## **A WEE, LITTLE MAN**

*Larry R. Ping II*

As Christians, the people of God are in possession of tremendous gifts and blessings. They come from *“the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”* (Jam. 1:17). Perhaps we do not pause enough to remember those things “we have.” Now is a great time to do so!

**1) WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.** This good news was announced by Paul in Romans 5:1. Most today are looking for peace, but are glaring in the wrong direction. Genuine peace is made *“through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself”* (Col. 1:20). Do you have this peace? If not, why not?

**2) WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE ATONEMENT.** The apostle penned this wonderful information in Romans 5:11. To “atone” is “to make things right.” Sacrifices in the Law of Moses were made in order

to “make atonement” for individuals (Lev. 1:4). Jesus is our atoning sacrifice. He is the Only One Who can take one full of wrongs and make him right. Do you have a relationship with the One Who became your atonement? If not, why not?

### **3) WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY.**

Paul declared this in Romans 12:4. The body is identified as *“the church”* (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). It was said to the Corinthians *“the body is not one member, but many”* (I Cor. 12:14). Each member is different (I Cor. 12:21-24), yet each member stands ready to *“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep”* (Rom. 12:15). Do you, because of obedience to God, have many members with whom to live and labor? If not, why not?

**4) WE HAVE HOPE IN CHRIST.** Paul confirmed this in I Cor. 15:19, while reminding his readers of the tragedy of a non-resurrected Jesus. The Good Book reports

*“we are saved by hope”* (Rom. 8:24) and that hope serves *“as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast”* (Heb. 6:19). Do you have this hope? If not, why not?

**5) WE HAVE A BUILDING OF GOD.** This building is *“an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”* (II Cor. 5:1). As Abraham once confessed, so we confess, we are *“strangers and pilgrims on the earth”* (Heb. 11:13). As we often sing, “This world is not my home, I’m just passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.” Once physical life is complete, God’s children will eternally enjoy a place where *“there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away”* (Rev. 21:4). Do you have a building of God not made with hands?

**6) WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

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The Ephesian brethren were the recipient of this marvelous news (Eph. 1:7). Since “*all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23), all are in need of redemption from sin, the act of “buying back” sin. Christians are “*justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 3:24). Do you have redemption from your sin? If not, why not?

**7) WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE.** Paul penned these words in Ephesians 1:11. Christians stand to inherit something magnificent once earthly life is complete. Jesus has “*begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*” (I Pet. 1:3-4). Do you have this inheritance awaiting you? If not, why not?

**8) WE HAVE GREAT JOY AND CONSOLATION.** In writing to Philemon about his run-away slave

Onesimus, Paul made this comment (Phm. 7). For people of God, there is no reason not to be happy and joyful. The Philippian brethren were instructed to “*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice*” (Php. 4:4). Simply put, the Thessalonians were charged to “*Rejoice evermore*” (I Thess. 5:16). Do you have great joy and consolation? If not, why not?

**9) WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST.** The Hebrew author affirmed this in Hebrews 4:14. This High Priest “*is passed into the heavens,*” declared to be “*Jesus the Son of God,*” Who can be “*touched with the feeling of our infirmities,*” and has been “*in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*” (Heb. 4:14-15). God’s children have a sympathizing Jesus, who understands how it feels to be infirmed and how it feels to be tempted. Do you have Him as High Priest? If not, why not?

**10) WE HAVE RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.** The Bible confirms

Jesus said “*ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (Jn. 8:32).

Knowledge comes as a result of diligent study of God’s Word (II Tim. 2:15). Paul explained “*when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge*” (Eph. 3:4). Do you have a knowledge of the truth? If not, why not?

**11) WE HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE.** The Bible speaks of this kind of individual in Hebrews 13:18 when writing, “*Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.*” A good conscience is one which has responded to the Gospel call. Peter authored “*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (I Pet. 3:21). Do you have a clean and clear conscience as a result of obedience? If not, why not?

God has blessed us with great things, hasn’t He?

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## FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

### MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

### SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm