

“SOME THINGS TO BE IN 2023” by Larry R. Ping II

Our good Father has ushered us into the new year, 2023. Here are some things to be in 2023!

1) BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED. Paul noted, “*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*” (Rom. 8:6). In 2023, let us be more determined to know the spiritual impact of each decision we make.

2) BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER. Paul charged the Corinthians, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (I Cor. 1:10). In 2023, let us be more determined to foster unity among brethren.

3) BE ZEALOUSLY AFFECTED ALWAYS. The Galatians were told, “*But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you*” (Gal. 4:18). In 2023, let us be more determined to be energized about the Lord’s work, in and out of the meeting-house.

4) BE KIND. The Ephesians were taught to “*be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*” (Eph. 4:32). In 2023, let us be more determined to be courteous and kind to our fellow-man.

5) BE SINCERE. The brethren of Philippi were instructed to “*be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ*” (Php. 1:10). In 2023, let us be more determined to be truthful with others, both in word and in action.

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST ♦ Vincennes, Indiana
Meeting at Holiday Inn Express in Vincennes, Indiana
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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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FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

“NEW THINGS” by Larry R. Ping II

Today, the Lord has willed we enter a new year. Did you know the Bible speaks of several “new” things? Consider.

1) NEW TESTAMENT. Jesus said, “*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*” (Matt. 26:28). Did you know the New Testament is, in effect, Jesus’ will (Heb. 9:16-17)? Indeed it is!

2) NEW TOMB. Joseph of Arimathea laid Jesus in “*his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock*” (Matt. 27:60). Jesus was only here for three days (Matt. 12:40).

3) NEW CREATURE. Paul penned, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” (II Cor. 5:17). It is such a blessing from God to start as a Christian sin-free!

4) NEW MAN. Those who become Christians have “*put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Eph. 4:24). The old man must be left behind.

5) NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH. Christians look “*for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness*” (II Pet. 3:13). This is the eternal home of the faithful. Will you be a participant?

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BIBLE READING QUESTIONS

The Bible reading for January 1-7 spans John 1:1-John 5:30. Answer the following questions based upon your reading.

- 1) “In the beginning was the _____, and the Word was with _____, and the Word _____ God” (John 1:1).

- 2) What did the Word become according to John 1:14?

- 3) Where did Jesus begin his working of miracles (John 2:11)?

- 4) Why did John baptize in Aenon (John 3:23)?

- 5) “But _____ drinketh of the _____ that I shall give him shall never _____” (John 4:14).

- 6) At what hour was the nobleman’s son healed (John 4:52)?

- 7) Why did the impotent man not go down to the pool by himself (John 5:7)? _____

“BY THE WILL OF GOD” by Larry R. Ping II

The phrase “*by the will of God*” appears eight times in the Bible. This phrase indicates all things happen according to God’s decisions and at His times. It also suggests that we, as God’s subjects, must be pleased to accept His will.

For instance, Paul asked God three times to remove his “*thorn in the flesh*” (II Cor. 12:7-8). The Lord’s answer was, “*My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness*” (II Cor. 12:9). Briefly, God’s answer was no.

It must be noted, God’s will can be influenced by prayer. Hezekiah was told, “*Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live*” (II Kings 20:1). Immediately, Hezekiah “*turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD*” (II Kings 20:2). The result? God said, “*I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee*” (II Kings 20:5).

Even our Lord understood this when in the garden He prayed, “*O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done*” (Matt. 26:42). May we be pleased to accept the will of the Lord. After all, He knows what is best!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Services - 11:00 am & 3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm

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