

Be Of Good Cheer

John 16: 33

As another year draws to a close; the media will be re-playing all the highlights. And you know what the main items will be.

Weather is always grabbing the headlines; storms, (rain, wind, sand, & snow); droughts, and floods; extreme temperatures, (high and low); volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. And meteorites aren't the only objects falling from space. Troubles are all over the world.

Why are so many people drawn by morbid curiosity to disasters?

Then there are the political happenings; elections, scandals, deaths etc. The world's economies are in a mess, and getting worse. And the persecution of believers is on the rise everywhere.

But in spite of all that; Jesus Christ is still on the throne.

Acts 7: 55 & 56 - But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Isn't it comforting; to know that Our Heavenly Father is still in charge. And Our Lord Jesus did tell us what to expect.

John 16: 33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Yes, saints; be of good cheer; Jesus Christ has overcome the world. But those who don't have our Lord; guzzle down their false cheer, bottle by bottle; only to arouse themselves the next day in a massive hangover; and wondering how big a fool they had made of themselves. Isn't substance abuse terrible.

Thankfully Our Lord Jesus has provided a way out for those who want to be free. First, there's salvation.

Romans 10: 9 & 10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

And when we slip and fall; we do not lose our salvation.

1 John 1: 9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

And we don't have to stay bound by our problems; like substance abuse. But we do have to continually fight our old nature; which includes breaking bad habits; like drinking.

The Shed Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ is always available for us to be covered in.

1 John 1: 7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

And we can never have too much of the covering of the Blood.

We, as believers have special privileges.

Luke 10: 19 & 20 - Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

What happens when we use our authority?

Matthew 16: 19 - And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 12: 29 - Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

There are many opportunities to do binding and loosing.

Have you noticed how fast events transpire? Sudden death and destruction are happening in many places. And if you are somewhere, and feel an urgency to pray; follow the Holy Spirit. Your obedience could save some lives. & it did happen recently. It's important in times of trial and tribulation; not to lose control.

John 14: 1 - Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Luke 21: 19 - In your patience possess ye your souls.

Many people have been afflicted by traumatic shock; and their souls have been fragmented. Thankfully, with deliverance, they can be restored.

With all the doom and gloom around; let us not be paralysed by fears. Matthew 6: 34 - Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Hebrews 13: 6 - So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

John 14: 27 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

We will need all the Lord's Peace that we can get. And you can be sure that our adversary will try to mess it up as much as he can. One of his main tricks, is to overwhelm, or overload us through oppressions.

Psalms 55: 1 to 5 - Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication. Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me. My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

Matthew 24: 12 - And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

In case we don't grasp the full meaning, let us look at it again.

Matthew 24: 12 - And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Now just because prisons are setting inmates free because of overcrowding; doesn't necessarily mean an increase in lawlessness; or does it?

But the love of many growing cold is a big problem to-day; especially in the church. Didn't Our Lord address this specifically?

John 13: 34 & 35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

So as long as we are filled with Our Lord's Agape Love; all is well.

Where are the vulnerable areas?

1 Corinthians 6: 1 to 8 - Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

Now if you feel cheated by somebody, how will agape love reveal itself?

1 John 2: 7 to 11 - Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

And if hatred is not dealt with; what might happen?

1 John 3: 14 to 18 - We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God , because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

And history is full of the tragedies that hatred has caused.

Genesis 4: 1 to 12 - And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they

were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Genesis 27: 30 to 46 - And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau. And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed. And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father. And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck. And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I

slay my brother Jacob. And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day? And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

What is the worst type of war that a nation can have? Civil wars are the most devastating; especially when in families and churches.

And in spiritual warfare, we put them on the demons' kingdoms.

Is the devil really that bad?

John 8: 44 - Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

So he is the father of lying and murders. And those are on the increase in society. They are part of a package the devil has for those who are not in a righteous Godly relationship with Our Heavenly Father, through the Shed Blood of His Son; the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 7: 20 to 23 - And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

That's a big list; but don't go into denial, saying that it doesn't affect you.

The sins should be confessed. These sins of the fathers need to be confessed, and the curses broken off. Then these demonic kingdoms need

to be kicked out; as Our Lord says.

Mark 16: 15 to 18 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

And when we cast out these demons, we loose into us Godly spirits.

Paul gives us an example in Galatians 5: 19 to 26 - Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these ; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

And the more we live in the Spirit; the more we will be like Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13: 5 - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you.

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