

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Jan 2, 2011



HAPPY NEW YEAR

by Clifton Angel

I recently read that in the transition from 2007 to 2008 that there were 43 billion text messages sent to wish others, "Happy New Year". No doubt, it is a common concept or phrase used in the transition from one year to the next; however, how often do we think about what this phrase really means? What does it really mean when we tell others, "Happy New Year"? When I genuinely meditate upon these three words, I cannot help but to think about the inspired words of the Holy Scriptures.

As I think about the word **YEAR**, I am reminded that our life on this earth is bound by time. And as I think about time, I am reminded that life is but *a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away* (James 4:14). I am reminded also of the words recorded by King Solomon:

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace (Eccl. 3:1-8).

Also, when I think about time, I think about the Second Person of the Godhead! Four places the statement is recorded concerning our Lord: *I am Alpha and Omega* (Rev. 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13). Each gives the idea that He is *the beginning and the end*,...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

VISITORS, WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4:15 p.m.

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DEACONS

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Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...*the first and the last* (Rev. 22:13). [The depth of the meaning of *I AM* is remarkable! It reminds me of His eternality, but ultimately each time God used it, He was emphatically stating that He is the only One! He told Moses to tell it to the children of Israel because they were slaves of the Egyptians, who worshipped a multiplicity of gods, and God wanted the children of Israel to know that Jehovah is the only God, *I AM* (Ex. 3:14). The same is seen in the text of John 14:6: *Jesus saith unto him, I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me.* Jesus is the **ONLY** way!] Yes, we see the Word in the beginning and the end. *In the beginning, God created...* (Gen. 1:1). *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made* (John 1:1-3). He *laid the foundations of the earth* (Job. 38:4). He *hangeeth the earth upon nothing* (Job. 26:7). He caused the earth to be *turned as clay to the seal* (Job. 38:14), so that as the potter turns his clay to form pottery, even so the Lord caused the earth to revolve at 1000 miles per hour, so that we have 24 hours each day: He is the **beginning** of **time**. We also see Him in the end: *The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up* (2 Pet. 3:10). *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God* (1 Thess. 4:16). He also is the **end** of **time**. When we think about the word **YEAR**, let us remember what the Bible teaches us about time!

As I think about the word **NEW**, a host of Biblical concepts come to my mind. I think about the fact that we are under the NEW Testament, and when we obey its words concerning baptism, we experience a NEW birth which gives NEW life. However, within the context of these three words (HAPPY NEW YEAR), the main thing that comes to my mind is the abundance of God's blessings. NEW denotes that there is yet another of something given. NEW indicates a comparison or reflection upon the old. Therefore, not only is the NEW a wonderful blessing from God, but it should cause us to remember what God has done thus far. It is heart-breaking for me to listen to the bulk of "televangelists" and "radio preachers" today because it never fails, that in the close of almost every discourse, they will with great emphasis and enthusiasm say that the Bible teaches that you should give more that you might get more. Dear friends, that is backwards! We should not give more for the purpose of getting more. We should give more because we have already gotten! Let us never forget: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of...*

...turning (James 1:17)! Hymn writer Johnson Oatman, Jr. wrote: "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." Far above the physical blessings provided by God are the spiritual blessings found in Christ! *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ* (Eph. 1:3). When we think about the word **NEW**, let us remember the bountiful blessings bestowed upon us by our God in Heaven!

As I think about the word **HAPPY**, I think about a state of mind that can only be truly achieved with the help of God through His Word. We should open the Holy Writ, and observe what makes one happy. Jesus, the fulness of the eternal God in the flesh, took the position of a slave and washed the feet of His disciples, even Judas Iscariot, who was to betray Him. He was teaching them servitude and humility. He concluded His example by saying to them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, **happy** are ye if ye do them* (John 13:16, 17; **emph. added, CA**). Also, the Apostle Peter wrote, *if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, **happy** are ye, and if ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy** are ye* (1 Pet. 3:14; 4:14; **emph. added, CA**). Furthermore, the brother of Jesus wrote: *Behold, we count them **happy** which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy* (James 5:11; **emph. added, CA**). Therefore, if we are going to have a **HAPPY** new year, provided that God wills the time, we are going to have to **SERVE**, and we may have to **SUFFER**, and we must **STAND**! Lord willing, perhaps these things may come to mind as we use the words, "Happy New Year" in the transition into a new year provided by God!

*Wishing a truly **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all!*

WANT TO STUDY THE BIBLE?

We offer multiple avenues:

1. We can study with you in your home.
2. We have a postal correspondence course
Contact us at www.coldwatercofc.com.
3. You can study the Bible via an online course.
Visit www.ucanbsure.org.

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Julia Holmes was home Sunday with the flu.
Inez Neyman & Nora Boling were back with us Sunday.
Wiley Tuggle--Had his staples removed and continues to feel well after his surgery.
Elizabeth Baker is scheduled to have surgery this month (January) for a recurring problem.

Cathy Thompson; John Stephens; Joyce Stephens; Kinney Family; Thomas & Carolyn Davis

For the Bible studies and correspondence courses that are on-going, and the students & administrators of the studies.

Tim & Lynn Wilkes--They are scheduled to leave for Hawaii Jan. 3 to teach the Fishers of Men Program to brethren there. Let us pray for their safety and the success of the work.

Sympathy

Brown family--Jared's cousin passed away. His uncle also died recently. Let us pray strength & comfort through God's Word for this family.

Family & Friends

David Angel (Clifton's father)--scheduled for surgery on Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010.
Toria Payne family in Coldwater whose house burned.
Dunn Family--Recent accident and financial needs.
Joe Culbreath--several serious health issues.
Monroe church of Christ; James Angel; Steve Angel; Doyce "Doc" Hunt; Dave Leonard, Sr.

Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men and the Far East Missions.

Sermon Review

Hear 2 great sermons by 2 great men.
Visit www.coldwatercofc.com:

Billy Bland:
Peace

Timothy Wilkes, Sr.:
Spiritual Inertia

Get Involved!

New Years Eve! 8:00PM @ Coldwater
Come join in on the fellowship and fun!
Bring finger foods, snacks, and games!

New Quarter

Teacher rotation occurs this Sunday (1/2)!
We are thankful to all that are teachers and helpers!

Sunday Night for the Savior
January 2 after PM Services.
Bring Contacts and Finger Foods!

Bible Bowl

January 8 at the Looxahoma building.
STUDY Matthew 10-12!
See www.thebible.com for quizzes.

Privileged to Serve

Wednesday, December 29

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Caleb Baker
Prayer	Ron Johnson

Sunday, January 2

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jim Jackson
Announcements	Jason Bayless
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Adam Sowell
Assist	Billy Bland
	Jerry Davis
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Johnny Bayless

Evening

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Caleb Baker
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Adam Sowell
Closing Prayer	Jeremy Moore