



Volume 4, No. 1, January, 2016

### True Prosperity

Lord willing that all is well in our house come January 1, the Webbers will be sitting down to a meal of black-eyed peas with cornbread, cabbage, pork chops, and (if you know my sweet mother-in-law) many extras—a meal by which superstition states will bring us good luck and/or prosperity for the new year. Do we really believe that eating this meal will bring us good fortune? No, but it has become a favorite and expected meal on January 1.

- Black-eyed peas = coins.
- Cabbage (greens or kale) = green folding money. (NOTE: According to my google search, they must be together. You cannot just have the cabbage without the black-eyed peas. That must go back to the saying, "Take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves.")
- Pork = moving forward. (Pigs rout the ground forward.)

I can almost smell the cornbread cooking in the oven now.

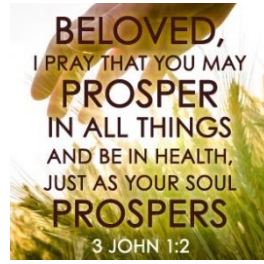
The real prosperity of that day will be when we circle the table, join our hands, bow our heads, and as a family (more importantly, part of the blood-bought family) go to the Father in prayer—a prayer of thanksgiving for His bountiful blessings.

- For His love and His precious Son (John 3:16-17) <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
- For the relationship in Him which brings salvation (Ephesian 1:2-14) <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and

peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,** <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>**In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace** <sup>8</sup>which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup>having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, <sup>10</sup>that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. <sup>11</sup>**In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,** <sup>12</sup>that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>**In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,** <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- And yes, for the black-eyed peas with cornbread, cabbage, pork chops, and many extras (Psalms 34:8) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

To my blood-bought family (those I know and love and to those I love without knowing), I pray that whatever happens in 2016, we draw nearer to God, cling to the hope that is in us through Christ Jesus, live by faith, and love one another in such a manner that the world knows we are His disciples (read Romans 12 and I Thessalonians 5). The Father and Son must be our ultimate source of contentment, joy, and life—true prosperity. God bless you!



Kathy Webber, Rolla, Missouri  
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### RECYCLING A LIFE?

Can God use us—take what is ugly and turn it into something pretty and useful? Of course He can!

Many are into “recycling” nowadays. We save papers, glass, aluminum cans, etc. Some people who are crafty can turn many throw-away items into things of beauty and usefulness. Other things we take to the recycle center to be used again. This helps the landfills and keeps down clutter in our town.

Do we ever think of the lives—our own and others—that can be recycled? Through God’s touch, many lives can be brought back into usefulness. James 5:19-20 says, “my brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Galatians 6:1: “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore (recycle) such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you, too be tempted.”

Let’s get into the “recycling” of souls.

Letha Dawdy, Clovis, NM  
©May, 1999



### FRUIT FOR THE NEW YEAR

A new year has been compared to a new page, a fresh start, or a new day. One resolution all Christians should make for the coming year is to produce more fruit. It has been said that the Bible is its own best commentary. With that in mind, just read the following passages and

see if you could be more fruitful in any of the areas mentioned.

Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**. Against such there is no law.”

Ephesians 5:9-10 – “For the fruit of the Spirit is in all **goodness, righteousness and truth** – finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

Hebrews 13:15-16 – “Therefore, by Him let us continually



offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that the **fruit** of our lips, giving **thanks** to His name. But do not forget to **do good** and to **share**, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

James 3:18 – “Now the **fruit of righteousness is** sown in peace by those who make **peace**.”

Have a blessed and fruitful new year.

Jeanetta Watkins, Adamsville, Alabama  
©January, 2014

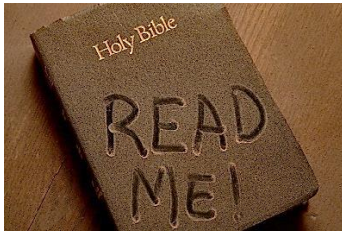


### **Just Use Me - I am the Bible**

*Just use me...I am the Bible  
I am God’s wonderful library  
I am always...above all—the truth.  
To the weary pilgrim,  
I am a good strong staff.  
To the one who sits in gloom,  
I am a glorious light.  
Generations follow generations...  
**Yet I live.**  
Kings, dictators, presidents come and go...  
**Yet I live.**  
Doubted, suspected and criticized...  
**Yet I live.**  
Misconstrued and misstated...  
**Yet I live.**  
Ranted and raved about...  
**Yet I live.**  
My inspiration denied...  
**Yet I live.**  
I live as a lamp to your feet, and a  
Light unto your paths.*

*I am a standard for childhood,  
 A guide for youth  
 A comfort for the aged  
 Food for the hungry  
 Water for the thirsty  
 Rest for the weary,  
 Light for the brethren,  
 Salvation for the sinner  
 And grace for the Christian.  
 To know me is to love me;  
 To love me is to accept me.  
 To accept me means life eternal.*

*From a poem by Willard L. Johnson*



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### **Stay in the Race!**

For a long time, it seems I have been strolling casually along in this Christian race. There have even been times when I have slowed to a crawl! Lately, it seems like I have just been trudging along, sometimes slowly and sometimes speeding up to a mere trot!

But suddenly I have hit a stretch that demands that I run with all that is in me. This stretch is steep, and the path is not smooth. There are rough places of sin to deal with along the way. There is the loose gravel of unpredictable relationships, and it slips out from under my feet leaving me startled and disoriented.

My legs are so tired. My breath comes in hard gulps and gasps, and my sides hurt with exertion. I am weary and thirsty, and I need rest. It is so tempting to stop on the side of the road -- just for a little while -- just to rest my legs in idleness and to catch my breath in self-pity. Just to drink of the deceptively cool waters of temptation along the way.

In my self-pity, I cry out to God, "Why must I hurt like this? Look at all the others who have not run as long or as hard as I. Some of them have been lured by the enticements of the world and have dropped out of the race. Many of those still trying to stay in this race are resting idly along the way. *They* don't work nearly as hard at running this race as I do!"

But then I realize that this race is mine alone. I cannot pattern my race by the leisurely patterns of others. God wants *me* to finish this race. Yes, there will be hard times

along the course. But I remember that each time there have been difficulties along the way, God has sent His blessings to refresh my aching soul. He has sent the cool dew of His love and the mist of His forgiveness to quench my thirst. He has always helped me find that "second wind."

But is this really *my* race alone? Have there not been other runners along the way who have encouraged me as we each strive to reach the end? Haven't there been those who have kindly said, "You are running a good race. I know you are tired and the way has been toilsome, but look how far you have come! Keep going! You will make it!"

When the worries and cares I have been carrying have gotten so heavy I thought I could not carry them any further, some sweet brother or sister has come along and said, "Let me help you carry that burden for a while. If we carry it together, it will be easier for both of us."

Yes, this is my race, but not mine alone. And the others who are running with me--their race is also my race. There are times when I can help them toward the finish line. We must all keep running this race together so that we can all reach the finish line. The prize there is big enough to go around. There is plenty for all who are running. We just have to keep going! Don't quit!

Though the course of this race sometimes is difficult and it seems like I have many weights on my back as I run, there have been many good times along the way. And the good times



always seemed better and sweeter for having come through the wearisome parts. All God asks of me is that I complete the race, and keep running. That I keep my eye on the prize at the end of the race--where I will ultimately be with Him--where there will be no more hardships. Where there will be no gasping for spiritual breath, no pain of sin in my body or my soul, and no self-pity. There will be no more hurt feelings or heavy burdens.

The end of the marathon is closer now than when I started. Though there have been -- *and there will yet be* -- hard times along the way, there will be rest at the end of the marathon. The prize will be so awesome and glorious that all the tears and pain and problems along the way will seem as nothing. Victory is mine if I just *stay in the race!*

[Scripture References](#) (next page)



2 Timothy 4:6-8: For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have **finished my course**, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Hebrews 12:1-6: Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.** <sup>4</sup>You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; <sup>5</sup>and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "my son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the lord, nor faint when you are reprovved by him; <sup>6</sup>for those whom the Lord loves he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives."

Acts 20:24: But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may **finish my race with joy**, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Galatians 2:2: And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, **lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.**

Galatians 5:7: **You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?**

Philippians 2:12-16: So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. <sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or disputing; <sup>15</sup>so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>**holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.**

Revelation 2:10: 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days: **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Evelyn Waite  
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## KEEP RIGHT!

My husband and I have been on the road a lot lately. It's also the time of year when road crews are working on the highways. We saw a sign the other day that said "Keep right".

As I make decisions every day, I need to remember that sign - Keep Right. God wants us to follow His Way, and he



has provided us with a means of knowing what that way is. Through inspiration, His Words have been written down and passed along to us through the Bible.

He didn't mean for us to have to struggle alone, though. When we decide to follow His Way and are baptized for the remission of our sins, we become part of Christ's body - the church. In the church family, there are people also striving to "keep right." By meeting with them and receiving edification and encouragement, we have a loving support group to help us make the right decisions.

Through prayer and reading of the Bible, we can be guided and learn how to live our lives "right"eously. There are signs all along the way, if we will just watch for them.

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, TX  
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**Lord willing, Treasures Among Us will return next month in the February issue.**



*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserve.org>. Click on Resources, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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