

The ancient of days

Time feels like it's relentlessly racing forward. It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the year 2000, just yesterday the kids were little, just yesterday... Where does time go? Why does it pass by so incredibly fast? It's not that I particularly want to be stuck in high school, or for my kids to be babies forever, but wouldn't it be nice if we could just slow down time?

Psalm 103 reminds us, "We are just dust, our days are like grass, we flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

James asks the question, "What is your life?" Then he answers, "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

Psalm 90 soberly says, "The length of our days is seventy years or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."

As King Solomon pondered life, he said, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Everything is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. So my heart began to despair."

Solomon goes on to conclude

"Be still and know that I am God."

- PSALM 46:10



THE REV. CHARLIE LANIER

that God has set eternity in our hearts.

Our trips down memory lane, our laments about the passing of time, the uneasiness we feel when we experience change, the sick feeling that comes over us when we have to say goodbye - that is the painful longing for the eternal. Being made in the image of God, we have a longing for God. It's a longing that only Jesus can fill.

The prophet Daniel, reveals God to be the Ancient of Days. "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. (Daniel 7:9)

The very name of God means "I Am that I Am." He alone is eternal and unchanging. Before the heavens and the earth existed, in the beginning there was

God. When the heavens and the earth burn up, in the end there will be God. In a hundred years, in a thousand years, the only thing that matters will be God.

As we place our faith in Jesus, the eternal longing of our hearts is met. Those gloomy verses concerning the brevity of life contain promises. "As for man, his days are like grass...but from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him" (Psalm 103). The length of our days may be seventy years, but a thousand years in God's sight are like the passing of a day (Psalm 90).

Despite the passing of time and the changing world around us, there's always God. He's the true longing of our hearts and the only thing in life that truly matters. Nothing else will satisfy. Everything else in life will disappoint. So the next time you find yourself humming, "If I could turn back time," realize that you were created in the Imago Dei. You were made for the eternal. You were made for God.

The Rev. Charlie Lanier is Pastor of Capeharts Baptist Church near Merry Hill. He can be

Special events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Jan. 8

Ordination Service

WINDSOR - There will be an ordination service for Deacon Frances Loretta Sutton at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8 at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. David E. Moore Jr. of Indian Woods Missionary Baptist Church. His choir, ushers and congregation will accompany him.

The Pastor, Kennedy L. Barber, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Jan. 11-13

Revival

OAK CITY - Crusade for Souls Outreach Ministries winter Revival Services are planned Jan. 11-13 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

Services begin nightly at 7:30 p.m.

The guest preachers will be Pastor Reginald Sanders of Hyde County, Pastor Reginald Silver of Rocky Mount and Norbert Simmons of Goldsboro.

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church is located at 8740 N.C. 142.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Ongoing

Help needed

WILLIAMSTON - New Fellowship Church and Project Feed The 5000 is asking for help with donations of pet food for older adults who have pets as their only family member.

For information on how to donate bagged or canned dog/cat food, call 252-792-7191.

Women Praying

WILLIAMSTON - Prayer is being made for Williamston.

All women are welcome to come and pray any time between noon and 2 p.m. at Word of Truth Fellowship, 1003 Washington St., Williamston.

For more information, call 252-792-0678.

Food Pantry

WILLIAMSTON - The Food Pantry at the Bible Way Apostolic Church is open from 8-10 a.m. The church is located at Sycamore and Center streets in Williamston.

Giveaway

HASSELL - A free monthly giveaway is held from 8-10 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at Kingdom Entity Apostolic Ministries.

Items include household supplies, bedding, irons, vacuums, sheet sets and more.

The church is located at 1062 East Avenue North in Hassell.

For more information, or to make an appointment for a different time, call 252-814-4123.

Celebrate Recovery

WILLIAMSTON - Celebrate Recovery - a Christian-centered recovery plan - is held each Tuesday night at First United Methodist Church.

Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and the program starts at 6:30 p.m.

The church is located at 114 East Church St. in Williamston.

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Condensed Kingdom principles to live by

Matthew 5:48 (HCSB Free) 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Instead of being locked in an emotional prison or controlled by manipulative feelings, we must allow our spiritual man to dictate our life's decisions. It is very easy to do how we feel, but much harder to do what we know is the right thing to do. In learning to walk in the spirit, we have to learn how to control feelings and emotions. How can we walk by faith and not by sight if we allow how we feel and what we see to dominate our decision making processes?

In order to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, putting on the whole armor of God, we must make spiritual decisions in the face of highly charged emotional situations.

I cannot begin to tell you how difficult it is to challenge you to live right and to be strong in the Lord without challenging you to ignore carnally motivated, emotional decisions. Instead, allow the spirit of Christ to be in charge of your life.

Fasting is a powerful and necessary part in accomplishing the challenge to walk spiritually. Jesus says "when we fast," not "if we fast!" There are some very

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



THE REV. DR. GARY CORDON

specific challenges that we face that makes fasting necessary. Jesus outlined these challenges in his sermon on the mount.

They are anger, lust, divorce, oaths and retaliation - five major areas that drives us to make carnal emotional decisions verses Godly spiritual decisions. These specific things become counter-productive distractions and carnal diversions to the power gained through applying His kingdom principles.

Jesus tell us to first seek the kingdom of heaven and it's righteousness and everything that we needed would be added into our lives.

Therefore, His primary focus here was to teach the laws and principles of the Kingdom for us to live by.

Paul understood this enough to say that the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus frees us from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2)

Here are my Condensed Kingdom Principles to live by in Matthew 5:21-48

Fix anger - fix the problem your brother/sister has with you before you bring your worship to God

Fix lust - don't look, don't touch (pull out the eye that's looking, cut off the hand that's touching)

Fix divorce- Don't do it! Matthew 5:32 (HCSB) But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Fix oaths - Don't swear, say yes or say no and mean it. You don't have to add anything when you mean it.

Fix retaliation - go the extra mile, turn the other cheek.

In fact, love your enemies and pray for them that misuse you and treat you wrong. In this way you will definitely be sons and daughters of your Father in heaven. Be perfect in this way, just like Him!

The Rev. Dr. Gary Cordon is Pastor of Victory Temple Church of God in Christ of Windsor. He can be reached via email at pastor@vtcogic.org or through his website at www.PastorCordon.com.

Email all church events to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Do not be deceived:
"Bad company corrupts good morals."
Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning...
~ 1 Corinthians 15:33,34 ~

"Selbstbildnis (Melancholie der Berge)" by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1929)

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BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Obadiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. Which Babylon king went insane living in the fields eating grass? *Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon, Daniel, Herod*
 3. From Genesis 23, what was the first land purchase in the Bible? *Gar-den, Hillop, Cave, River shore*
 4. Which apostle was forordained to minister to the Gentiles? *Thomas Paul, Andrew, John*
 5. According to Song of Solomon 1:2, what is love better than? *Food, Wine, Money, Song*
 6. Who was Hananiah's father? *Abi-ah, Azur, Allon, Aretas*
- ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Nebuchad-nezzar; 3) Cave; 4) Paul; 5) Wine; 6) Azur
- Comments? More Trivia? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com
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BAS

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BERTIE COUNTY TAX OFFICE 2017

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON TAX LISTING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

ALL PERSONS WHO, ON THE DATE AS OF WHICH PROPERTY IS TO BE LISTED, OWN PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION MUST LIST SUCH PROPERTY WITHIN THE PERIOD SET FORTH IN THIS NOTICE AND ANY PERSON WHO FAILS TO DO SO WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

Bertie County has a permanent, real estate listing system. The Tax Office will automatically list real estate for the owner. (Important note: taxpayers are required to list buildings and other improvements to real property having a value in excess of one hundred dollars that have been acquired, begun, erected, damaged, or destroyed since the time of the last listing on January 1, 2016. If a building permit was obtained for new construction please verify with the tax office that the record has been updated to reflect the addition.)

The tax office no longer mails individual abstracts, (listing forms), for real property. For 2017, you will receive a listing form only if you listed personal property in 2016, or if it is a new account for real property.

Taxpayers are required by law to annually list all taxable personal property including but not limited to mobile homes, boats, motors, unlicensed vehicles, motorcycles, 4 wheelers, golf carts, airplanes, business equipment, business furniture and fixtures, tools, farm equipment and multi-year permanent tagged trailers. This does not include registered motor vehicles that have a current license tag.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE MADE NO CHANGES TO YOUR REAL PROPERTY SINCE JANUARY 1, 2016 YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FILE A LISTING FORM.

The only location to list taxes in Bertie County for 2017 will be in the County Commissioners Room of the County Office Building at 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. NOTE: IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE WITH LISTING TAXES PLEASE VISIT THIS LOCATION.

LISTING OF 2017 TAXES WILL BEGIN ON Tuesday, JANUARY 3rd, 2017 AND CONTINUE THROUGH Tuesday, JANUARY 31st, 2017. THE LISTING OFFICE HOURS WILL BE 9:00A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING AT 106 DUNDEE STREET, WINDSOR, NC, OR BY APPOINTMENT.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE BERTIE COUNTY TAX OFFICE.
TELEPHONE: (252)794-5310
FACSIMILE: (252)794-5357
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WINDSOR, NC 27983