

## The Wind

When I drove into the office this morning, the wind was not blowing very much. We can't see the wind, but we can see the results of it. The reason I knew the wind was not blowing much, was the flag was moving only a little. The wind is spoken of in the Bible some times in a destructive way.

Job's ten children were in the elder brother's house and a wind came and blew it away killing all of them (Job 1:18-19). Many people today can understand because they also have experienced the destruction of a great wind. I think the blowing of the wind is useful for us. I have noticed the wind blows the clouds from place to place so we can have moisture. It seems that if the air did not move, the water vapor which brings the rain would not move.

I remind you of the storms on the sea during Jonah's time. This storm was the results of God's wrath, because Jonah was not obeying Him. There were the storms also on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus was in the boat with His disciples. "And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:37-39). The disciples were amazed when Jesus stilled the storm. They questioned among themselves, "Who can this be?" Jesus looked like any ordinary man, but we know by faith that He was the Son of God. He was with God in the beginning and they created the world together. So the wind was His and He could command it as He chose. We are His creation and He has given us the Bible. This is His word and His commands to us! He will save those who obey His commands. Those who do not obey His commands, He will not save, but cast into hell with the devil and his angels.

I remind you also of the storm when the disciples were in the boat and Jesus came walking on the water to them during the storm (Matthew 14:24-32). Jesus gave Peter permission to walk on the water. He is the one who saved him from sinking. For Jesus to save you today, you must obey Him. Read these verses which contain His plan for salvation for all people: Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Acts 8:37; and Acts 2:38.

The Spirit of God is like the wind. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. "So is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). We see the work of the Holy Spirit in the fruit of Christians. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). When these are not in a person, that person is not a faithful Christian. Some people desire to heal or speak in tongues as evidence they have the Holy Spirit. Miracles have ceased on earth (1 Cor. 13:10), but the fruit of the spirit will never end as long as the earth stands. Examine yourself. Are you showing forth the fruit of the spirit? These are not something you look for an opportunity to perform -- these are you! You, everyday, in and out. Practice these before God.

Vernon Curry

Highland Drive church of Christ Poplar Bluff, MO

# Edifier

## Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**March 13 2016**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

### Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

7:pm

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**863-899-0987**

**Email: [wvann@yahoo.com](mailto:wvann@yahoo.com)**

**[www.evantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.evantchurchofchrist.org)**

## More Than Conquerors

Growing up, my brother and I wore out a cassette tape listening to songs from the group *Acapella*. One of the songs on that tape was titled, *More Than Conquerors*, a song referencing Romans 8:37, “*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us*” (Rom. 8:37). As a kid, I could sing the song by heart, but I never really understood what it meant. How is one more than a conqueror, isn't the one who conquers the victor, superior to all others?

The original word in the Greek is a compound word that literally means beyond conqueror. The idea expressed is that of more than a mere one time victory, as if we were the heavy weight champ that had to defend his title over and over again. It means we are more than conquerors, we have become victorious and then cannot be conquered! The commentator Albert Barnes said of this passage,

*“We gain the victory. That is, they have not power to subdue us; to alienate our love and confidence; to produce apostasy. We are the victors, not they. Our faith is not destroyed; our love is not diminished; our hope is not blasted. But it is not simple victory; it is not mere life, and continuance of what we had before; it is more than simple triumph; it augments our faith, increases our strength, expands our love to Christ.”*

Unfortunately there is a massive “elephant in the room” when it comes to this passage. If we are more than conquerors, those who cannot be conquered, then why does Satan win so many victories over us? The simple answer is that we let him. As Barnes pointed out, “*it is not mere life, and continuance of what we had before.*” If we continue to live as those who are perpetually defeated, as we did before we put on Christ (1 Pet. 4:3), then it is no wonder that when a victory, not of our making, is handed to us, we are not willing to take hold of it and live unconquerable!

Will Vann

### Those to Serve

(B) Keith Stifflemire (V) Vernon Houts

(O) Calvin Burks (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Jeffrey Burks 2nd prayer Mike Mallett

Announcements: Jack Wall Singing: Judd Wall

**Prayer list:** Mildred Lovell, Darrell Debo, Naomi Wall, Gene Payne, Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones, Evelyn Hill. Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement



March 19th

Let's all Hippity, Hoppity  
out to the Houts'  
for an Easter Egg hunt  
and hot dog cook out.

### 2 Corinthians 4:18 (KJV)

<sup>18</sup> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### James 4:17 (KJV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.



To

Koh Stapp March 12th

Dennis Sheldon March 30th

### Dates to Remember

March 5th –13th  
Spring Break

March 13th  
Daylight Savings Begins

March 19th  
First day of Spring

April 3th  
Mission Sunday

But let's remember, the things of this nation are not our hope or source of blessedness. Our military, economy, president, Congress, Supreme Court, etc. are not our hope. They are not the source of our blessedness, whether they are good or bad.

### **Our Prayer**

May the church, "*the nation whose God is the Lord*" offer prayers like this:

**Father, we pray for our current president, our future president, and for all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.**

**And during our time of exile in the United States, our soul waits for You, Lord; You our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in You, because we trust in Your holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**(See 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and Psalm 33:20-22)**

I love you and God loves you,

**Wes McAdams**

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### **It's Really Hard . . .**

To convince your children that the church is the most important thing in the world when you are negligent about attending its services and supporting its work.

To convince your children that the church is the greatest institution in the world when you permit them to miss services to go elsewhere

To convince your children that the church is to be held higher than anything when you insist that they do their homework for public school but permit them to neglect their Bible study.

To convince your children that the church is the most important institution when you give little to help finance its work and encourage them to do likewise.

To convince your children that they should respect the church when you continually criticize the leadership, belittle the teacher's work and appear a habitual faultfinder.

## **Why Our Blessedness Doesn't Depend on Who's in the White House**

Politics are on a lot of people's minds right now. And I'm sure all Christians are hoping and praying someone will be elected president who will exemplify and promote biblical values and morality. But in the midst of this political season, there is a danger against which Christians must diligently guard; and that is, thinking our "blessedness" depends on who is elected president.

### **Blessed is the Nation**

Far too often, passages like Psalm 33:12, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...*" are misapplied to the United States of America. We tend to think this passage is talking about any nation whose God is the Lord. Interpreting it this way makes us feel anxious and worried, hoping we'll elect a president who will make us a "*nation whose God is the Lord.*"

But there are some HUGE problems with interpreting and applying this passage this way. First of all, the entire verse actually says:

***Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.***

The last part never seems to get quoted, but it helps us to understand this passage is talking about the blessedness of being God's *chosen* people. Blessed means "happy." And in the context of the Old Testament, it was talking about Israel being God's chosen people, and how happy they could be because that was true.

As Christians, when we make application of this passage, we MUST apply it to the church, not to the United States. The church is God's New Testament people. The church is the "*nation whose God is the Lord.*" The church is "*the people whom God has chosen as His heritage*" (see also 1 Peter 2:9-10).

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## Don't Trust in Nations

But if we were to read, interpret, and properly apply the rest of Psalm 33, it would be a great blessing to us (especially in this political season). **It should make us feel less anxious and less worried**, rather than the other way around.

First, the psalmist commanded praise be given to God because, *“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host”* (Psalm 33:6). Consequently, all people should fear Him and stand in awe of Him (vs. 8).

Then the psalmist wrote, *“The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples”* (Psalm 33:10). In other words, no matter how powerful a nation, they are *nothing* before God. No plan can succeed, unless the Lord allows it.

The psalmist reminds Israel that the great army of a king, the strength of a mighty warrior, and even the powerful war horse are all false hopes (Psalm 33:13-17). The message is clear, don't put your trust in these things and do not fear them.

Oh, how the church needs this message!

- a strong leader
- an arsenal of nuclear weapons
- a strong military force
- a thriving economy

These are all false hopes. They mean little to nothing to the people of God, the church. They are neither a threat to make us tremble, nor a hope to make us feel secure.

## God is Our Help and Shield

The psalmist ends this psalm (vs. 20-22) with words that are so important for us to hear:

*Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.*

No matter who is in the White House, my hope is in the Lord. If the economy crashes, my hope is in the Lord. If the United States of America ceases to exist, my hope is in the Lord. My blessedness does not depend on these things. No matter what happens to the United States, I'm still part of *“the nation whose God is the Lord”* because my citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

When we, as Christians, think our blessedness depends on who is in the White House, we forfeit the happiness that comes from being children of God. If first-century Christians could know the happiness of being in Christ while Nero was emperor, then you and I can know the happiness of being in Christ while Obama is in the White House (and whoever comes next).

## How Exiles Should Act

Even when the Jews were exiled in Babylon, they were still *“the nation whose God is the Lord.”* Though their citizenship was in Canaan, they were told to seek the welfare of Babylon while they were there (Jeremiah 29:7):

*But **seek the welfare** of the city where I have sent you into exile, and **pray to the Lord on its behalf**, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Christians in the United States are exiles in a land that is much like Babylon in many ways. We ought to seek the welfare of our nation. We ought to pray to the Lord on its behalf (see also 1 Timothy 2:1-2). We ought to vote for good leaders, promote biblical morality, and do our duty to serve and protect the nation.