

# The December/January 2013 Devotional Page

So, in December – well, if you are reading this, you are doing better than most people expected you to do. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, we survived the supposed end of the world. And today, I woke up to find my entire country had gone off of one of these:

Courtesy of Wing-Chi Moon and Wikimedia Commons



... and then they have the audacity to talk about, “Well, it really doesn’t take effect until January 2.” These leaves me with the image of our entire nation falling and going  
“AAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

But fortunately, no panic is necessary for us as Christians. You see, there IS a reason for the season.

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**John 1:14** -- And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

### **Ephesians 1:2-12**

<sup>2</sup> Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

<sup>4</sup> According as he hath chosen 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 predestinated us unto the adoption of children 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, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

<sup>7</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

<sup>8</sup> Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

<sup>9</sup> Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

<sup>10</sup> That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

<sup>11</sup> In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

<sup>12</sup> That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Nothing that has happened or ever will happen can keep us from ultimately being to the praise of the glory of God's grace. The only thing, from our freewill perspective, that is even up for discussion is whether we will use the circumstances of life to be ACTIVE partners in what the entire universe has been created to do: glorify God. May I suggest an active partnership in that?

### **Philippians 3:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

<sup>14</sup> I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

God has given us a whole new year to press forward and through, full of new opportunities, new challenges, and new mercies (look for those every morning). Don't let the doomsayers distract you – keep pressing! Happy New Year!