

## **Saying Goodbye to a Decade (December 29, 2019 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

We are going to at least start off the last service of not only 2019 but also the 2010's with everyone in the sanctuary...

### Scripture 1: Philippians 3:7-14

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain<sup>[b]</sup> to the resurrection from the dead.

### Pressing Toward the Goal

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained,<sup>[c]</sup> or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have <sup>[d]</sup> apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

As we enter into a new year, a new decade, and soon what will be a new era for Abundant Love, it is a good time to commit ourselves to move forward with the Lord Jesus...

As I meditate on this scripture, I feel that it is important as we move ahead to make sure we have had an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord Jesus for the things He has already done for us...

We will use these things to project future victories...

I may get into this concept in greater later in the service, but today I really want to give everyone a chance to testify...

## Scripture 2: Luke 19:37-40

<sup>37</sup> Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying:

“ ‘Blessed *is* the King who comes in the name of the LORD!’  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”

<sup>40</sup> But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

I don't know about you all, but I am too grateful to the Lord Jesus to have stones praising Him in my place...

Thus, we are going to let the children and the youth give their testimonies before the children are released to their class. Today the Youth will probably be in the sanctuary, unless someone can replace Sister Maria as our translator...

## Children/Youth Testimonies from the Prayer Basket (Also Their Teachers Who Have Testimonies...)

### Release the Children/Youth

## Scripture 3: 2 Kings 7

Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: ‘Tomorrow about this time a [a]seah of fine flour *shall be sold* for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.’ ”

<sup>2</sup> So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, “Look, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?”

And he said, “In fact, you shall see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

### The Syrians Flee

<sup>3</sup> Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, “Why are we sitting here until we die? <sup>4</sup> If we say, ‘We

will enter the city,' the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die.” <sup>5</sup> And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one *was* there. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!” <sup>7</sup> Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. <sup>8</sup> And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid *them*; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried *some* from there *also*, and went and hid *it*.

<sup>9</sup> Then they said to one another, “We are not doing right. This day *is* a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some [b] punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king’s household.” <sup>10</sup> So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, “We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one *was* there, not a human sound—only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact.” <sup>11</sup> And the gatekeepers called out, and they told *it* to the king’s household inside.

<sup>12</sup> So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “Let me now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we *are* hungry; therefore they have gone out of the camp to [c] hide themselves in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.’ ”

<sup>13</sup> And one of his servants answered and said, “Please, let several *men* take five of the remaining horses which are left in the city. Look, they *may either become* like all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; or indeed, *I say, they may become* like all the multitude of Israel left from those who are consumed; so let us send them and see.” <sup>14</sup> Therefore they took two chariots with horses; and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army, saying, “Go and see.” <sup>15</sup> And they went after them to the Jordan; and indeed all the road was full of garments and weapons which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned and told the

king. <sup>16</sup> Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was *sold* for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him. <sup>18</sup> So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, “Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be *sold* tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria.”

<sup>19</sup> Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, “Now look, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?” And he had said, “In fact, you shall see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it.” <sup>20</sup> And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

We have to share the good things that God has done for us...

Moreover, this passage teaches us that we should believe in the words of prophecy that come from the Lord...

Look at how the Lord has confirmed that we will have our own building, even though we are a small church...

He has confirmed it with words of prophecy...He has confirmed it with things that have occurred...

I feel strongly in my spirit that we must continue to believe in what the Lord Jesus is doing for our church until we see this blessing fully manifested, namely in Abundant Love having its own building...

### **Now we can have some more adult testimonies...**

Now with regards to looking at past victories to project future victories...

We may not be forgetting those things which are behind, but we are “reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

### **Scripture 4: 1 Samuel 17:31-37**

<sup>31</sup> Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported *them* to Saul; and he sent for him. <sup>32</sup> Then David said to Saul, “Let

no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

<sup>33</sup> And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." <sup>37</sup> Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

**More Adult Testimonies...**