



CROSSIN' THE GULF
MINISTRIES CHURCH

October 8, 2022

Dear Partner,

Hello Partners and Friends, grace and peace to you. Happy Fall! I was reminded this morning of the Apostle Paul's words to the church at Philippi - "For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe" (Philippians 3:1 NKJV). Sometimes we need to be reminded of the things we have heard, and the things we have learned. A wise woman once said, "If you think you have arrived and have learned all there is for you to learn, you must let us pray for you because you're headed for a fall."

Paul goes on to tell the church, ² *Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved.* ³ *For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,* ⁴ *though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!* (Philippians 3:2-4).

Paul was at the top of his game in his day. He came of a family of great stature, was highly educated, had risen to a prominent position among the Jews, and followed the law with strictness. Yet, he came to realize that his true worth and strength were not in the things he had achieved or even the family he came from. His true worth and strength came from what Jesus had done for him. His confidence was in Christ and not anything he had accomplished.

Paul desired to know Christ Jesus and become one with Him. He was experiencing the true value of life through the things he was learning from walking with Jesus, and he wanted more. He goes on to write in verses 10 and 11, *I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,* ¹¹ *so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!* Paul saw that there was overcoming power living in Jesus. Power that loved when He experienced hate. Power that forgave what one may deem unforgivable. Power that overcame when all hope seemed lost, including death and the grave.

We serve a mighty God. His desire is that, while we will all face trouble, we know how to have peace and rejoice knowing that there is victory in Him (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4). So how do we do that? Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT), *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.* The Lord promises us in Jeremiah 29:12 that, when we call on Him and pray, He will listen to us, and we will find Him when we search for Him with all of our hearts. To me, that means to earnestly seek Him wanting to know what He has to say and how He sees that things should be done.

Prayer should never be our last resort. Prayer is a conversation with One who knows more than we do. A conversation is two-way. One speaks, one listens. The other speaks, the other listens. Don't forget the listening side of prayer. Our Heavenly Father is overflowing with the desire to show us things and make the crooked paths straight. Make your petitions known, give thanks, and sit quietly to hear (Ref: Philippians 4:4-8).

Before we close, Jordan and I want to encourage you to vote. In this election season, with everything going on around us, don't be dismayed and don't fret. Ask The Lord who you should vote for and trust Him to protect your

vote. Pray over your ballot in the voting booth and ask The Lord to use it as a seed to turn our country around and back to Him; the true Source of peace and unity.

Ministry / Personal Updates –

- Bishop Rene' went back to Belize mid-September and had the opportunity to minister in two local churches. He also had a miraculous doctor's report before heading back. Glory to God!
- Jordan and I have movers coming October 25 and a tentative move date of October 29 or 30. We will be driven down through Mexico in our vehicle with a caravan of folks who are experienced in this journey and are awaiting final confirmation on the exact date. Our hearts are being touched by your prayers and tremendous support!

We are praying for you and thanking The Lord for you daily! If you have a specific prayer request or praise report, you can send those to us on our website or contact email listed at the bottom of this letter. Until next month remember, your Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus!

Be BLESSED!

With His Love,

Pastors Jordan & Melissa Mack

Psalms 23, **Psalm 91**, Isaiah 54:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Exodus 3:21, Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 1:15-21

Has this letter BLESSED you? Pass this letter on to a family member or friend and be a BLESSING to them.