

Newsletter

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

Jude vs. 3 (NKJV)



One of the greatest lies of the devil going around across all the earth is “Once saved, always saved.” Throughout the whole Bible we see that God, Who created all men, wants nothing more than to have and keep them with Him - to do them well. God (and He alone) has so much good to offer, including spending an eternity in His presence in heavenly paradise; but to be able to enjoy it all, we will have to come to Him and remain with Him.

While the world around us is getting more and more filthy and dark, it is also increasingly more important that we live in holiness, to remain one with a Holy God, and dwell together with Him in a holy city. (Matthew 24:12-13 and Hebrews 12:14-29). Unfortunately, not everyone is serious about staying close to God. (See Hebrews 2:1-4 & 3:12-14 & 4:1, 11.)

In these times, too often do we see people falling away from the faith. They get so caught up in earthly things, that they have no time or attention left for God. His invitation to come and stay with Him, is rejected by them, though sometimes indirectly or unaware. (Luke 14:15-24.)

We, however, are aware of God’s urgent invitation to come to Him to be safe and sound. We can keep reminding ourselves and each other of this, and God Himself also uses His Word and His Spirit to help us not to forget it. (See for example Jude vs. 17-25).

If we receive the Word of God, keep it in our hearts and act upon it, then therein lies our eternal well-being and salvation. (James 1:21-25; 1 Peter 2:2-11; 1 John 2:6, 14, 24-25, 28; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14-17 & 4:1-8.)

We have the privilege that we can learn from the past. For example, look how in Joshua 24:14-27 Joshua calls the people of Israel to make a definite choice to serve the Lord; the Lord, and Him alone and completely. Israel’s response shows that they acknowledge that the Lord is God and has already done so many great things for them. They say that they will serve the Lord. Joshua makes them confirm their choice indisputably, although he knows that in the future there will be a lot of sin in Israel, and a falling away from the Lord.

Today God tells us that we should not walk away from Him. And not only do we have His Word to continually remind us of that (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-12), but in the new covenant we also have His Spirit, Who helps us to live according to it. One of the passages showing us that is in Ezekiel 36:25-28. But from verse 31 we can conclude, that we ourselves have to actively turn away from our wicked past.

The old, sinful man has been crucified and buried with Christ. We now live in holiness and obedience to God, which leads to eternal life. We no longer - never again! - live in sin, which only leads to damage, shame and death. (See Romans 6 and Galatians 6:7-9.)

He who has truly gotten to know God, will want only Him. Then we will (want to) leave everything of this world behind us and reach out to Him, because we know that He is worth more than everything and everyone (see Philippians 3 and John 6:63, 66-69). Then how could we walk away from Him?!

We must keep crucifying the flesh and keep walking by the Spirit (see Galatians 5), because the Kingdom of God is near (see Romans 13:11-14). We must zealously be busy with the things of God and keep striving to enter into His Kingdom. (See Matthew 7:13-14, 21; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 Timothy 6:11-12; Hebrews 6:11-12, 18; Philippians 2:12-13.)

We must watch over our lives and make sure that we do not fall away. And falling away from your faith in God is not something that happens in one day. If we are not careful, little by little we will drift and slip away from

God further and further. (Revelation 3:1-6; 1 Corinthians 9:23-27.)

Some people lose their faith in God and that causes them to fall away from Him. (We will not get into that now, because I do not understand how people can deny the existence and the greatness and goodness of God.) Another cause of falling away from God is following the flesh; being more busy with gratifying ones own worldly desires than pleasing God and making preparations for eternal satisfaction of the soul.

Not only the world, but also a lot of false teachings in church make people believe that there is no danger in living in the desires of the flesh. But only in Jesus and in holding on to His Word there is true freedom, whereby we may safely be with Him forever. (See John 8:31-36 and 2 Peter 2:18-22).

Once we have come to the faith, it is so vitally important that we also keep holding on to our faith. God warns us that we need to stay with Him for the salvation of our souls (see Hebrews 10:22-29, 35-39). Let us steadfastly keep living in holiness and godliness, and not let ourselves be led away - or walk away ourselves - from our salvation, but instead grow even closer to the Lord (see 2 Peter 3). He has given us His Word and His Spirit. Let us surrender ourselves to Him more and more. Let us make sure that we go on believing in Him and keep loving, honoring, serving and obeying Him - and not any less, but even all the more! Then we truly belong to Him and will be ready when He comes for us, to be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4). And is there anything better than to be with the Lord?

We would like to welcome all of you to follow the messages by attending our meetings, in person or online, and join us on our journeys through the Bible. And... make sure to bring your Bible with you, to see if what is being taught is actually in there (Acts 17:11).

International

There have been no mission trips this year, but we thank God for modern technology, by which Vernon can stay in contact with people and churches all over the world. For example, also during this past year he has regularly spoken in 'online meetings' in Malaysia. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit know no boundaries.

The Voice to the Nations church in Trinidad regularly follow our meetings on Youtube. Vernon has a lot of

contact with them and of course hopes he can visit them all again soon.

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, we have held our own weekly Sunday meetings this past year. And every Friday and Sunday the services are also broadcasted on our Youtube channel (where they can all be viewed later as well).

Vernon also preached the Word in several other churches this year. It is always great to be able to share the love for God and His Word with others.

We look forward to serving our Lord in 2024 as well. We pray that you may experience the presence and blessings of God the coming year and be ready to meet the Lord Jesus!

Your co-laborers in Christ,
Vernon & Ans & Christa

Agenda

On our website you will find where and when there will be meetings, under Agenda.

You can follow our meetings on Youtube every Friday at 19.30 h. and every Sunday at 10.30 h.:
www.youtube.com/user/Voicetothenations1/live

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