

Deal Pentecostal Church Sermon Outlines 2022

Daily Prayer for 2022

O God, most high and most glorious, the thought of Your infinite serenity cheers me,
for when I am toiling and moiling, troubled and distressed, You are for ever at perfect peace!
Your designs cause You no fear or care of unfulfillment—they stand fast as the eternal hills.

Your power knows no bond and Your goodness knows no stint.
You bring order out of confusion, making my defeats Your victories—
the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Let the weeds that grow in my soul be cut at their roots.
Grant me to know that I truly live only when I live to You—all else is trifling.
Your Presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong and happy.

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January

Thought for the Month: Faith is the deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time. *Oswald Chambers*

Faith—And without FAITH it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. ^{Heb.11:6}

Sunday 2nd January. Ps.130

Faith—Forsaking All I Trust Him. Faith is that secret ingredient which changes an unbeliever into a Believer, a spiritually dead person into a spiritually alive person, a son of man into a son of God. Faith is essential and yet it can't be seen or measured—*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*^{Eph.2:8-10} To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.^{2Pet.1:1-2} And like other gifts from God, faith can't be bought or sold. Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."^{Acts.8:20-23} However, we can grow faith and we can build ourselves up in our faith. Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Let the Holy Spirit guide and help you when you pray.^{Jude.21} So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.^{Col.2:6-8} God-given faith is not blind and neither is the Christian faith a "leap-in-the-dark" sort of faith because true faith is based on evidence: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*^{Heb.11:1-2} Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."^{Jn.14:9-11}

However, we don't need lots of faith to believe God—only living faith: *Then the disciples came to Jesus in private. They asked, "Why couldn't we drive out the demon?" He replied, "Because your faith is much too small. [Because you're not yet taking God seriously.TM] What I'm about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there.' And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*^{Matt.17:19-22} And because true faith comes from God, it will always have God's "DNA" on it—true faith will always be living, loving and loud. If faith is not living, it is dead: *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. [Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*^{Jas.2:14-26} And if faith is not loving it is nothing but an empty noise. *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing,*

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.^{1Cor.13:1-7} And if faith is not loud it is dumb: Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is old too." The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true when the time is right."^{Lk.:18-20} But faith is living, loving and loud: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."^{Jn.10:25-27} And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.^{1Jn.3:23} It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.^{2Cor.4:13-15} And because faith is living, loving and loud it is active—faith is always speaking with the same attitude as Jesus and backing up the words with action: *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith.*^{Rom.12:6}

But faith has a goal and a purpose—and that goal is to be like Jesus. Faith works out our salvation and keeps us in harmony with God: *Although you have never seen Christ, you love him. You don't see him now, but you believe in him. You are extremely happy with joy and praise that can hardly be expressed in words as you obtain the salvation that is the goal of your faith.*^{1Pet.1:8-9} Faith is not intimidated by circumstances. Abraham is called the "father of faith" and so Christians can look to him as their spiritual father—they share the same faith as Abraham: *So then, Abraham is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*^{Rom.4:11-12} "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father."^{Is.51:1-2} When Abraham faced an impossible situation, he did not despair—he knew that he might be helpless but he certainly wasn't hopeless! Abraham started to live according to what God had said, not according to what he could see—he had confidence in God: *When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."* The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.^{Rom.4:18-25} This sort of faith has to believe in miracles—in God intervening in our situation. It is not "blab it and grab it" or "pie in the sky while we wait" but it is "steak on the plate while we wait"! Faith is what God responds to. Although we cannot buy answers to prayer—God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom and everything in God's kingdom obtained spiritually—but we can think of faith as the currency of God's kingdom. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."^{Matt.21:21-22}

Yes, faith is an active trust in God—the deliberate confidence in the character of God, whose ways we may not understand at the time. And because our faith is in God not what He does, our faith is never disappointed! *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*^{1Pet.1:21} Thousands of years ago, Job understood that much about faith: *After Job heard all of those reports, he got up and tore his robe. He shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped the LORD. He said, 'I was born naked. And I'll leave here naked. You have given, and you have taken away. May your name be praised.'* In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.^{Job.1:20-22} His wife said to him, “Are you still continuing to be faithful to the LORD? Speak evil things against him and die!” Job replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. We accept good things from God. So we should also accept trouble when he sends it.” In spite of everything, Job didn't say anything that was sinful.^{Job.2:9-10}

But faith also has a legacy—we leave an example for others to follow: *And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.*^{Heb.11:4} These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.^{Heb.11:39-40} So what example are you leaving for others to see—a faith example of active trust in God who cares about our every little and large detail of our life? *So I tell you to stop worrying about what you will eat, drink, or wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or gather the harvest into barns. Yet, your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? Can any of you add a single hour to your life by worrying? And why worry about clothes? Notice how the flowers grow in the field. They never work or spin yarn for clothes. But I say that not even Solomon in all his majesty was dressed like one of these flowers. That's the way God clothes the grass in the field. Today it's alive, and tomorrow it's thrown into an incinerator. So how much more will he clothe you people who have so little faith? Don't ever worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' Everyone is concerned about these things, and your heavenly Father certainly knows you need all of them. But first, be concerned about his kingdom and what has his approval. Then all these things will be provided for you. So don't ever worry about tomorrow. After all, tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*^{Matt.6:25-34}

Faith—Forsaking All I Trust Him.

Questions

Define “faith”

Find some examples of faith in the Bible

Can we have doubts and still be a Believer?

What is the difference between a doubt and unbelief?

How do we get faith?

How do we build our faith?

Explain what Jesus meant by: *Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.*^{Matt.21:21-22}

Victory

Divine Redeemer, Great was Your goodness in undertaking my redemption—in consenting to be made sin for me and in conquering all my foes. Great was Your strength in enduring the extremities of divine wrath and in taking away the load of my iniquities. Great was Your love in manifesting Yourself alive and in showing Your sacred wounds—that every fear might vanish and every doubt be removed. Great was Your mercy in ascending to heaven, in being crowned and enthroned; there to intercede for me; there to help me in temptation; there to open the eternal Book; there to receive me finally to Yourself. Great was Your wisdom in devising this means of salvation—bathe my soul in rich consolations of Your resurrection life. Great was

Your grace in commanding me to come hand in hand with You to the Father; to be knit to Him eternally; to discover in Him my rest; to find in Him my peace; to behold His glory; to honour Him who is alone worthy. You gave the Spirit as Teacher, Guide and Power, that I may live—repenting of sin, conquering temptations and finding victory in life. When You are present all blessings are mine.

Sunday 9th January. 10.30am Ps.131

The Life Look

O God, I bless You for the happy moment when I first saw Your law fulfilled in Christ, Your wrath appeased, my death destroyed, my sin forgiven and my soul saved. Ever since, You have been faithful to me; daily have I proven the power of Jesus' blood; daily have I known the strength of Your Spirit, my Teacher, Director and Sanctifier. I want no other Rock to build upon than that I have in You; I desire no other hope than that of gospel truth; I need no other look than that which gazes on the cross. Forgive me if I have tried to add anything to that One Foundation; if I have unconsciously relied upon my knowledge, experience or deeds and not seen them as filthy rags; if I have attempted to complete what is perfect in Christ. May my cry be always, Only Jesus! Only Jesus! In Him is freedom from condemnation, fullness in His righteousness, eternal vitality in His given life, enduring union in fellowship with Him. In Him I have all that I can hold—but enlarge me to take in more! If I backslide, let me, like Peter weep bitterly and return to Him; if I am tempted and have no joy, give me strength enough to trust in Him; if I am weak, may I trust in His eternal love; if in extremity, let me feel that He can deliver me; if driven to the edge of hope and to the pit of despair, grant me grace to fall into His arms. O God, hear me, do for me more than I can ask, think, or dream.

Sunday 16th January. 10.30am Ps.132

Sunday 23rd January. 10.30am Ps.132

Sunday 30th January. 10.30am Ps.132

February

Thought for the Month: Our prayers can go where we cannot...there are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray. *Brother Andrew*

Goodness—And the LORD said, “I will cause all my GOODNESS to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” *Ex.33:19*

Sunday 6th February. 10.30am Ps.

March

Thought for the Month: Biblical meditation, is filling the mind with Scripture and then loading the heart with it until it affects not only the emotions but the entire life. *John Owen*

Knowledge—The fear of the LORD is the beginning of KNOWLEDGE, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. *Prov.1:7*

April

Thought for the Month: Stepping on the accelerator doesn't get us to our destination any faster if we are on the wrong road. If we are doing the wrong thing or doing something in the wrong way, increased zeal only makes it worse. *Eugene Peterson*

Self-discipline—For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and SELF-DISCIPLINE. *2Tim.1:7*

May

Thought for the Month: It is a sad thing when you hear Christians with a groan. The secret of Christianity is the secret of Christ possessing the heart of a person, a person being yielded to Him so that His victory, His consciousness and His power possesses your spirit and mind. *John G Lake.*

Perseverance—We know that suffering produces PERSEVERANCE; PERSEVERANCE, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. *Rom.5:3-5*

June

Thought for the Month: The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell. *William Booth*

Goodness—For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all GOODNESS, righteousness and truth). *Eph.5:8-9*

July

Thought for the Month: The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God. *C.S. Lewis*

Love—This is how we know that we LOVE the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is LOVE for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. *1Jn.5:2-3*

August

Thought for the Month: Hope is the picture of all that Jesus provided through His death, burial and resurrection. Faith is being sure of what we have viewed/seen/perceived. Our voice paints the picture of our hope—if we don't have a good picture we won't have good words. T.L.Osborn

Righteousness—It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, holiness and redemption. ^{1Cor.1:30}

September

Thought for the Month: The 1st day of the week, the day Resurrection, the day of creation and new-creation—it is not a day to spend with the family but a day to spend with the Lord as a family! *Andrew Corbett*

Repentance—Godly sorrow brings **REPENTANCE** that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ^{2Cor.7:10}

October

Thought for the Month: Faith is obeying God. It's irrelevant what you believe if God hasn't said it! Presumption is telling God what to do and then expecting that He will fall in line with what you say (c.f. Nu.14). Faith is when you are sick and everything seems to be going wrong—and yet you are trusting God, enjoying Him and still in fellowship with Him. *Andrew Corbett*

Reconciliation—And he has committed to us the message of **RECONCILIATION**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. ^{2Cor.5:19-20}

November

Thought for the Month: Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done. *C.S. Lewis*

Humility—All of you, clothe yourselves with **HUMILITY** toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.” ^{1Pet.5:5}

December

Thought for the Month: Don't get so bogged down in the details of doctrine that you miss the point of salvation, or so absorbed in the trees of history that you miss the forest of faith. We need to keep focused on Jesus. *Eugene Peterson*

Contentment—But godliness with **CONTENTMENT** is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ^{1Tim.6:6-8}

Theme for the year

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Bible Time Chart

Time Chart of OT

1479B.C.	Exodus under Thutmose II (<i>Thutmose II is the only Pharaoh's mummy to display cysts, possible evidence of plagues that spread through the Egyptian and Hittite Empires at that time. [Edersheim, A., Old Testament Bible History]</i>)
1270B.C.	<i>Another possible date for the Exodus (under Ramesses 2 also called Ramesses the Great)</i>
1000B.C.	David
970B.C.	Solomon builds the Temple
722B.C.	Israel's (Northern Kingdom) Exile 2Kings 17:6
597/6B.C.	Judah's (Southern Kingdom) 1 st Exile 2Kings 24:10-17
586B.C.	Judah's (Southern Kingdom) 2 nd Exile 2Kings 25:1-21
537B.C.	Judah's (Southern Kingdom) Return from Exile

Time Chart of NT

20/19B.C.	<i>Herod's Temple began</i>
18/17B.C.	<i>Herod's Temple in use</i>
c8B.C.	Zachariah in the Temple (Lk.1)
5B.C. April 5 th	Birth of Jesus
4B.C.	<i>Death of Herod the Great</i>
A.D.14 -37	<i>Reign of Tiberius Caesar</i>
A.D.29	Baptism of Jesus Lk.3:1 15 th year of Tiberius reign hence A.D. 29 **
A.D.33 April Wed. 1 st	Last Supper (see Colin Humphreys' " <i>The Mystery of the Last Supper</i> ")
A.D.33 April Fri. 3 rd	Crucifixion of Jesus
c A.D.35	Conversion of Paul Acts 9
<A.D.37	<i>Christianity came to Britain. ***</i>
A.D.37-41	<i>Reign of Caligula</i>
A.D.41-54	<i>Reign of Claudius</i>
c A.D.44	<i>Death of Herod Agrippa 1</i>
< A.D.50	Letter of James
A.D.48-49	Paul's 1 st missionary journey
A.D.49/50	Jerusalem Conference Acts.15
A.D.50	Paul's 2 nd missionary journey
A.D.50-52	Paul at Corinth
A.D.51	1 & 2 Thessalonians from Corinth
A.D.52	Galatians from Corinth
A.D.54	Paul's 3 rd missionary journey
A.D.54 -68	<i>Reign of Nero</i>
A.D.54-57	Paul at Ephesus
A.D.57	1Corinthians from Ephesus
A.D.57	2Corinthians from Macedonia
A.D.57/58	Romans from Corinth
A.D.58	Paul's arrest at Jerusalem
A.D.58-60	Paul's imprisonment at Caesarea
A.D.60-61	Paul winters at Malta
A.D.61	Paul arrives at Rome
A.D.61-63	Paul's imprisonment at Rome
A.D.62	Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon from Rome

A.D.63	Philippians from Rome
A.D.63-65	Paul's release & further ministry
A.D.63	1 Timothy & Titus
A.D.63-64	Hebrews (possibly Barnabas)
<i>A.D.64</i>	<i>Herod's Temple finished</i>
<A.D.65	Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts
<A.D.65	Revelation****
A.D.64	1 & 2 Peter from Rome
A.D.65	Peter's death in Rome
A.D.65	Paul's 2 nd imprisonment at Rome
A.D.65	2 Timothy from Rome
A.D.65	Paul's death at Rome
<A.D.65	Gospel John, 1, 2, & 3 John
A.D.65/66	Jude
<i>A.D.68</i>	<i>Death of Nero</i>
<i>A.D.68-69</i>	<i>Reign of Galba</i>
<i>A.D.69</i>	<i>Reign of Otho</i>
<i>A.D.69</i>	<i>Reign of Vitellius</i>
<i>A.D.69-79</i>	<i>Reign of Vespasian</i>
<i>A.D.70</i>	<i>Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus</i>
<i>A.D.79-81</i>	<i>Reign of Titus</i>
A.D.98/100	Death of John
<i>A.D.81-96</i>	<i>Reign of Domitian</i>

****** Besides the dating from Tiberius, Daniel had stated that it would be 69 “*weeks*” before Messiah would appear from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:26). Accepting that a “*week*” represents seven years and the decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was given around 455B.C. (during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah), a specific period of 483 years (69 x 7) was to elapse before the Messiah would appear, dating Jesus’ Baptism at A.D.29 (*there is no date of 0B.C. or A.D.0*). Also: *They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”* Jn.2:20

******* Gildas (A.D.516-570) a British Historian, states, *Meanwhile, these islands ... received the beams of light that is, the Holy precepts of Christ, the true Sun at the latter part, as we know, of the reign of Tiberius Caesar* Roman Emperor A.D. 14-37

****** Reasons for early date for Revelation:**

External evidence:

Clement of Alexandria (A.D.150-220) plainly states that it was Nero who banished John to Patmos, not Emperor Domitian: *And to give you confidence, when you have thus truly repented, that there remains for you a trustworthy hope of salvation, hear a story that is no mere story, but a true account of John the apostle that has been handed down and preserved in memory. When after the death of the tyrant (previously identified as Nero) he removed from the island of Patmos to Ephesus, he used to journey by request to the neighbouring districts of the Gentiles, in some places to appoint bishops, in others to regulate whole churches, in others to set among the clergy some one man, it may be, of those indicated by the Spirit.* (“Who is the Rich Man that shall be Saved?”, Section 42)

Cerinthus was a C1st author who wrote *The Pseudo-Apocalypse*. He died well before John, i.e.

well before A.D.95, but his Pseudo-Apocalypse contains many references to John's Apocalypse (the Book of Revelation).

Internal evidence:

42 months = the period between A.D.64 and A.D.66 when Nero embarked on the most violent campaign against Christians martyring multitudes.

666 = six hundred and sixty-six, not six, six, six. It is the numerical value of "*Caesar Nero*"

The "*temple*" in the "*holy city*" is still standing as John writes, though it is being threatened with devastation (Rev.11:1-2). We know as a matter of historical fact that the Jewish temple was destroyed in A.D.70, and has never been rebuilt. (2) The sixth "*king*" is presently ruling from the "*seven mountains*" and will do so until a king comes who will reign a "*short time*" (Rev.17:9-10). The preterist takes this to be a clear enough allusion to Nero Caesar. According to the enumeration found in Josephus' *Antiquities* (18:2:2,6, 10) and Suetonius' *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*, Nero is Rome's sixth emperor, following Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, and Claudius. "...the cryptic number 666 (Rev.13:18) designates Nero. The number involves the use of *gemetria* (assigning numerical values to letters of the alphabet and thus determining the numerical value of words). Nero Caesar written in Hebrew letters has the numerical value of 666. That explanation becomes all the more probable when you realize that in Hebrew, *Nero* can also be spelled *Neron*. With the second "*n*" the numerical value is 666. Without it, 616 (a well-attested reading in some New Testament manuscripts)." J. Stewart Russell, *The Parousia*

"It is with great satisfaction that he finds himself in substantial agreement with the distinguished ecclesiastical historian and theologian, Dr. Dollinger, of Munich, in his interpretation of St. Paul's prediction in 2 Thessalonians. (1) Dr. Dollinger distinctly identifies the "*Man of Sin*" with Nero, a conclusion now so generally accepted by the highest authorities, that it may be regarded as a settled point. (2) He clearly distinguishes between the "*Man of Sin*" and "*the Apostasy*," so frequently confounded by the mass of interpreters. Dollinger shows that the former is a person, the latter a heresy. (3) He recognizes "*the Beast*" of the Apocalypse as the Emperor, and therefore identical with the "*Man of Sin*." (4) The miracles wrought by the "*Second Beast*" (the Beast from the earth) he regards as a representation derived from our Lord's prophecy on the Mount of Olives." (*The Parousia, Afterword*.)

The seven seals are shown to have taken place during the reign of the Emperors Augustus to Vespasian. The seven trumpets during the time when Rome placed 4 battalions at the Euphrates River (Rev.9:14). The seven bowls, when Nero was Emperor (Rev.17:10). But Revelation 20 makes the point that there is a long-time gap between Jerusalem being judged and the events described in verse 9 by its use of the term "*thousand years*". *A. Corbett: Revelation*.

Rome launched its persecution against Christians in A.D.64 under the direction of Caesar Nero. This ended with his death in A.D.68. It had lasted around 1240 days (3½ years). Rome launched its attack against Jerusalem in A.D.66 and this ended when Jerusalem fell under the leadership of Caesar Vespasian in A.D.70. This was a period of 1260 days (3½ years).

We expect Christians to take their responsibilities and privileges seriously

- by taking an active part in the work and worship of the Church according to their ability and circumstances
- by relating into the Church's system of Pastoral care
- by prayerfully contribute to the unity, encouragement and fellowship of the Church
- by showing a Scriptural regard for those in positions of leadership
- by supporting the Church through regular attendance at services of worship, regular prayer and considered giving

We also expect Christians to live by the accepted rules of Christian conduct—which includes being a loyal citizen of our Country: *We render loyalty to Her Majesty's Government as far as conscience and morality permit*; and also a commitment to Christian marriage: *We uphold the Biblical standard of monogamous, heterosexual marriage between a biological man and biological woman as the only acceptable union.*

Christian Guidelines (*especially throughout the Covid Pandemic*)

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.^{2Pet.2:13-17}

True repentance which will always include these 5 A's:

Acknowledgement of the wrong.

Apology for the wrong.

Action of determination to change.

Appreciation of God's forgiveness.

Attitude of grace, gratitude and gentleness towards God and people.



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