



Richard Hughes, Editor

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# The Pen of a Ready Writer

*...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:  
My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).*

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## REJOICE THAT YOUR NAME IS WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

Ever wonder why some things are stated in the Bible? Our Lord is instructing the seventy disciples sent out in pairs to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God (Luke 10:1). He had previously sent out the twelve (Luke 9:1). The seventy have returned, with joy, saying, *Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name* (Luke 10:17). The Lord's lesson: *Notwithstanding, in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven* (Luke 10:20).

What the twelve were able to do in the opening verses of Luke 9 (vv. 1-7), they were unable to do over eight days later (v. 28): they could not deliver a man's son from an unclean spirit (Luke 9:37-40). Our abilities change with time and circumstance. What we could do in our twenties will not be possible after a few decades pass. If our rejoicing is based on our successes, we will be riding a roller-coaster, emotionally.

Learning to rejoice in that which cannot change (our salvation: that our names are written in heaven) gives us a stability over the ups and downs of life. The only question that then remains is this: *How does one have his name written in heaven?*

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When men hate you and separate from you and reproach you and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake, you can rejoice: for great is your reward in heaven (Luke 6:22-23). When men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for Christ's sake, rejoice. Be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11-12).

The Lord himself said, *Whosoever believeth in him* (the Son of man) *should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:15). *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness* (John 12:46). The Apostle John adds, *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God* (1 John 5:1).

# Happy New Year

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Vickie Wilkerson Hughes

### Through It All!

As I look back on 2022 and press forward into the New Year, my thoughts go to the many challenging days of this past year. Through it all, God was with me – in the happy moments and throughout the difficult times.

I love the Lord. I love his Word, and I love the promises of God’s Word! He will keep his promises. One wonderful promise is Philippians 4:19 – But my God shall supply all your need

according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Sometimes it is hard to feel that God is there and that he cares; but, he does. God cares. In my own life, I know I must trust God daily and wait for answered prayer. Then, I must trust him, knowing God knows what is best for me.

Life holds more challenges that will face me in this next year. Yet, I also know that I can rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. I can rejoice that Christ is my Saviour and that I can turn to him on a daily basis.

I cannot dwell on the negative. I must look to the Lord as I face each and every day, praising God, with a song in my heart!

### THE FIELDS ARE STILL WHITE TO HARVEST

The disciples had gone to a nearby city of Samaria, Sychar, to buy meat, for they were hungry on their journey towards Galilee. The Lord remained by the well of Jacob, on a parcel of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

The reason Jesus “must needs go through Samaria” begins to unfold: the woman of Samaria, her conversion and her converts (John 4:7-29).

The disciples, who marveled among themselves that he would even speak to her, offer the Lord meat after the woman leaves. Jesus says, *My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.* His work (to seek and to save that which was lost) is not finished. The fields are still white unto harvest.

May we lift up our eyes anew in 2023 and look on the fields, see the throngs of men needing the very thing the woman at the well had received: Christ as her Saviour!

He that reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit unto life eternal: that both he that sows and he that reaps may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. The Lord Jesus sends us to reap that whereon we bestowed no labor. Others labored; and we are entered into their labors.

### A Merry Heart...

The circuit-riding preacher rode into town on Friday to set things in order for the coming Sunday services. The town folk were excited, this was their new preacher and they had just completed their meeting house.

The turnout was more than anyone expected. Several families offered their homes as a place for him to rest, and the woman folk fixed their very best dishes for the preacher to enjoy.

He was so overwhelmed that he stayed an extra two days. Then, to keep his schedule, he rode out of town on Friday.

How was that possible?