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# Reason For Hope

Dr. T. D. Worthington

As you begin the New Year, are you optimistic or pessimistic? Is the glass half full or half empty? Do you face life's challenges with hope or despair? It has been said that an optimist sees opportunity in every problem; a pessimist sees a problem in every opportunity. When faced with two evils, the pessimist chooses both. Both optimists and pessimists matter. The story goes that an optimist invented the airplane, but a pessimist invented the parachute. We need both: optimists drive progress, while pessimists encourage caution.

Having recognized the value in both optimism and pessimism, I want to focus your attention on what may be called thoughtful biblical optimism. Actually, this sounds like a pretty good challenge for the New Year. My central point is that hope is not wishful thinking, but anchored in your identity as a Child of God and in the promises that come with that relationship. This is the hope that truly excites me about the future.

Biblical optimism acknowledges our imperfect world, where terrible things can happen to good people. Cars crash, good people die, and innocent children suffer. Doctors make mistakes, lawyers are not always honest, judges make foolish rulings, and leaders often speak without thinking. Incompetent people are promoted, the qualified are overlooked, and good people are unfairly fired. I also know many things can happen to someone my age, and most of them are not good. However, Biblical optimism begins with **Romans 3:23**: "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"

While realism acknowledges life's hardships are due to sin, the main point is that, for those who love God and are called according to His purpose, even difficulties are used by a higher power for a greater good (**Romans 8:28**). This perspective is the source of true hope: God is always working for good, even in tragedy. Because of this, I base my life on biblical

optimism, a hope rooted in God's character. This hope lasts and will not fail. Trusting God's character is the foundation of lasting optimism.

When I was growing up, little children loved to try on their parents' clothes. They loved to wear Daddy's hat or Mommy's old dress. Wearing Dad's boots or Mom's high heels was fun because they could pretend they were already grown up. It's a way of being big for a few minutes without taking on all the problems that come with it. Many of us experiment emotionally as we grow. In school, we try out identities: "*cute and funny*" one day, and perhaps being a "*goof off*" a few days later. Over the years, we take on roles—*class clown, flirt, good student, or rebel*.

Most of us try five or six personalities as we grow, each fits for a time, then we discard it. Sometimes, we discover the old identity sticks; we struggle to shed it even when it no longer fits. Some still wear a "*Troublemaker*" or "*Perfectionist*"

identity, even though it should have been discarded years ago. We may become critical, compulsive, or promiscuous, not knowing how to change.

The core of biblical optimism is this: in Jesus Christ, real and lasting change is possible. Deep-rooted habits can be transformed, destructive patterns replaced, and life made new. This truth is the central reason for hope. That's why I can look to the future with hope. Real change, rooted in Christ, is possible. You don't have to stay the same. This is the message at the heart of biblical optimism. There are several reasons I can still be optimistic in this cold, dark world.

First, I am optimistic because my hope rests on Jesus, not my circumstances. That matters, especially if you are facing hard times. You may be struggling with money, marriage, work, health, or faded dreams. Home, school, or work problems may overwhelm you. At times, hope seems far away. Yet, even facing such trials, you can still stay optimistic. Biblical optimism is rooted in God's promises, not life's circumstances. As long as the gospel remains true, change is still possible, even during hopeless times.

For most of us, this is a lifelong process that never ends on this side of the grave. This perspective transforms how we deal with disappointment and discouragement: instead of seeing them as setbacks, we can view them as opportunities for growth. If God's goal is to make me like Jesus, I recognize that He has valuable lessons for me, often learned



through hardship, since we tend to grow most during the tough times. God is shaping your character to mirror Jesus. Hardships show God forming you in His image. Stay encouraged. God is at work.

Another reason I can be optimistic is that God's promises reach beyond the grave. Unlike most things we fret over or get excited about, biblical optimism isn't limited by death. It is anchored in God's eternal promises, stretching into what is still to come.

Are you hopeful for what's next? As a child of God, you should be. Jesus Christ has covered your past, present, and future. He forgives your sins, promises never to leave you, and prepares a place for you. As God's child, you are secure. Your past is forgiven, your present secure, and your future guaranteed. This unshakeable foundation is

our hope: because of God, the best is yet to come. Let's move forward, grounded in this confident expectation.

One question remains: Do you know Jesus Christ? If not, where is your hope for the future? What do you trust to get you through hard days ahead? If your hope is in anything but Christ, it is false hope. Do you know Jesus Christ? Have you considered that He loves you? Put your life in His hands. You will never be disappointed and will always have reason to hope.

*Happy New Year!*



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry nearly fifty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.*



# Solution Abide in Him

*Dr. Sherry Worthington*

I love the Christmas season and am always sorry to see it end. The beautiful lights and decorations are amazing; however, what I enjoy most is the spirit of goodwill and kindness that seems to permeate wherever we go. I love the fact that people say Merry Christmas in all kinds of situations. Whether we realize it or not, it is like we are telling Jesus "Happy Birthday" several times a day. Our Saviour came to save us, yet Scripture states in **John 10:10** that Jesus also came to give us an abundant life. Abundant life does not necessarily mean a life without struggles, but rather a life full of purpose and meaning.

After Christmas, the New Year holiday rolls around. It is a time to celebrate, remember the past, and

look forward to the future. Many of us set resolutions for the things we wish to accomplish in our personal lives and goals for the coming year. I guess this is a time of reflection in my life. A time to ask myself how to improve on what I am already doing, and a time to prepare for the future.

According to the Today Show, the next holiday after New Year's is Blue Monday. I have never heard of Blue Monday, but I don't think I have missed much. It happens in mid-January. Depression sets in, and many people are disheartened. Some are blue because of all of the failed resolutions, others because the holidays are over, and many because they don't like winter. These are a few other reasons that were listed, but you can fill in

your own blank. We all have our struggles, but at certain times of the year, they seem more difficult than others. I also realize that for some people, the Christmas holidays are a very difficult time, especially when you have lost someone you love. It can also feel very lonely when others around you are celebrating while you are alone.

How do we avoid the rat race that leads to despair? As Christians, we may miss the abundant life the Lord offers. **John 10:10b** states, *"I am come that they might have life, and they might have it more abundantly."* Reflection needs to be daily, not yearly. I, too, struggle at times and must remember my Saviour's purpose for me. Instead of complaining, we are called to grow through

our circumstances and shine our Father's light in every situation.

What areas of our lives are we yielding to the blues? Many have health issues, financial problems, family difficulties, work pressures, time restraints, and the list is endless. In **Job 14:1**, the Scripture states, *"Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble."* How do we combat these situations? One of the tools I use is remembering that there is always someone worse off than I am. A visit to the nursing home can make me very grateful for my aches and pains, thinking about the children that are thankful for a shoe box for Christmas helps with any financial woes, knowing some people would love to get out of bed and go to work solves any work difficulties, and reminding myself how blessed I am usually gets me straight.

However, sometimes I have to dig a little deeper. The Bible teaches in **II Corinthians 10:5** that we are to take every thought captive: *"Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* How do I do that, Lord? Every thought? Is that possible? As a Christian, I know that the Holy God lives inside me through His Spirit. Nothing is impossible with God. So why do I still struggle to yield all my thoughts to God? I guess a big part of the problem is I haven't completely died to self.

This brings us to an even deeper question. Isn't that the main problem? We don't trust God to take care of us. We are trying to fix things on our own. We are looking for some great work instead of realizing God is here, taking care of the big and the small. These defeating thoughts usually arise when I think about how situations affect my life. I do worry about the people and the



ministry I love, but isn't that still sin? A multitude of Scriptures tell us to cast our cares on Jesus. We are to abide in Jesus in all things. Every decision we make, every word that we say, and every thought we have is to be guided by His Spirit.

With all these thoughts in mind, what is the solution? How do we take every thought captive? I am still a work in progress. I do know this: I cannot wait for New Year's to make a resolution. This is a moment-by-moment process, and I must consistently keep my thoughts in check. But I can't do it alone—

neither can you. We must depend totally on our Saviour and trust Him for the abundant life He promised. **John 15:4** says, *"Abide in Me."* Is it that simple?

Abiding in Him, then, becomes essential. Abiding in Him will produce the Fruits of the Spirit. What are they? The Scripture tells us in **Galatians 5:22-23**, *"But the fruit*

*of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control) against such there is no law."*

If we are to take our thoughts captive, we must abide in Him. We must die to self so we will produce His Spirit, thereby letting Christ live through us. It is a tall order, but with God, all things are possible. We all will fail, but the solution is to brush ourselves off and get back up again. We cannot dwell on our failures, but only on God's promises. He forgives and chooses to forget, so must we.

Let us resolve each day to live more like Christ, not by our own strength, but through His. Abide in Him and embrace the abundant life He promised.

I would like to wish everyone a great year as we seek to serve our Lord together.

*Happy New Year!*



*Dr. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*

# Radio**bits**

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## *Faithful Servants*

As we welcome this New Year, all of us here at **GoMix Christian Radio** want to thank our **Faith Partners** who have stood with us over the years. We are reminded of the apostle Paul's letters, where we can clearly see God's hand at work through everyday people doing simple things to fulfill His divine purpose.

At the end of Colossians, Paul mentions Tychicus and Onesimus, messengers who likely delivered the letters to the saints in Colossae, Ephesus, and Philemon. They are beloved brothers and faithful

servants, acting as postal carriers in spreading the gospel. Because they faithfully carried out their task, these letters continue to bless God's people today.

Christ's kingdom grows through the efforts of great leaders and dedicated preachers, but also through ordinary saints doing what may seem like small things. Some are mentioned in Paul's letters, but most remain unnamed. They are the nobodies of church history, yet their efforts will resonate through eternity. Christ is active not only on the mountain tops of life, but also in the valleys and plains. He is Lord when we cross the lowlands and even when we are stuck in the pit.

Tychicus might have gotten cold and used one of the parchments to start a fire. He and Onesimus could

have abandoned their mission when a more appealing opportunity came up. Yet, they stayed faithful to their mission. God works through the small acts of obedience from letter carriers and tentmakers to build His church.

Regardless of the role you've played or plan to play in our ministry this coming year, we sincerely thank you for your faithful support in serving our Lord. Only eternity will reveal the true impact of your service.

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Things don't always go according to plan. Sometimes funds arrive a little slower than expected. Despite having a good budget, that's exactly what happened to us in December. During the final two weeks of 2025, we realized we were running about \$25,000.00 behind in our projected budget. Yikes!

Although we were confident that our Lord would provide, we still hated to start the New Year off in the red. Therefore, we shared our need on the air

and issued an appeal for anyone feeling so led to consider a special end-of-the-year gift.

On December 30th, we were able to meet our goal! Thank you to all those who prayed with us for this miracle. Thank you to those who contributed to making this last-minute appeal a success.

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# EYES TO SEE

*Dr. Glenn Mills*

There are many places in the Bible that speak of having eyes to see and ears to hear. There are several references by the prophets warning Israel that though they had eyes, they were not seeing, and though they had ears, they were not hearing. These were often warnings because the people were ignoring God and His Word. They had hardened their hearts and were going their own way and doing whatever pleased their flesh. God in His great mercy would send the prophets to warn them of their backslidden condition. If in time they refused to listen and turn back to God, He would give them over to their own destruction and demise. The enemy would come and captivity would be inevitable.

Often in captivity, God's people would soon see the error of their ways and cry out for His

deliverance and help. They would realize their need for His life-changing Word and the blessings and favor that come from living and heeding God's Word. Through repentance, God would rescue, restore, and refresh His people whom He loved deeply. Sadly, in just a few generations, the story would repeat itself as the captivity was forgotten and God and His Word would again be ignored. Sometimes the journey from perfect vision to spiritual blindness can be shorter than any of us would like to admit.

I cannot help but think of the spiritual condition our country is experiencing. Our forefathers came to this new land with the dream of starting a country dedicated to God and His Word. Many have died defending these rights and freedoms. Our Constitution was founded on Biblical principles to

govern our lives. Most of our forefathers sought God's Word and direction before making any laws or ordinances to govern the people. The first act of the Continental Congress in 1774 at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, was to pray. That prayer was led by **Dr. Jacob Duche**. Please allow me to share the first part of his prayer:

*“Our Lord, our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon the earth, and reingest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all kingdoms, empires, and governments, look down in mercy, we beseech thee, upon these American States who have fled to Thee from the rod of the Oppressor, and thrown themselves upon Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only upon Thee...”*

It breaks my heart to see where we have come from and where we are today as a nation, government, and people. Most of our Founding Fathers had eyes to see as they read and studied Gods Word. They had ears to hear as they listened to the Spirit of God speaking through His Word and Ministers of Truth. But like the Israelites, our vision has become greatly impaired, and many are now blind to God's Word and deaf to the voice of His Holy Spirit.

**II Timothy 3:1-5** is being fulfilled due to people's blindness to God's Truth.

*“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*

Also, some people, in their blindness, are fulfilling **II Timothy 4:3-4** that

says, *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

But praise God there is hope! While in prayer one morning, the Holy Spirit gave me a revelation of what a new year can offer to those who would receive it. Those who will commit themselves to reading, studying, meditating, and rightly applying God's Word will see into the spiritual realm things of God they have never seen before. Many of the mysteries of God's Word can be revealed this year for those who are willing to search the Word. Scriptures that have seemed confusing can come to life, and clarity can be given to those willing to invest time in study. What has been the Logos (*written*) Word, can become the Rhema (*living*) Word. Rhema is the Word of God the Holy Spirit quickens to a specific person, for a specific situation or purpose, to those desiring to see.

A new year can also be a year of spiritual discernment of great proportions. Those



consuming God's Word can begin seeing on a greater spiritual level. While many are being deceived by the lies of the devil, those who are in the Word consistently can be able to discern those lies from God's Truth with the Holy Spirit. Those empowered by the Word can easily see Satan's tactics, schemes, devices, plans, and plots. They can move into a higher and more powerful level of prayer as they pray in accordance with God's Word. Those immersed in the Word can proclaim God's Word so boldly and confidently that it can impact people, churches, government, nations, and even the rest of the world. As the Word is applied, spiritual eyes will be opened, and the anointing will greatly increase. I truly believe signs and wonders of salvation, deliverance, healing, Christian maturity, and discipleship can manifest tremendously in this new year by those who will see. Regardless of how our current vision is, if we will allow God's spiritual ophthalmologist, the Holy Spirit, to fit us with His glasses to read the Word, we can have perfect spiritual vision and see things as God sees them.

As I have said before, those of us who have truly been born again must keep focused on spiritual, eternal things and not be distracted by the temporary, physical things of this life and world. Yes, we must live in this world, but we are not of this world. We are God's children through the blood of Jesus and Heaven is our home. Satan has blinded many in this world, but we are the light of Jesus to show them Truth. I pray this message puts a desire in your heart to see our need for God's Word in everything we say and do. I pray we are totally surrendered to God, His Word, and His Holy Spirit so we will have perfect spiritual vision in this new year.



*Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with Glenn Mills Ministries. More information is available at [www.glennmillsministries.com](http://www.glennmillsministries.com)*



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# Crossing the Line

We usually don't trade vehicles until it is absolutely necessary, so our newest vehicle is a 2015 model. Because of that, I am highly unfamiliar with the advancements in the newest automobiles. Recently, my son was telling me about the features in his new company truck.

Did you know that the newest vehicles can warn the driver when he wanders into another lane by gently steering the car back into its lane? If you want to change lanes, you have to use a turn signal to override that maneuver. The vehicle will not allow a driver to cross the line in the road without sensing that you are intentionally making that move. Not only does that discourage drivers from drifting into other lanes, but it also encourages the habit of signaling other drivers of your intention to change lanes.

I asked my son, "*Wouldn't it be nice if we were warned so efficiently when we are about to cross a line?*" He reminded me that the Holy Spirit does that. Why then do we sin? The only answer must be that we are not listening intently to His warnings. If only He would close the door in our faces before we enter places we should not go. If only He would give us a proverbial chill pill before we lose our tempers. If only He would divert our eyes before we succumb to lust. If only the Holy Spirit would give us temporary laryngitis before we blurted out words that we would regret. But He doesn't do those things to stop us from sinning. We have the option of overriding His warnings just as the driver using a turn signal. Too often, we deliberately override His warnings.

There are times when it is necessary to change lanes in a car. When passing a slower vehicle, it is better the change lanes than to cause a rear end collision. Courtesy prompts us to move over when another car is merging onto the highway beside us. When something is blocking our lane, we need to change lanes. When a patrolman has pulled someone over, we change lanes to give him space. But when the Holy Spirit warns us of our tendencies to cross a line, we should choose obedience instead of using our spiritual turn signals. Ponder that!



*Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. Now retired, she formerly served as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*

*After Glow*

*Mrs. Connie Peters*

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