

Article of the Month
January, 2017

Do You Want to Change the World?

Happy New Year! Isn't that what we would all like to see! But each successive new year seems to bring the same old problems plus a few more. Unfortunately, each new year does not seem to bring any more ANSWERS that help or satisfy the longing people of this world.

Romans 8:22 and 19 summarize it well:

For we know that the whole creation groans and travails
in pain together...
the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Then 8:23 adds Christ's disciples into the same hopeful waiting:

And not only they, but we also...groan within ourselves
waiting for the...deliverance of our body [the body of Christ].

Those last sentences of each passage, of course, give the REAL answer to all of the questions and problems — the MANIFESTATION of the sons of God...the DELIVERANCE of the body of Christ. The entire Christian age (now about 2000 years in progress) has been for the purpose of “taking out...a people for His [God's] name.” Acts 15:14) That “people” we know as God's true Church — a select number which God has TAKEN OUT from among the human race to develop them to be “kings and priests and reign over the earth.” (Revelation 5:10)

Christ's second advent is FOR THE PURPOSE of restoring and blessings all the families of the earth. (Acts 3:20, 21; Galatians 3:8; Genesis 12:3) But that blessing will be administered by and through the faithful “Church” developed during THIS lifetime who will THEN reign do away with everything that plagues this poor groaning creation.

In the local news there has been a repeated segment showing the natural hope that exists among us. A teen-age lad who has been reared in a depressed and violence-ridden neighborhood proudly and longingly states, “My mission is to change the world.” We cannot help but admire his aims; we also cannot help but realize that they are futile and doomed to failure except for the little bit of a difference his efforts MAY make. The world clearly needs more than man can do! — even when his ideals are true, sincere, and energetic. WE CANNOT FIX THE WORLD! Only God, through His appointed administrators of His kingdom (Christ and his Church glorified) can accomplish the

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mission. The world, of course, must get to the point where it realizes its own inabilities before the Lord will answer the prayer, “Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth.”

So, DON'T DESPAIR if 2017 sees things getting worse instead of better! In the words of Jesus (spoken for the faith of his disciples in our day), “And when these things begin to come to pass, then LOOK UP, and lift up your heads, because your deliverance draws near!” (Luke 21:28) If 2017 gets worse and worse, it is only bringing the whole world closer to the time that they will WELCOME the Kingdom. At THAT point, God will let its peace be established.

The question of import, then, becomes, “***Do YOU want to change the world?***” It is yet possible to become a sincere and dedicated disciple of Jesus and to become a part of that Deliverer which will have the privilege of making peace, restoring health and joy, and granting EVERLASTING life on this earth which will become a paradise. (Obadiah 21) What a “calling” this is! If you hear it, it is God’s invitation to you to join this happy “body of Christ.”

Happy New Year!