

FALL 2026

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

Back to School

The following articles are in response to the prompt: "Please share a 'nugget' verse of encouragement to keep us all strong and focused in the back to school season."

Sis. Kim Cosby Wertz

There are so many verses it has been hard to choose.

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

- Joshua 1:9

And I always go back to

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

- Proverbs 3:5-6

Sis. Marcia Simons

As you know, teaching can be very challenging at times, but one verse that always comes to mind is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." When we look to Him for strength, God faithfully equips us to meet every challenge and serve others with grace and perseverance.

Sis. Wendy Collier

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

- Ephesians 6:10-11

As you return to school this year, remember to put on the whole Armor of God each day, just as you would put on a coat before stepping out into cold weather. Read your Bible, pray, sing praises, and attend church—surround yourself with God's presence and truth.

A coat doesn't change the weather around you; it equips you to withstand it. In the same way, the Armor of God may not change every circumstance you face, but it will strengthen and prepare you to stand firm in any environment. As you walk in His strength, you'll also have the opportunity to shine the light of Jesus Christ and share His love with those around you.

Sis. Joanna Basham

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

- Isaiah 26:3

This is the first verse that I thought of. Maintaining peace in the middle of chaos is about keeping your mind stayed on Christ, trusting His blessings, and that His purpose will be accomplished. It takes a conscious effort to stay your mind, but the benefits of peace are worth it.

Sis. Sarah Copeland

This one has been coming up quite often in our home lately. ❤️

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

- Philippians 4:8

Back to School

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Sis. Marsha Reese

This is a little prayer I send out to my former colleagues right before school begins: "Dear God, thank you for the amazing teachers who have given their lives to serve our children. As they prepare for the new year, fill them with strength to lead, grace to guide, and hope to thrive in their classroom. Bless them beyond measure for their willingness to pour into the next generation through education. Amen."

Sis. Marsha Reese and Sis. Raney Simons

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

- Isaiah 41:10



Bro. Brian Collier

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest..."

- Joshua 1:9

A new school year brings pressure, uncertainty, hard classes, and challenges, but you never face them alone. Keep God close this year. Talk to Him often. Spend time in His Word before you dive into schoolwork...both matter, but only one carries eternal weight. Trust God with your future, even when you cannot see what's ahead. Stay strong and stay faithful!

Thank you for all of the encouragement! We at Tidings will be praying for everyone, students, parents, and teachers alike, as we go into this season.

Robbing God

Will a man rob God? This question seems preposterous on its face. Can an impotent human rob The Almighty God? Would someone even dare?

The question is answered in Malachi 3:8 as God reproves His people, *"Yet ye have robbed me..."* His people kept for themselves the things that God said were His: the tithes and offerings. These gifts were intended to acknowledge that everything they possessed had been first given to them by God. The prophet Jeremiah indicts God's people on the same offense. *"Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?"* (Jeremiah 7:11). Not only had they robbed God, they had also made His house their den. God's house was intended to be a *"house of prayer"* as we are reminded in both Isaiah 56:7 and Matthew 21:13.

People still try to take that which God insists belongs to Him. God says vengeance is mine, the silver and the gold are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills are mine. Yet we often behave as if all these things belong to us. And more.

We believe we have autonomy. However, God declares *"we are His people and the sheep of His pasture"* (Psalm 100:3); *"all souls are mine;"* (Ezekiel 18:4); *"none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself... whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's"* (Romans 14:7-8).

The apostle Paul corrects such thinking: *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

The very first temptation was to rob God. The serpent told Eve that she could be like God. Mankind was seduced to try and take God's glory upon themselves. This attempt to rob God of His glory recurs throughout scripture. Lucifer, son of the morning, declares, *"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will be like the most High"* (Isaiah 14:13-14) Nebuchadnezzar exalts himself (Daniel 5:18-21). Haman is commanded to be honored (Esther 3:1-2). The *"man of sin exalts himself above all that is called God"* (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Yet God asserts in Isaiah 42:8, *"I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another."* The four beasts in Revelation 4 who *"rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, ...give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne."* Him to whom ALL glory belongs!

We do well to keep in mind that we are recipients of every possession, every gifting, every blessing. God is the one to whom all things belong. Paul reminds us again in 1 Corinthians 4:7 *"...what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory as if thou hadst not received it?"* We do well to cast *"down...every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God"* (II Corinthians 10:5). We do well indeed to follow the example of Christ Jesus, *"who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:"* Jesus *"humbled himself"* and God *"highly exalted him,"* (Philippians 2:6-9).

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory" (Galatians 5:26). Let us beware not to say, like the hearers in Malachi 3:8-10, *"Wherein have we robbed thee?"* to God. Let us *"bring...all the tithes into the storehouse"* of God. Let us also humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us in due time.

- Sis. Pam Wimburn

The Timelessness of the Gospel

Familiar Saints in Belvidere, NC

What a strange sight it must've been. It was the Spring of 1896, and four separate floathouses are pulled by sailboat to the shores of Cannon's Ferry, on the cypress shores of the Chowan River in North Carolina's Albemarle Sound. The floathouses are makeshift homes, built upon floating barges, carrying nearly 100 sanctified folks traveling to share the gospel message. These floathouses had arrived most recently from holiness meetings held in nearby Bagley Swamp, near Winfall, NC.

Sis. Lydia Tingle described the events in a testimony preserved in "A Goodly Heritage;" an informal collection of testimonies from the earliest ministries of our folks: "We went by horse carts up to Belvidere, N.C. in a Quaker settlement and had wonderful meetings. In their homes there was great interest with the people and to [Belvidere] we visited out from Winfall, N.C. in a community called Bagley Swamp, held meeting in a vacant home called Lee Billops House, had large crowds in every place and people was anxious to hear the word, many converted and sanctified wholly...in the month of March."



"The first part of June we moved up Chowan River to Cannons Ferry. Our Lord opened the way and our meetings was wonderful. On the fourth of July 1896 we had open air service at Cannon Ferry under the trees. The power of the Holy Ghost came down in convincing and convicting power... We traveled Bagley Swamp and to Piney Woods and held revival at these places...Bro. Tom Chappell lived there at Piney Wood. Many, many was converted and wholly sanctified. Here was a great religious awakening among the Quakers and other denominations."

Fast forward 128 years later, to 2024...Bro. Bernard Collier asks me to consider traveling down to Belvidere to help with a funeral service. My wife and I had a baby not yet a year old. "Are you sure I'm who you need? Maybe next time." But something began to stir. I had already been curious about some of our forgotten folks, scattered about for various reasons.

I remember the convincing plea from Bro. Bernard - "Young people are showing up to meeting. There's an interest." I made a determination to do whatever I could do to help. The Lord is no stranger to restoration. Bro. Bernard remembers stories of revival from 1952, when several dozen of the Chappells, Twines, and beyond were sanctified in meetings held nightly for 42 days straight.

My first trip to Belvidere was in August of 2024. I met nearly all of the ten Chappell siblings; several sanctified brothers and sisters holding on strong to the true doctrine of conversion and sanctification. Sis. Mary Stallings (Chappell) was the first to welcome me, we had connected on the phone before the visit. Then I met Paul Chappell and Roger Twine, followed by Lessie and Dora Gray, and Nancy, with her grown son Ben. I was immediately welcomed. I saw a familiar face too, Sis. Joanne Pippins from Piney Woods up the road. We had stand-up meeting that morning, and the visitors from Chesapeake were invited to share the gospel of holiness with folks who lived the life of holiness!

The timelessness of the gospel wasn't lost on me. Bro. Tom Chappell, written about in Sis. Tingle's testimony, is the great-great-grandfather of the ten Chappell siblings, as well as Bro. Roger Twine. I shared with my new brothers and sisters the gospel connections I knew, how my great-great-grandmother, Sadie Collins, was one of the preachers on those floathouses that came ashore in 1896 and preached the everlasting gospel. We were all connected through the gospel of true holiness preached so plain; Jesus saves from sin. And through the Holy Spirit your heart can be sanctified, which eradicates the very carnal nature that ever caused you to sin... then you can live holy, finally free from all sin.

"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." (Psalms 16:6)

- Bro. Matt Simons

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*"But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ
Jesus."*

(Philippians 4:19)