

## Another Word Feb. 10, 2025

To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

Well, old man winter iced us up again. Ice may be nice in tea, but not on driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks. However, I have noticed that the salting of our lot has reduced the build-up of ice so we may not have to postpone or cancel any longer. And if you didn't know, Brian and I came in Sunday morning and recorded a service. The easiest way to view it would be to go to [firstchristianashland.org](http://firstchristianashland.org), where you can find and view the service.

News Flash! Donita and I are actually going to take a weekend off. In our absence, Brad Williams will bring the message on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Brad has worshipped with us over the past few months, and was a reader and guitar accompaniment during our Christmas Eve service. I know you will welcome him, and be inspired by his teaching. (Thanks Brad!)

Talk about time flying by! Believe it or not, Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and then Lent are just around the corner. We are planning to take a closer look at the last week of Jesus's passion throughout the season of Lent. We hope you will be able to join us on this journey that reveals God's love, and His ultimate gift to humanity.

LifeWise is going very well. In fact, there are now 450 students attending LifeWise classes in the Ashland school system. Hundreds more if we include Crestview, Black River, Hillsdale, and Mapleton school systems. God is indeed moving in our midst!

We are in the process of applying for ID's and name changes as we transition to an independent church and all is going smoothly, yet slowly. Kim asked me to remind you that until you are notified, please

continue to make out your checks to First Christian. Thanks for your cooperation.

As we go to prayer, please continue to remember those who have experienced upheavals in their lives.

O, Holy God. Together as one, we raise our voices in praise and adoration to You. Your love is continual, unending, even when our thoughts are turned away from You. There are so many in the world that are hurting and struggling. May we be used by You to reach them with Your love, compassion, and Your special gift of Grace. May we help all who are in need of peace, healing, and comfort, and direct us in Your perfect way of everlasting life. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

I've noticed that whenever the book of Revelation is brought up or about to be read, eyebrows go up, complexions pale, and fear shows in many eyes. Let's face it, there are many frightening images within the 22 chapters of Jesus' Revelation to the Apostle John, as He explains what will happen to the world in the last days.

Whether the words are apocalyptic or hyperbole, we need to understand that these are words that warn the church, warn us as believers, as well as warns the non-believer that there will be a day of judgement coming to all. That there will be times of upheaval, rebellion, chaos, and a time for each to choose; to choose God or the ways of the wicked. Spoiler alert: I read the end, and evil is crushed and defeated once and for all. God our Father wins!

So, Rich, where is the story of you growing up in your neighborhood or a story of some work-related incident that correlates with a Bible verse? Instead, you bring up one of the scariest books in the Bible! Why??

Well, to those who never were able to start or finish this book, or to those who have read it to the end, you may have missed the best

message Jesus could ever bring to you and me. Let's take a look at the last 2 verses of the book of Revelation, Chapter 22:20-21. John writes, "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen." NASB Only two lines, but they are so powerful. It was pointed out to me that they hold 3 promises to those who stay true to Jesus.

First- Jesus says, "Yes I am coming quickly." These are the last words given to John by Jesus. Notice Jesus said, "quickly." We need to be ready for His return; at a time, we may not even expect. We must never let our guard down because we won't have time to prepare. So, we need to always be ready.

Second- We are given the very last prayer in the Bible. John writes, "Amen, come Lord Jesus." Should we not also be praying daily for the return of Jesus?

Third- John gives us a beautiful benediction, "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen." Grace! We sing about it, read about it, and talk about it. But, until His return, we need His grace within us every hour of every day. Grace that will nourish, uphold, and sustain us until His glorious return.

So, you see, maybe this book isn't as frightening as you may have thought. We all have ups and downs in life, even some pretty scary moments. But if we hold onto His grace, pray for His return, and know that His return is eminent, nothing in life is too frightening to take us away from Jesus' loving promises!

In His Peace,

*Rich*