

## ***A Call to Persevere*** January 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### ***Psalm 37:1-9***

Unexpected events are waiting to happen in 2014! For some, this year will be approached with excitement and for others, with apprehension! One thing is certain, God's plans for us will be fulfilled and His desire is that, in the process, we will continue to grow in Christ and not lose ground!

*Philippians 3:16* "Only let us hold true to what we have attained."

*Hebrews 10:35-36* "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what is promised."

### **Encouraging Directives from Psalm 37**

**"Fret not"** *Psalm 37:1*

*Fret*: "to be agitated"<sup>1</sup>

❖ Don't fret over evil doers and wrong doers – and don't be envious! Satan's scheme is to make us think that they are getting away with their deeds!

*Ecclesiastes 12:14* "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil."

❖ They will soon fade away and wither

**"Trust in the Lord"** *Psalm 37:3*

*Trust*: "To place confidence in; to rely on." *confidence*: "an assurance of mind or firm belief..."<sup>1</sup>

**"Dwell in the land and befriend [cultivate or feed upon] faithfulness"** *Psalm 37:3*

📖 *Jeremiah 29:4-7*

**"Delight yourself in the Lord"** *Psalm 37:4*

*Delight*: "To have or take great pleasure"<sup>1</sup>

❖ Then He will give you the desires of your heart!

**"Commit your way to the Lord"** *Psalm 37:5*

❖ God will act and reward your right living before Him

**"Be still before the Lord"** *Psalm 37:7*

*Still*: "to stop, as motion or agitation; ... to calm; to quiet;"<sup>1</sup>

*Psalm 46:10* "Be still, [cease striving] and know that I am God. ..."

**"Wait patiently for Him"** *Psalm 37:7*

*Patience*: (Greek – hupomone) "to abide under"<sup>2</sup>

❖ Patience grows through trials.

*James 1:3* "for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

❖ Patience produces Godly, Christlike character.

*James 1:4* "And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

**"Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath"** *Psalm 37:8*

*Refrain*: "To hold back; ... to keep one's self from action ..."<sup>1</sup>

*“Turn away from evil and do good” Psalm 37:27*

*“Wait for the Lord and Keep His way” Psalm 37:34*

*“The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.” Psalm 37:31*

### **Let’s Get Real! What about...**

Worldwide Terrorism?.....*Trust Him!*

Economic Recession or Collapse?.....*Trust Him!*

Corruption in our Government?.....*Trust Him!*

Health Care?.....*Trust Him!*

School Shootings?.....*Trust Him!*

Mall and Theatre Shootings?.....*Trust Him!*

Suicide Bombings?.....*Trust Him!*

Unbridled Immorality?.....*Trust Him!*

Attack on our Religious Freedom?.....*Trust Him!*

Growing Hostility against Christians?.....*Trust Him!*

Lies of the Media?.....*Trust Him!*

Decadence of Hollywood?.....*Trust Him!*

Defiance of God’s Word?.....*Trust Him!*

Threats on Israel?.....*Trust Him!*

*“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.” Psalm 37:5*

*Psalm 37:39-40 “The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.”*

We will persevere with confidence and expectation as we approach this coming year!

**God is Sovereign!**

### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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