



Y2K Bugged

Randall F. Matheny

It seems that no matter where you look or listen, something about the coming of the year 2000 is mentioned. Attitudes range from the Alfred E. Newman, "What, me worry?" to the Chicken Little, "The sky is falling!" Little reassurance has come from the "powers that be" that all will be well, but most rational people seem to think that potential problems have been exaggerated by those who have something to gain from people's fears. The business segment created primarily to feed upon the paranoia and anxiety of many people over end of the second millennium has certainly been booming. Religious people have been inundated with portents of doom, apocalypse, and so on. What should the Christian do, if anything, to prepare?

First of all, common sense accepts that there will be some problems in an economy that relies heavily upon computer systems. There are bound to be disruptions of commerce, utility service, financial services and government services; the only question being, "Where, how much and how long" According to credible emergency prepared-

The Country Preacher's Newsletter

<http://www.countrypreacher.com/pdf/newsltr.pdf>

ness organizations problems are not expected to be widespread, but scattered and localized. Most people will be well served in preparing for the turn of the century by laying in supplies (including food, fresh water and essential medicines) for at least one week, as if they were preparing for a forecasted snowstorm or a flood. Some have suggested

Will the Lord return in 2000? He may, but not because of the misguided prognostications of those who chronically mishandle the word of truth.

that families in rural areas should consider the purchase of a gas or diesel powered generator sufficient to power lighting and refrigeration. Alternate heating and cooking fuel should also be considered for the short term.

Will the Lord return in 2000? He may, but not because of the misguided prognostications of those who chronically mishandle the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:16; 2 Thes. 2). They have been wrong too many times to have any remaining credibility. Jesus has clearly said that He will come again (Jn. 14:3), that His coming will be unexpected (1 Thes. 5:1-3; Mat. 24:36-41), and that Christians should be prepared whenever that great day arrives (1 Thes. 5:4-11). The best thing that a non-Christian can do in preparation is to

become a Christian in obedience to Christ's gospel (Heb. 5:8-9; Acts 2:38). The faithful child of God does not become anxious over the predictions of doomsayers, because he readies himself daily and watches for the Lord's coming (Lk. 9:23; Mat. 24:42-44), for one day He will come and He will not tarry (Heb. 10:37). Until the Lord comes, we will live as we always have:

One day at a time. Let us resolve to live for Him that day and to try to lead a soul to Him that day (Mat. 6:33). Do not worry about 2000,

which is really the last year of the second millennium. "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Mat. 6:34b). What condition would the Lord find you in today, if He were to return? Wouldn't it be ironic if He chose to return on a Lord's Day during Bible class or worship assembly? He'd find you where?

• • •

"Confess Your Trespasses To One Another"

By Randall F. Matheny

Much is said and written about what the non-Christian, or alien sinner, must do to be forgiven of sin, but what about the Christian

who sins? Are there any consequences? Is there anything that a Christian who sins must do to be forgiven? As always, the Bible has the answer if we are but willing to read and heed what it says. The New Testament does speak regarding Christians who sin. Simon, the former sorcerer of Samaria (Acts 8:12-24), sinned in thinking that a spiritual gift of God granted to the apostles of Jesus could be bought as merchandise, and perhaps even his motive for thinking such was impure although the scripture is silent except to say that his heart was not right in the sight of God. Simon was instructed to repent and pray in order to be forgiven. Some people would suggest that Simon had never truly become a Christian to begin with, but the record states clearly that Simon himself also believed and was baptized (v. 13).

John also adds to the inspired remedy for the Christian who sins in 1 John 1:7-10. John's use of the pronoun "we" and the addressing of his remarks to "brethren" (2:7) clearly show that he is addressing Christians and not alien sinners. John specifies that the Christian who would remain forgiven must "*walk in the light,*" that is, in accordance with the doctrine of Christ, and adds, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*" James, the brother of the Lord Jesus, expands on the concept of confession, adding, "*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one*

another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16)." Public confession of sin serves several

Is there anything that a Christian who sins must do to be forgiven? As always, the Bible has the answer if we are but willing to read and heed what it says.

purposes: It is an indication of a broken heart and contrite spirit (Psm. 34:18; Isa. 66:2), it is visible fruit befitting repentance (Mat. 3:8; Acts 26:20), it allows the church to pray on behalf of the one seeking forgiveness (James 5:16b), and it makes known the desire to be restored to full fellowship and to resume participation in the great work of the Lord's church. James 5:16a also recognizes, at the very least, that a heart laden with unconfessed sin has a definite negative impact on one's health and that the prayers of faithful brethren are a necessity to remaining strong in the Lord.. How public a confession of sin should be can only be determined by how widely the sin is known, for example, a sin such as willfully forsaking the assembly (Hebrews 10:24-27), or otherwise bringing reproach upon the body of Christ in a way that is generally known by the church (for example 1 Cor. 5), should be confessed before the church, while a sin known only to God may be confessed only to God. The consequences of remaining in sin as a Christian are dreadful. They may include withdrawal of fellowship (2 Thes. 3:6-15; 1 Cor. 5:9-13) for the purposes of bringing the sinner to repentance

(1 Cor. 5:5) and protecting the church from the ravaging influence of sin (1 Cor. 5:6-8; Rev. 2:20-23), and if unrepented, the loss of an eternal soul (Heb. 4:11; 6:4-8; 10:23-31, 35-39). The remedy for the Christian who sins is repentance, prayer and confession.

• • •

Visit

Countrypreacher.com

And the home page for the church of Christ, Warren, Pennsylvania.

Visit the Country Preacher's Links to:

**Scandia Technologies
For all your computer needs!**

Calendar of Brotherhood Events

Bible Specials at the CountryPreacher.com General Store

Subscribe and Unsubscribe Information

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to: <newsletter@countrypreacher.com> with the word "Subscribe," without quotation marks, in the Subject field. To unsubscribe, send an e-mail message with the word "Unsubscribe," without the quotation marks, in the subject field.

Newsletter@countrypreacher.com

Edited by
Randall F. Matheny
PO Box 911
Warren, PA 16365-0911