

# Wall of Prayer



January 27, 2017

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

We recently heard the Christmas story, the story of Emmanuel, God with us. We remembered Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men and the myriads and myriads of angels. As you read the details from Matthew or Luke, did you notice that Jesus, submitting to the Father, gave up His majesty and complete control to become the very weakest and helpless thing we can imagine: a baby? A baby born of a woman, an ordinary flesh-and-blood woman who was entrusted, along with her husband, with raising the babe in the fear of the Lord through infancy to childhood and to adulthood. Did you notice that this Son remained in complete submission to His true Father, even to the cross? Melito of Sardis said of this Son:

He who hung the earth is hanging on the cross.  
He who fixed the heavens in place has been fixed in place.  
He who laid the foundations of the universe has been laid on a tree.

I'm wondering how many of us noticed Paul's account of the Christmas story in his letter to the Galatians. "But when the set time had fully come, *God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So, you are no longer a slave, but God's child and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir.*" (Galatians 4:4-7) One pastor noted that, while we praise and honor Jesus, He is not the reason for the season.<sup>1</sup> He was in perfect fellowship with His Father, basking in His Trinitarian light. Jesus had no reason to come on Christmas except to bring those who were "walking in darkness...in the land of deep darkness"<sup>2</sup> of sin, into His presence where there is light and life. I want to shout that, "WE are the reason for the season." Jesus came to carry us right into the lap of our Father, our Abba Father, who happens to be the Sovereign Lord of the universe. Christmas was to ensure our adoption. We are no longer slaves to sin but we live in the presence of our Father who "zealously accomplished this." (Isaiah 9:7) One commentator defined this word "zeal" as: "a consuming concern for another's best interest." God was and is consumed with what is best for us. He created us and He has redeemed us to bring us into an intimate relationship with Him. He is what is best for us! Living in His presence, walking in His ways and delighting in Him is what is best for us!

And Christ assures us in John 15:16, "you did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." I want you to be encouraged that this work of prayer, this humble act of bowing in weakness and helplessness before our Father, just as Jesus did, is an act of worship and will bring about fruit—fruit that will last. I don't have to tell you that we live in a dark world and there are masses that walk in the deep darkness of sin and shame. God has seen the plight of the students for whom we pray and has chosen you and me to plead on their behalf. You may want to google the "Battle of Castle Itter" which occurred at the very end of the second World War, a week after Hitler's suicide and two days before the formal signing of the Unconditional Surrender of the Third Reich. The war had been won and yet there were French officials, including two Prime Ministers, being held under Nazi oppression at the Castle Itter. Germans who had defected, fighting along-side Allied forces, stormed the Castle to set the captives free. Our war has also been won, but we are in this battle for the lives of those who are still in the strongholds of the enemy. We must continue to fight on our knees for these students who remain in this deep darkness. Never give up!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Admire

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<sup>1</sup> Eric Landry, Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas. Sermon, December 11, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 9

"Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." 2 Chr. 14:11