



# THE IRVIN FAMILY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: UGANDA, AFRICA

September 2021

***1 Timothy 3:14-16 (KJV) These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.***

To my faithful brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus:

I am often amazed, to the point of becoming overwhelmed, when I consider the faithfulness of our supporting churches. Their goodwill, their kindness, and their willingness to take up the cause of Christ are commendable. In terms of essential expressions of gratitude, I perceive the most estimable format is the written word. Hence our love for the perfection of the King James Bible, God's word in written form. As such, allow me to once again place in writing here and now our gratefulness for your support!

Support of this magnitude is a foundational aspect of Christian behavior in the house of God. Praying for missions, supporting such labors of love financially, and preaching the gospel in one's own locality is fundamental Christian conduct. In its present evil existence, the world serves as an arena of opportunity for the bride of Christ to serve her bridegroom. An arena designed for sport assumes there will be a battle, a struggle, and the victor must press on through all opposition. We have much to overcome - the course of this world, the prince of the power of the air, and (perhaps most dangerous of all) the lusts of the flesh and the desires of the mind. But in every battle, we remain on the Lord's side. Otherwise, from where would our help come? Those who compromise do so in hopes of escaping the arena's pressures but instead join the riotous confusion of the world's course. Rather than engaging in battle to glorify our God, they submit themselves to the moral dictates of certain lewd fellows of the baser sort.

Our brethren in the West must do all to stand; they must defy the idea the Lord is responsible for providing heaven on earth as the saints complete their pilgrimage. The Lord said it is reasonable that we present ourselves living sacrifices, not rather that the world is sacrificed to meet our personal expectations of paradise on earth. I fear American Christians have adopted the idea we should be accepted, though we are strangers in the earth. Unfortunately, the inmates run the prison, and prisoners are not known for their Christlike characteristics. Troubled days are coming; thus, our current day is nothing more than a brief stop en-route to insanity. Thus an expectation of acceptance is unreasonable. The world around us is willing to separate itself from that which is godly, only extending the right hand of fellowship when Christians repent of their godly mindset and serve the god of this world. Somehow, Christians are not willing to do the same.

As we press on, exercising what we have learned of Christ, what becomes apparent is duty is ours, service is ours, humility is ours, and Christ is faithful. Herein the faithfulness of supporting churches is made manifest in vivid fashion and thereby rejoices the hearts of those who love Christ. The gospel of Christ is the noblest of causes in which one might engage. This engagement will endure into eternity and deserves our unending commitment. What compares when laid side by side on eternal scales of value? If that be so, how do our daily lives prove the estimate we place on our Lord and his word? We all understand a day of judgment is coming, even for the saints in Christ Jesus, but I presume we may have some idea now what that day will hold. If we were to live with the excellency of Christ in continual view, it might inspire us to give our Lord the preeminence he so deserves.

That idea, alongside daily reminders the earth and all that is therein will perish, would be most helpful. The heavens and the earth will wax old as doth a garment, and as a vesture, the Lord shall fold them up. But the Lord remains the same, and his years shall not fail. What a tremendous contrast serving as a daily reminder of where our efforts should be placed. We can serve God or mammon, knowing the unrighteous mammon of this world will go the way of all the earth. Or we can labor for that meat which endures unto everlasting life. The choice seems so clear from here, yet this is a daily battle we all must face. We must learn to see further than the nearest side of time and live life with our affections set on things above.

These ideas are engraved with eternal implications whose grooves are formed by temporal activity. Our actions, our thoughts, our conversations now will be followed by an eternal reward. So, as we face the tyranny of despots around the world, all of whom seem set on silencing the name of Christ, we must remain steadfast, knowing our hope is an anchor for the soul. In our current mode of soft persecution, these despots yield for their weapon a particular virus. Thus far, only our traditional method of assembling ourselves together has been temporarily hindered. That said, our traditional method of meeting is not guaranteed, nor is it required. Assembling ourselves together is commanded, but doing so in nice well-marked buildings is not. We praise the Lord for his protection here in Uganda as we did not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but we were wise as serpents and harmless as doves. I find no scriptural support for Christian revolution when our traditional comforts are frustrated. I also find no support for cowardice submission to commands that are against God's word. Neither is correct; both must be wisely mitigated. We are to obey God rather than man, but it helps to remember that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

As of September 22, the President of Uganda loosened the restrictions that prevented us from meeting collectively as a church in our church building. A building we enjoy, a building for which we praise the Lord! Sunday, September 26th, we assembled ourselves together in that building and worshipped the true and living God. What a wonderful day it was - the church house was full, the singing was energetic, the spirit was great, the preaching had free course, and the Lord was magnified. We deeply value such meetings, and we despise the ease with which they can be forsaken. We thank the Lord for his goodness, and we again thank you, our supporters, who brought this cause before the throne of grace with us. Our God overturned the heart of the king.

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