

2013: YEAR IN REVIEW

I. Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines.

- A. On Nov. 8, the most powerful typhoon since 1991 hit the nation of the Philippines.
 - 1. It hit with wind speeds as high as 170 mph.
 - 2. This was about 20 mph higher than any wind gusts during Hurricane Katrina.
- B. At least 5,000 people were killed and almost 2 million left homeless.
- C. What a terrible thing to have happen to a nation already struggling with debt.
- D. Thankfully, a great deal of aid has made its way there and it is our blessing to be able to help today as our contribution will go towards aiding both brethren and non-Christians who have suffered loss there.
- E. What we should take away spiritually from this is that storms come and they do damage.
 - 1. Living the Christian life is not a guarantee of nothing but goods times and beds of roses.
 - 2. You and I are going to be hit with problems, persecution and pain.
- F. Sometimes our storms will be by our own making.
 - 1. We sin from time to time and cause our own problems.
 - 2. When we do, we must make sure we limit the damage by repenting as soon as possible.
 - 3. We never want to get out of the light and lose touch with the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7).
 - 4. We must do just as Simon was told to do (Acts 8:22).
- G. Sometimes our storms are caused by others or by sickness.
- H. Sometimes our storms are caused by persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).

II. Introduction of Affordable Care Act.

- A. The headlines have been dominated by the healthcare initiative introduced by President Obama and passed in Congress.
 - 1. There have been all types of articles about how it is supposed to help people.
 - 2. There have been all types of articles about how it is hurting people.
- B. I don't preach politics and am not starting now.
- C. Whether you agree with the Act or not, we as Christians need to learn to pray for our rulers to have wisdom to pass laws that continue to enable us to spread the gospel.
 - 1. Paul told Timothy...(1 Timothy 2:1-2).
 - 2. We may not agree with every law or decision our rulers make on a local, state or national level.
 - 3. We don't have to, but we do need to pray for them
- D. The men and women elected to offices on all levels are not perfect.
- E. Also, our voting should not be determined by financial implications or military decisions but by biblical standards of morality.
 - 1. We ought to do our best to vote for candidates who stand as close

- to the morals of the Bible as possible.
2. It may be the lesser of two evils to some but that is what should move our vote, not political parties.

III. Hannah Montana grew up.

- A. For several years there was a Disney show that was about a talented girl from the South who made it as a teen star.
 1. It was a wholesome show that I didn't mind my kids watching for the most part.
 2. The morality was high and you didn't have to worry about what was about to come out of someone's mouth.
- B. Now, Hannah Montana has grown up and goes by her real name of Miley Cyrus.
 1. You can see her on awards shows and in videos in various states of undress if you so desire.
 2. I have heard that the website promoting her new tour is encouraging the use of marijuana.
- C. We must do our best to ground our children in biblical principles and morals.
 1. So many of the stars of today lead lives that need to be out of the eyesight of our children.
 2. It is a parents responsibility to train up our children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).
 3. Parents are to bring their children up in the instruction of God's word (Ephesians 6:4).
- D. This world is going to be destroyed one day and there is heaven or hell waiting.
- E. We need to do our best to make sure our children reach heaven.

IV. Detroit filed for bankruptcy.

- A. On July 18th, Detroit became the largest U.S. city to declare bankruptcy due to being unable to pay off 18 billion in debt.
 1. At one time, Detroit was the richest in America.
 2. This was due to the Big 3 auto makers.
- B. This event was declared as a historic collapse.
- C. We know this type of occurrence takes place on an individual level every day.
- D. As Christians, we must learnt to be good stewards of the financial blessings given us by God.
 1. A steward is to be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2).
 2. We are stewards or keepers of blessings that we will be judged by when this life is over.
- E. How are we using the blessings of God?
 1. The parable of the talents teaches us that how we use our blessings will be held against us or be in our favor.
 2. We will be judged accordingly.
- F. The way we use our money is an indicator of the type of stewards we are.
- G. We need to make sure we are using it wisely and properly.

V. The government shutdown for a while.

- A. On October 1, the government partially shut down for 16 days.
 - 1. Unable to come to an agreement on spending, Congress allowed parts of our government to cease to operate.
 - 2. If you're like me, you didn't notice it a whole lot.
- B. Many employees of various government entities did feel it however, being forced to stay home for the length of the shutdown.
- C. During that time, however, God did not shutdown.
 - 1. God was still in His heaven.
 - 2. The Son was still on the throne.
- D. Christians could still enter the throne room of God through prayer (Hebrews 4:16).
- E. God's providential care of His people did not cease to be active during the governmental shutdown.
- F. While we are to obey them that have the rule over us and honor the king as Peter commanded, we are servants of God first and foremost.
 - 1. As Paul said...(Philippians 3:20).
 - 2. Our allegiance is to God, His Son and His church.
 - 3. When we obey Him, we will be good citizens of the nation in which we physically live.
- G. God does not shut down and is always available to those that are His and to those who are truly seeking to find Him.