

CCMC Weekly 57
January 2, 2017

Dear Christ Community,

Welcome to 2017. This letter was the first time I got to write that! Even though it's just another day, I kind of like the idea of coming fresh into this year, that I can make changes, unchained myself from bad habits and strengthen my spiritual life and my relationships. Who says I can't? God says I can. God says we are able to have a breakthrough, and the birth of Jesus is a perfect time. I feel an energy in this new year. Can you feel it too? I feel a sacred peace covering me, even as I face other feelings. May the Lord touch our lives and guide our feet in 2017. Hallelujah, we made it! Let us keep going, brighter and better.

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LAST SUNDAY

For Epiphany we read Hebrews 2:10-18 (read it here:<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.biblegateway.com/passage/%3fsearch=Hebrews+2&version=NIV&interface=amp>). This scripture talks about the work of Christ, how he came to earth to connect with humanity as family, to learn and teach us. It talks about how Christ was tested so that he could better help us when we are tested. Whether people had a good year or a bad year, Christ's love for us and the possibility of salvation can fill us with gratitude. God is good! We may trust in the Holy Creator as we go into the new year.

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NEXT SUNDAY

Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the

prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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STUDY QUESTIONS

- Does God show no partiality? Not to Christians? Certain types of Christians?
- In what ways did Jesus preach peace?
- Who is oppressed by the devil?
- Hanging him on a tree vs. Nailing him on a cross. Does the change of phrase signify anything to you?
- Who does God choose as witnesses? Why does God want witnesses?

Love,
Amy