

## Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, December 31, 2016

As the new year commences, I felt it was only appropriate to look at the way most of the world uses the term “the year of the Lord.” There was a time when I actually thought the terms B.C. and A.D. stood for Before Christ and After Death. However, this did not make sense as we would be unable to account for the thirty-three years Christ was in the world. The term A.D. in Latin is *anno domini*, which translates to “in the year of the/our Lord.” You may be aware that there’s been a push to replace the B.C. and A.D. labels to B.C.E. and C.E. in recent years. Some feel the terms “before common era” and “common era” are less offensive to other cultures and religions that may not consider Christ as Lord.

The Julian calendar was the one predominantly used until 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII introduced what became known as the Gregorian calendar to the world in order to properly adjust the date of Easter as a religious holiday. Civil calendars gradually changed over the next three-and-half centuries with Greece being the final European country to accept the Gregorian calendar. The Greek Orthodox Church obviously took a hard stance against any change coming out of Rome. Now let’s move from history into reality!

Personally, I find it gratifying to know that most of the world accepts the fact that the Messiah came into this world as a baby and walked and talked and healed men and women and children during His brief time on earth. There has been more written about Him than any other human being ever! His impact on the world is greater than that of any other person in history. Yes, we know of great conquerors and kings and philosophers and prophets who have made a huge impact on the cultures of this world, but none can hold a candle to the miraculous impact of Christ Jesus. We’re not talking legends, but true accounts with many witnesses to all He accomplished.

Written accounts by scholars such as Flavius Josephus who was born a Jew in 37 A.D. contain accounts of Jesus’ existence and significance. Josephus became a Pharisee and later a Roman citizen whose major literary works were entitled the *JEWISH WAR* (78 A.D.) and the *ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS* (93 A.D.). There’s been significant study in recent years on the authenticity of his accounts of Jesus and there will always be skeptics. Apparently Flavius Josephus was not a follower of Christ, but much of his writings coincide with the Gospel of Luke.

By the way, I need to mention there is a less frequently used meaning for the “C” in B.C.E. and B.C. found in academic circles. The word “common” has been changed to “current” implying that there’s another era yet to come. Although many Christians do not care for such wording, I personally have no problem with it at all. You see, I know that there will be another era that’s amply prophesied in the Book of Revelation. The thousand year reign of Christ will certainly fit the bill as that new era and I look forward to it with great anticipation.

I hope you’ll join me in anticipating it in God’s perfect timing! What we all need to do is pray for Christ’s imminent return. Come soon Lord Jesus - Maranatha!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Psalm 107:1-9; I Corinthians 16:22-24; 2 Corinthians 6:2; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 21:1-4

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**Psalm 107:1-9** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.  
<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
<sup>3</sup>those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.  
<sup>4</sup>Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.  
<sup>5</sup>They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away.  
<sup>6</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.  
<sup>7</sup>He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.  
<sup>8</sup>Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,  
<sup>9</sup>for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.

**1 Corinthians 16:22-24** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>22</sup>If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord.  
<sup>23</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.  
<sup>24</sup>My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**2 Corinthians 6:2** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>2</sup>For he says,  
“In the time of my favor I heard you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”  
I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

**1 Peter 1:3-5** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Revelation 21:1-4** New International Version (NIV)

**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”