



# IPC Messenger

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## CHRISTMAS 2012

Dear IPC Family and Friends,

As we pass through this Christmas season, 2012, our world is unrestful at best and chaotic at worst.

- Radical “Islamic Terrorism” is alive and well (Al-Qaeda, et al), with “exhibit A” being the destruction of the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and the accompanying brutal murder of our ambassador and three other brave Americans.
- The Middle East is in turmoil with several of its countries threatening to annihilate Israel and with Iran seeking to become a nuclear power. And if successful, being unprincipled, Iran will become a gigantic threat to many of its neighbors and to the entire free world.
- A number of European socialist countries are on the verge of economic collapse with demonstrations in the streets and unemployment in Greece and Spain at 25%.
- And here in the United States, there are a whole host of serious problems:
  - In the economic and social realms, we have a national debt that exceeds 16 trillion dollars and that is climbing at a frightening pace; an unemployment rate at nearly 8% with 23 million citizens either unemployed or underemployed; 50% of college graduates unable to find suitable jobs; and an expanding welfare state with 50 million people receiving food stamps and 8 million on disability.
  - With regard to morality and ethics, in the recently concluded election 60 Million Americans (including many “professing Christians”) knowingly or not, voted to endorse abortion in its most extreme and gruesome forms and to legitimize anew the homosexual lifestyle, and with it gay marriage. And at present, 40% of U.S. children are conceived out-of-wedlock, (75% in the Black community). And now, the senseless slaughter of 26 children and adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT by a 20-year-old depraved killer. What next?

Well now, the pressing question is, “In this fallen world, will any or all of these diverse circumstances and situations

be justly, morally, and equitably resolved in a timely manner?” As believers, we hope and pray that such will be the case, but of course there are no guarantees and we have many reasons to be pessimistic.

Brethren, what we are experiencing on the world scene is uncertainty, instability and gross unrighteousness; three of the hallmarks of a sinful culture. And that sort of a situation is enough to drive many men to despair. **But not us.** We fully realize from the clear teaching of God’s inerrant Word that such will be the case until our Lord returns, and that our God is the Sovereign King of all nations whose will cannot be thwarted. (Matthew 24:4ff; 1 Chronicles 29:11).

And as we celebrate our Savior’s birth we also realize that certainty, stability, and righteousness are to be found only in Christ. One of the glories of His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension is the fact that in Him we have a sure and certain hope; a hope that enables us to function well in the here and now and to face the hereafter with great confidence. He has purchased our salvation and so our primary and permanent citizenship is not in this ever shaky world, but in Heaven. And as the Apostle Paul states, “. . . from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20, 21 ESV). Oh what a grand and glorious day that will be! Please come soon, Lord Jesus!

May the extraordinary treasures of God-given certainty, stability, and righteousness be yours during this blessed season and beyond as you focus your attention on His Messiah and King; on Jesus, the very source of those elusive and priceless commodities.

Your friends and servants in Christ,

*Art Broadwick*

On behalf of

*Tom Id*

*Ron Camit*

*Bill St*

*Frank*