

**A New Year Is Here**

Perhaps many enter this new year with mixed feelings and emotions. Some may joyfully welcome it's arrival while others are apprehensive or even fearful of what lies ahead. To the believer however, there is a comfort and peace within the heart to know that God holds the future and in His care and keeping we can entrust our all in all. Jesus reminds us with such reassuring words: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5 Dear reader, are you willing to resign your all into such safe keeping? The promises of Jesus are true and He will fulfill all that He has promised. If you are not yet trusting in His promises will you lay hold of them today with a childlike faith or does faith to fully trust Him seem to elude you? Consider this, dear friend, perhaps the Savior of mankind is speaking to your heart today, urging and pleading with you to flee from the doubts and fears of unbelief, as we begin this new year of God's grace. We do not know if He will call again, but this we do know, He said, "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart" etc. Psalm 95: 7-8 Remember God loves you and He gave His son to die for you and for all of mankind. What will be your response?

How wonderful it is to know that the invitation of our Savior is still heard above the clamor and the din of this world's activities. His voice is so calming and distinctly clear: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28 The rest Jesus is speaking of in this passage is not a rest for our tired body but rather a rest from one's futile efforts to earn his salvation by his own works which can never appease the wrath of God over sin. Jesus has already paid the dreadful price for our sins and for the salvation of mankind on the cross of Calvary and He tenderly invites all to come unto Him. But we cannot come to Him offering our own good works and deeds with the hope of meriting His favor. To do so would be to deny Jesus the praise and glory that is due Him. All must come to Him with humble and contrite hearts and as beggars of God's grace seek His forgiveness for our sin. Thanks be to God that in His kingdom on earth, which is the living church, forgiveness is still declared to the repentant sinner in the holy name and the atoning blood of Jesus. With a believing heart the repentant can trust fully in the merits of

Jesus for his soul's salvation. It is truly a joyous new year that awaits all who come to Jesus.

May believers everywhere welcome this new year as an extension of God's grace and that we might utilize this time profitably in the work of His kingdom. It may be that we are led to rescue some poor soul who is struggling in the turbulent seas of this world searching for the lights of that peaceful harbor of refuge. Dear Christian friend, we are those lower lights that may guide the poor storm-tossed sailor to the safety found in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Let us pray that God would fuel our lamp of faith that our "lights would so shine before men", etc. Oh, that this new year would be one of new-found joy for such poor souls as they become partakers of the riches of the heavenly promise which is life eternal.

Pray dear Christian friend, that God, in His great love would send a spirit of revival upon us and upon our sin-sick nation so that the desire of men's hearts would be for righteousness. Who knows but that God will heal our land and unite all in His love. He has promised, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2Chronicles 7:14

May our God add his New Year blessings to all,

Ken Storm - pastor

**Worship Service Schedule**

Jan 6	Ken Storm	11:00	Holy Communion
Jan 13	Nathan Ruonavara	11:00	
Jan 20	Ken Storm	11:00	2pm Medical Care Facility
Jan 27	Chuck Korhonen Second speaker TBD	11:00	Potluck Meal Following Service