

Can you believe that Christmas is past, New Year's Eve and Day are passed, and we're starting another year!

You may not have noticed, but the days are actually getting longer. December 22nd was the shortest day of the year, and since then each day is just a little longer. Each day we have a little more sunlight. Each day Her rays are a little more direct, and each day we move toward more warmth; a little closer to Spring! I know it doesn't seem like it now. Now it's cold and the days are still short. But if we keep waiting, Spring will come, though sometimes it seems as though it never will. I will tell you loved ones... sometimes it is that way in our Spirits, as well.

There are times when it seems that the light that shines in us is not quite as bright as it once was; and when it does shine, it doesn't seem to shine quite as long as it used to. These times are sometimes referred to as "dark nights of the soul", when there is little light and warmth. Instead, there is chill, and darkness; wondering instead of wonder; aloneness.

But take heart Beloved. For the lover of our souls has made provision for such times at these, knowing that we ourselves are frail of frame, and can grow weak and dim if left only to our own resources. There are however, inexhaustible resources, and they are in God.

When Jesus ministry began, immediately after he'd come out of 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, and having been tempted by the Devil, he went into the temple and quoted Isaiah, chapter 61, verse 1.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Jesus closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down saying, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears".

The quote from Christ stops here, at verse 2. But Isaiah went on after the words which Christ quoted.

Isaiah went on, ... to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Is 61:2-3)

Isaiah was letting God's people know that Messiah was coming with God's inexhaustible resources for His people; healing the broken-hearted, preaching deliverance, making the blind see, liberating captives, giving beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, etc...etc...etc...

This is what Messiah came for! We just finished celebrating his coming; did we miss, or so soon forget His message? It is the inexhaustible supply of resources for those times when we feel captive, or are mourning and heavy.

As a new year begins, let us remember what it says in the book of Psalms, chapter 30, verse 5 "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning".

Pastor