

## A NEW YEAR AND THE SAME GOD

1-1-23

What a wonderful thought it is, that some of the best days of our lives haven't ever happened yet. Anne Frank

There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind. C.S. Lewis

HEBREWS 13: 1 – “Let brotherly love continue.

HEBREWS 13: 2 – “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”.

HEBREWS 13: 3 – “Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them that suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body”.

HEBREWS 13: 4 – “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”.

HEBREWS 13: 5 – “Let your conversation (Manner of life) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have”: FOR HE HATH SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE OR FORSAKE THEE”.

HEBREWS 13: 6 – “SO THAT WE MAY BOLDLY SAY, THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME”.

HEBREWS 13: 7 – “Remember them which have rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the END of their conversation”.

HEBREWS 13: 8 – “JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOREVER”.

Like every year, each and every one of us was given by God: 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes and 31, 536,000 seconds. The Lord graciously gives us all this time and how will we make the most of it, in 2023?

As we enter another new year, be encouraged. Keep this truth close to your heart and mind.

WE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT 2023 HOLDS, BUT WE DO KNOW, WHO HOLDS 2023!

The context of Hebrews 13: 8; is that the spiritual elders in the local church may change (In this case perhaps martyred) but the “Foundational Stone” (1 CORINTHIANS 3: 11), is still and will always be, Christ Jesus! The world may change, policies may change, people’s views may change, laws may change, but rest assured, Almighty God never changes and He is still on His throne! That is a guarantee! It is a truth that should bring peace to both your mind and heart, as you enter into a new year. It is a truth in knowing that your Heavenly Father sees all, knows all, owns all, and takes care of His children.

It is the truth in knowing God will provide for all of your needs and that He will make a way where there may not seem to be a way. He will open new doors of opportunity and will take care of you. He will bring justice to injustices in His perfect time and in His perfect way.

As sons and daughters, of the King of Kings, we remember and cherish daily the reality that we have a blessed hope because of Christ Jesus. We need to keep focused on such truths as we enter into this New Year, and we need to hold onto and remember those truths as we journey each day in 2023.

As we begin to see events take place and hear things on the news, WE MUST STAND ON THE WORD OF GOD. We must read and study our Bible, pray and share our “Blessed Hope” and faith with others and resist fear.

1 JOHN 4:18 reminds us: “There is no fear in love; But perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment, He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

MATTHEW 10: 28 – “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”.

MATTHEW 10: 29 – “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father”.

MATTHEW 10: 30 – “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered”.

MATTHEW 10: 31 – “Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows”.

MATTHEW 10:32 – “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven”.

MATTHEW 10: 33 – “But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in Heaven”.

With each step we take, with each day the Lord gives, we must walk in faith, not in fear. We must keep praising God, keep worshipping God, keep believing, keep trusting, and keep walking closely to God and be willing to be led by the Word and The Holy Spirit, each day. We must not

be moved by what we see BUT BY WHAT THE SCRIPTURES PROMISE! WE must begin to "ARMOR UP" by putting on the full ARMOR OF GOD, as stated in EPHESIANS 6: 10,11: "Finally, My brethren, BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT." "Put on the WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, that ye MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL".

ISAIAH 54: 17 – "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is in me, saith the Lord."

We must not give in, give up, or grow weary, but rely on our Heavenly Father for strength and all that we need each day, till He calls us home.

ISAIAH 40: 31 – "But they that wait (Bind together) upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint".

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13 – "But ye brethren, be not weary in well doing".

We must remind our minds and hearts that this world is not our home and to store up treasures in Heaven, not on earth (MATTHEW 6: 19 – 21).

JOHN 14: 2 – 3: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go prepare a place for you." "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye maybe also."

1 CORINTHIANS 2: 9 – "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that LOVE HIM".

We have so much to look forward to and so much to be thankful for; all because of our wonderful Savior.

As you take your first steps into a new year, remember: God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good and we are witnesses! We may not always understand His ways, but we can fully trust that he sees the full picture and all of His ways are perfect; for our GOOD and HIS GLORY.

DEUTERONOMY 7: 9 states: "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations".

Psalms 100: 5 – "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations".

EPHESIANS 3: 16 – “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man”;

EPHESIANS 3: 17 – “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love”,

EPHESIANS 3: 18 – “May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height”;

EPHESIANS 3: 19 – “And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God”.

We have every good thing because of Jesus! WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO REJOICE.

As you venture into 2023, put your complete faith and trust in His capable hands and stay close to Him. Take His hand and walk with Him, never letting go. Don't allow the enemy to steal your joy or to paralyze you in fear.

When you are TEMPTED TO LOOK AROUND – INSTEAD LOOK UP! When you are weary, let Jesus give you rest. When you feel like you want to surrender, stand firm on God's Word, holding tight to His promises. Be at peace, and be comforted, in knowing your Savior is faithful and will never leave you or forsake you.

Just like 2022 and all the years prior, there may be changes, but our great God, is always the one constant, that will never change. So, take His hand, stand on His Word, and find your serenity and rest in Him.

Let His light guide you, His love encompass you, His Word encourage you. May your heart be joyful and at peace - as you journey with Jesus into another year.

NUMBERS 6:24 - “The Lord bless thee and keep thee”:

NUMBERS 6:25 - “The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee”:

NUMBERS 6: 26 - “The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace”.