

From the Pastor's Desk:

A New Year, New Solutions

"Behold the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare, before they spring forth, I tell you of them" - Isaiah 42:9

As a youngster, it was just before Christmas and my parents had a problem. They had bought a toy from my wishlist, but were unable to get it to work. Not wanting to return it later, they decided to tell me, and have me try and get it to work.

The solution worked, as I was able to figure out the toy. And I was overjoyed that I was receiving this particular toy from my wishlist. Good things were coming ahead!

Is that what we also say about the year ahead? Are good things coming for you? Sometimes, we look ahead with thoughts of new problems, new frustrations and new troubles. Isaiah saw a new day with the Lord's Righteous Servant, who was in reality Christ the coming Messiah.

In the above passage, he speaks of former things, but does not dwell on them. The Bible in general is very good at moving ahead. While it doesn't sugarcoat any of Israel's mistakes, it always moves ahead to a time of God's guidance, blessing or deliverance.

A new year doesn't have to be about repeating the same mistakes, or dealing with the same troubles. We might think that sometimes we are stuck in this repeating cycle. But God is able to make all things new. He is able to open up new opportunities, new blessings and come with new solutions.

Solutions can be simple, involve common sense or involve many steps. They can also be God - directed and involve the input of other believers in our lives.

We all need a God delivered solution. Today, take whatever problem is bothering you and lift it up to God. If it's a problem for you, then God cares about it, no matter how big or small. Be assured that God knows your problem well, and that you aren't the only one dealing with this. Be equally assured that God has a Christ-centered solution for you already in mind.

The Christmas story is full of problems. First, Joseph learns of Mary's pregnancy and plans to leave her. Then Mary and Joseph are unable to find a place to stay. Then King Herod lays plans to kill Jesus, even though he is just a baby. At each and every turn, when a problem presented itself, God was ready with a solution. Nothing was going to stop the Good News!

And nothing has to stop the Good News from being declared in our lives. For each problem in our lives, God has an infant-sized solution: Christ has come, and extends God's love and salvation to each and every one of us. Let us declare this truth and give him praise, and commit everything else to his sovereign hand. Amen

Happy New Year!
Pastor Chris