



RELEASE
The Sacrifice of Christ

from

SLAVERY
Bondage

to

FREEDOM
New life/healing/Deliverance

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAYMOND

As the song goes, "Another year over, a new one begins".

So, my words, "Happy New Year to you, and, lets hope it's a good one".

I ask you today, "What do you hope for in 2022?" As believers of Jesus Christ what should we be looking for in 2022?

The Bible tells us that we should all be looking forward with hope. However, this hope should be beyond this life here on earth. If it is beyond this life it has to be in eternity, a hope fixed on eternity. If your hope is fixed in eternity then it has to be grounded in the Resurrection of Jesus 'life beyond the grave'. When our hope is founded in the Resurrection of Jesus then you believe in life after death. This hope based on the Resurrection of Jesus takes us into eternity, leads us to a new home with Jesus. A new home where Jesus tells us that He has gone to prepare for us. How wonderful. And, if we are to take on the biblical view of this new home then we would rejoice amidst all the turmoil of what is happening here on earth. But not only this, we would pray and hunger for souls on earth to be saved and encourage in whatever way we can to aid those who are able to preach, and teach, and reach the world for Christ.

As Christians we do well to recognise that this world will eventually pass away. We therefore can only preserve this world for only a certain amount of time. This world is a perishable world. But we are not to get lost in this, for the Bible tells us that there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Praise God. He has all things under His control.

When we are able to turn ourselves towards Christ and to seek Him at all times, then our days become bright, and in the brightness of Christ's presence darkness goes, and we also are to let our lights shine for Him, in so doing darkness goes, we walk in the Light. In this hope, God will give us strength, a lightness in our spirit, and a message of hope that we can share with others, with a true sense of conviction that what God has said God will do. Where else can people turn to with a better more fulfilling message for life than this?

This message takes us beyond our life on earth and in death this message will take people beyond fear into a new life of peace and of reality with God enabling them to overcome all their problems and fear on earth. This is not about a make-belief fantasy 'new life' message that all too often we hear at funeral services, where many take comfort in the saying, "Well they have gone to a better place" or "At least they are not suffering any more". I expect you have heard of other numerous quotes. Listen . . . the Bible makes it clear, in fact very clear, that we all need to turn to Jesus, believe in Him, surrender our lives to Him. Announce to family and friends alike that you have taken Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour, and that you have repented (turned away from) your sin and have taken a new road in life. When we do this Christ promises a new life here on earth, and then after death a new home with Him in Eternity.

To get to know your new home, read the Bible and see how it is described. Read the Bible to discover what kind of bodies we shall have. Read the Bible to find out how we shall live and what we shall do. If you are unable to do this don't worry. You are welcome, if you live within distance of our church to come along Sunday morning, 10.30am, and discover these truths together. You will find it to be one of the most encouraging things to do which you have ever done.

Why should this be? Because we look forward with hope and confidence in the Life Christ has promised us beyond the grave.

As we do this, when you do this, you will be given a spiritual uplift which will help you to soar above the things that engulf your life in the here and now. People are saying that "let us hope this year will be better than the last".

It can be, and it will be by putting your trust in Jesus Christ. Remember, out of love for you, Christ died and was buried, and on the third day He came up out of the grave. The grave could not hold Him, because He came to give us life and to have life more abundantly.

Just as our lives on earth will come to an end, so also will this world. One day it will come to an end, this is the way God has ordained it, and yes, we have a responsibility for preservation, but this will not last forever. Facts are at time important to face up to:- dying without Christ, resurrected to a lost eternity, or, dying in Christ, resurrected to a new life with Him in eternity, your new home.

Don't turn Him away.

In this world we will all die just as the whole world will pass away, but don't fear, God has for His children a new heaven and a new earth to live in forever with Him. How wonderful. *1 Cor. 15 v 19 - "If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable"*. Put your hope in Christ and His Resurrection, we then walk and talk with purpose. Christ died for you and rose again. Hallelujah.

"So, make this New Year a Good One".