



## SAFE HARBOR

*A Publication of Cove Fellowship Ministries*

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VOLUME 19.04

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As we approach the end of another year, it is time to look forward into the new year with an attitude of faith, hope and love. The Jewish celebration of the new year moves from celebration to a time of repentance. The traditionally sung, “Auld Lang Syne”, begins with should old acquaintances (the actions of the past) be forgot and never brought to mind. So, we would do well to remember this sage advice. The truth is that what is done is done and the past cannot be changed for in life there are no do-overs.

Conversely too many fret over the future and what it may bring to our lives. Again, we see too many concerned over what might happen rather than what may happen. We are encompassed by a culture of fear that grips and squeezes into inaction or even emotional actions which are neither thought out or just rushed into. The phrase, ***Let us eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die***” is used to condemn these fatalistic actions by the prophet Isaiah and also Paul. This phrase really shows a lack of faith in God. Jesus, himself, spoke of the unnecessary fret when he instructed, ***Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.***

Living the Christian life is essentially existential in its scope and is based in a perfect faith in God. It is necessary to live for the present as we walk with the presence of the Almighty in our very being.

You see it is so easy to give into the calls to conform to the many whims of the worldly culture and the idols that are constantly thrown at us in a nihilistic society. We tend to ignore the many falsehoods that would befuddle our minds and lead in dizzying journey away from God. Even Paul was aware of this in writing to the Romans, ***“Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”***

To compromise and passively accept the lies of the Deceiver, the Devil, we endanger our own salvation.

And so, at this time of celebrating the nativity of the Christ-child let us not forget that as Herod sought his destruction so does the world which followed in the footsteps of Herod seek the

destruction of the body of Christ. We need to follow the Wise Men and move away from the flow of a society which does not hear nor see the very light that God has given to his Creation.

Christmas is not about the gifts, the parties, cartoon characters, feasting and all the commercial endeavors that go on during this season. IT IS ABOUT GOD, OUR CREATOR, INAUGURATING THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH. And as Christ opened the gates of spiritual Eden, his call is for those who will to enter in.

### **A REFLECTION**

What do we see when we walk the streets of the city?  
What do we hear in the cacophonies of grief?  
Who do we touch among the people of our world?  
Who is the recipient of our sharing?  
Who are the ones we choose to ignore?

This world is ours and we must live in it.  
The ones that we touch are in our charge.  
The world is part of our creation to manage.  
Lest we turn our backs and look away.  
Our hope is in God, there is no other way.

### **A WORD OF SCRIPTURE**

***Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27***

As James goes on to say that faith without works is dead, it is essential to recognize that vibrant faith reaches out and share with our fellow persons joy and sorrow; joy and pain and hope in despair.

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