

“2020 – A Review from Above

Single Message SM

December 27, 2020

- Started the Year 2020 with the Theme of A View from Above

Your Real Life

- Colossians 3:1-4
 - New life in Christ
 - Set your sights on the realities of heaven
 - Think about things of heaven – not earth
 - You died to this life
 - Your real life is hidden with Christ in God
 - When Christ is revealed, you will share in his glory
- You died to this life – 2 Corinthians 5:13-15
 - Christ’s love controls us
 - We have died to our old life
 - No longer live for ourselves
 - Live for Christ

Controlled by His Love

- The most important commandment – Matthew 22:34-40
 - Love God with all your heart, soul, mind
 - The first and greatest commandment
 - Equal to first – love your neighbor as yourself
 - The entire law is based on these commandments
- Galatians 5:14 (NLT2) For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- James 2:8 (NLT2) Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Our Mission and Purpose...

Loving God and people too, and making followers of Jesus

- 1 John 4:20 (NLT2) If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?
- Romans 12:9-10 (NKJV) 9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.* 10 *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

Love from Above giving Preference and Deference

The Realities of Heaven

- Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT2) 20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT2) So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.
- Cultivating Spiritual Awareness
 - Led by the Holy Spirit
 - Fighting forces of darkness
 - Faith for the unseen

Pandemic

- Church Online – flatten the curve – stay home
- Restart – seeking the Lord for appropriate responses in these chaotic times

The Chaos

- Pandemic
- Economic
- Stay home – work, school
- Political
- Racial
- Lawlessness
- Discrimination
- The overwhelming characteristic of HOSTILITY
- The justice of MY cause

Evaluation – how have you done?

- Minds set on things above
- Your true life
- Death to self
- Love God and people too
- Love from above with preference and deference
- Spiritual Development
- In the presence of God
- Walking in the Spirit

Repentance

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT2) Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

Right to be Ready

- Romans 1:18-32
 - Wicked people suppress truth
 - No excuse – they know the truth about God
 - Minds dark and confused – utter fools
 - They traded the truth about God for a lie
 - God abandoned them to their shameful desires
 - They know of God’s justice, but continue to do such things
 - Worse – they encourage others to do the same
- Jude
 - Defend the faith that God has entrusted to his holy people
 - Ungodly people saying God’s grace allows us to live immoral lives
 - They have denied Jesus

My Mountain – the kingdom of God in the midst of an ungodly world culture

- 1 Peter 2:11-12 (NLT2) 11 Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. 12 Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Where do we go from here?

- 2 Timothy 3:13-14 (NASB) 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,
- Make it your goal to be faithful to Christ, no matter what happens in the world around you.
 - We may be tempted to withdraw,
 - or to react negatively to those who don’t agree with us.
 - But God loves them,
 - He wants to use us to share the good news of Christ’s forgiveness and new life with them.