

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

January 2021

God's Peace!

I sit here thinking of the coming new year, wondering what it may bring. Fears and uncertainties abound, thoughts of what could have been better last year also, things we should have done differently, or wished we had never done. However, there is also the excitement that comes from looking forward to the good: plans that we have, projects we hope to start and finish, new things to try, and old things made better. God is most certainly in all this, as we pray for His blessing in our lives, thank Him for His gifts, and praise Him for who He is!

As I look at the coming year in my life, I am reminded by Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." and 1 Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Lastly Luke 12:15 "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." These verses have been on my mind this past year, as the culture we live in is so caught up in materialism. It saddens me to see how my own heart is easily set on getting some new trinket and I have so often wasted precious time resources by purchasing unnecessary and luxury items that have little benefit to my family. Not that these cannot have their place if kept in proper order, however I came across a quote by one of our nation's founders, John Adams: "Religion begat prosperity, and the daughter devoured the mother"

The admonition and reminder to my own heart and yours, is to be reminded of God's unfailing Love for us in His sacrificial death and Glorious Resurrection - and to keep our heart and mind fixed on the Lord Jesus! That way when trials and hard times come, we will not be so shaken. For it says in Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." I don't believe hard times are really the problem in our lives, as God tells us in Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." - the problem is depression, frustration and fear by our treasure and hope not being placed correctly on God!

May God add his blessing to these thoughts and most of all encourage each of us along the journey this year- strengthen us and give us Hope that we may never give up! Not on our families, our marriages, our local church congregations, or our country, but be encouraged to stand and fight for the Truth of God's word and all that his word has set as good and right! To remember that we have our true home up in heaven and that is the real treasure! To act as His ambassadors with our time here.

Love and God's Peace,
Tyson Mattila