

Psalm 106:1-12

Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise? Blessed are those who keep justice, And he who does righteousness at all times! Remember me, O LORD, with the favour You have toward Your people; Oh, visit me with Your salvation, That I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance.

We have sinned with our fathers, We have committed iniquity, We have done wickedly. Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea. Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, That He might make His mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness. He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left. Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.

New Year Reflection

Coming to another New Year is like a traveller coming to the pinnacle of a mountain. It is a time to pause and reflect upon the journey past. Before heading into a new valley of yet unknown adventures, the pilgrim looks back over the trodden path and from the mountain vantage point contemplates the experiences of each significant landmark stretched out below. It is a time to ask some self searching questions.

One of the most important questions to ask is this: "Have I grown in my knowledge of God?" This is not a question about regular church attendance, nor is it about faithful giving. It is not a question about listening to a particular minister or benefiting from a particular church. It is not a question regarding religion, but a question of relationship.

Perhaps the question should be asked with a scriptural perspective: Enoch "walked with God" - Have I, this past year? David was "a man after God's own heart" - Does a look back reveal the same of me? Ruth cried to Naomi, "Your God shall be My God" - Have I chosen to make the living God My God this past year? While Martha was cumbered with cares, Mary chose the better path and "sat at Jesus' feet" - Have I taken time out from busy schedule to personally sit at Jesus' feet?

If, when looking back over the trodden path of a year gone by, our relationship with the Lord has not grown, then our travels have been in vain; for there is nothing more important in life than knowing the Giver of Life "better every day". This was the apostle Paul's greatest personal desire: "I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). This was Paul's prayer for the church: "I... cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him." (Ephesians 1)

May the words of Charles Spurgeon in the New Year of 1855 cause each reader to reflect on this passing year and focus on this coming year with a purpose to know the Lord. He stated: "The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can engage the attention of the child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father...There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned on its infinity."

May Christ's prayer impress the importance of this focus on our minds: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

What is my response:
