

From the Pastor

Happy for a New Year

I don't know about you, but I'm glad 2020 is over. There is no way that we could have predicted how bad the year would end up being.

Our church shut down on March 15th. After that, all our meetings and services were held on Zoom. We did not reopen our doors until Fourth of July weekend. Even then, it was a crazy way of having church. Everyone had to wear masks and people attended our service both at church and at home.

We had to stop doing fun things like going out to eat. A welcome stop to a friend's house had to be curtailed. Birthday parties were attended online. We had friends and family ending up in the hospital with this terrible disease. Some of us lost those close to us. We could not visit people we knew who were in nursing homes or the hospital.



This year begins in the same way, but there is hope. There is a vaccine that is being distributed. It will bring the control that this disease has over us to an end.

Sin is a little like the Coronavirus. It can have control over us if we let it. We can live in fear and never go out of the house again and let the disease be our master. If we succumb to the virus, we can die if it takes over our body completely. If we allow sin to be our master, it will lead us to eternal death



But there is hope. We have hope in a vaccine for the virus. We have a greater hope in a God who forgives our sins

I am reminded of what God said through the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel when they were under control of the Assyrians and the Babylonians because of their sin.

Lamentations 3:22-23

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

ESV

God, in His great love and great mercy, give us a new hope. Just like 2021 has the hope for the end of a virus, this morning brings God's hope for you in the midst of sin. God loves you and wants you to experience His attack on sin: His love and mercy for you.

In Him and for His glory,

Pastor Art

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