

Theme for 2019

**‘The God of Another Year is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace.
He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.’**

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – December 22, 2019

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind...The true light that gives light to everyone.” John 1:4,9 (NIV)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—This time of year, much of life seems to center around themes of light. The days grow shorter and evening light grows dimmer. Lights are hung upon trees and upon our homes. There are various Christmas light displays all around for families to see and enjoy. Then soon in just a few days’ time we, with the wise men of old, will follow the ‘*Light*’ to come and worship the true **Light of the World**. Yet in a season often overrun with nostalgia and sentimentality, these various “lights” get bundled together into a generic form of well wishes and warm feelings.

According to John, Jesus Christ is the uncreated eternal Light of God. His life is not derived from another source nor does it depend upon anyone or anything. He, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is the One through whom all things were made (John 1:3). Thus, contrary to modern opinion, this is true whether you and I believe it or not!

Also contrary to modern opinion, you and I are not our own source of light and life. Though many today idolize and aspire to be “self-made” men and women, free from constraints and obligations to others, our lives simply are not our own. In fact, in and of ourselves we live a half-life at best: breathing and moving but not truly living. In John 1 we are given an invitation to live life to the fullest, as the Lord longs for it to be lived.

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The only way to have life is to be filled with the Light of Christ. Simple as this may sound, many people spend their lives trying to disprove it. They seek out fulfillment in work, food, entertainment, sports, relationships, etc., believing these will lead into the fullness of life. Yet each of these is a **shadow and illusion**, and when our hopes are placed in them we enter into greater darkness...not light.

The Lord longs to fill His creation (all of mankind) with His Light, so that we can experience true life. It is entirely possible to go through decades of your life without ever truly coming alive. Christmas is the celebration of God with us, the Light that comes down to enlighten us all (John 1:9). May the Lord open your heart this day to receive that Light, perhaps as never before, and begin to truly live as you were made to live.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.” (Isaiah 9:2)

On today, may the blessing of peace rest upon you...the blessing of joy abide within you...the blessing of success and favor surround you...the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance as you ‘Encounter the Possibilities’ this day will bring!!

Application: What **shadows** have you called light, believing they will give you life? How can you yourself, or maybe you helping a friend or loved one take steps out of the darkness and into the light of Christ this week?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Father, fill us with Your Life and Light that we might be set aflame with passion for You and love for others, through Christ our Lord. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King