


LOOKING UP

January-February 2022



*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

All Things New

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

With the dawning of a new year, our thoughts generally turn to change. We reflect back over the past year and what has changed. And we look forward to what the next year might bring. As we do so, it is good to reflect on God's work in our lives over the past year, and what He has in store for us in the new. This last year (or two) has brought a significant amount of change for most of us. Life is different now than we could have possibly anticipated with the

whole world reacting to the onset of the COVID-19 virus. On top of that, tensions in our nation have increased dramatically around race and socio-economic issues. And far too many of us have experienced the death of someone close to us. Trying to make sense of what God has been doing in and through all of this can be challenging. Some will inevitably be tempted to doubt whether God is really working at all. Or one might come to the conclusion that God will, in the future, finally begin to work when He brings this age to a close.

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

Looking Ahead

January 22nd
Annual Meeting

But looking towards that future also helps us understand what God is doing now. In the book of Revelation, the twenty-first chapter begins with John seeing a vision of, “a new heaven and a new earth.” He sees the final fulfillment of God’s promise that a day is coming when all of our sorrow will be exchanged for joy, and that God Himself will, “wipe every tear from [our] eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev. 21:4)

Far from God merely holding out a future hope to us, the promise He gives is for the present as well. Because, as soon as John sees that vision and hears that promise, he goes on to write, “And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ And he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.’” (Rev. 21:5-6a)

There is no time or place where God is not currently at work for the good of His people. Yes, a future day is coming when God will make all things new. But He tells us that He is, even now, making all things new. It’s important to remember that the One that is speaking to John is the same One who said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Heb. 13:5) When the Son of God came in the flesh, lived, died and rose again, He completed there and then the work of our salvation, as well as the redemption of all of creation. Therefore He can say, “It is done!”

We can’t see with our eyes how God is making all things new. But by faith, we can see that it is true. Amid all the pain, suffering, turmoil and loss, God is at work to gather sinners into His kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ. And those of us who call Him Lord are, even now, citizens of that eternal kingdom. So regardless of what this next year may bring, dear Saints, we can live in quiet confidence that God is making all things new. God is with you in this New Year.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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