

OLD & NEW

First, let me personally thank all the faithful the readers of the Maritime Ministry Messages. Thank you for the kind letters, emails and notes, I have recieved and your personal expression of appreciation of my articles.

So here we are poised on the starting blocks, ready to race our way into another New Year. Some of us have had a few, some I can hardly remember, maybe I just didn't show up. To imply something new, suggest equally something else is getting old.

It's hard to see things grow old. The town in which I grew up is growing old. Some of the buildings are boarded up. Some of the houses are torn down. The old hospital where I was born, once a solid large brick building is gone! I wish I could make it all new again. I wish I could blow the dust off the streets...but I can't. Some people talk only of the past...because they stopped living years ago. You can tell, anytime we discuss the past as if it were the present, it is because we have let the past steal the present right out of our hands. Doesn't it tire you... sitting in some of these people's history class.

Now just think for a minute are there not some things we would like to be new in the coming year? How often we hear it, same old thing, same old problem, same old argument, nothing changes, attempts to fail! This is not because we are the same old people, but we have the same old thinking!.

The Master Builder will pull out a plan do a new thing. He will restore the vigor. He will restore the energy. He will restore the hope. He will restore the soul. God says in the book of Isaiah chapter 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Some times we resist the new.

Most of us have some old things in our life that we want to keep - some things of heritage, of value - a piece of antique furniture. Although there are some things from our past that have value, there are other things from our past that we should get rid of. These are things we regret and would like to forget, such as a hurtful word or deed, a wrong relationship, or a poor decision. We think, "I shouldn't have done that" or "I shouldn't have said that" or "I shouldn't have gone there." We can allow our past to come in and hurt others by bringing up things in a spiteful or argumentative way.

In the Bible read the words of the Psalmist David when he said of his experience in Psalms 40:2-3 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. v3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. So often we are still singing

the same ol' sad song...how badly I have been treated, and my family has been treated. I am not sure what song you are singing today...but thank God for those that know Christ as their Savior, the last song we sing will be a new one!

General MacArthur saidYou are as young as your hope and as old as your despair. So again, to one and all...Happy New Year!

However, having said all this there are some, good friends, and 2021 ended as a sad year! Their hearts were broken and they are broken today, and they are in need of healing. Reach out to these dear souls, and be all the comfort you can to them. 2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

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