

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #142 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 12/31/20)

“2020 Vision”

What a year this has been! I don't think anyone could have envisioned the year we've had with the pandemic and spoiled plans, racism and riots, death and divisiveness, violence and vengeance, masks and murders, lost jobs and businesses, toilet paper and sanitizer shortages, and so many other challenges... We may want to say, “Good riddance!” to 2020, but let us not forget what we have learned...

We do not need to be afraid; God is with us. (Deut. 31:8)

God loves us and offers us everlasting life! (John 3:16)

God can bring good out of all things for those who love and follow Jesus. (Rom. 8:28)

God can work through the trials to help us turn to him and grow in our faith. (Jam. 1:2-4)

We can survive without sports and many things in life. Jesus is all we need. (Psalm 23:1)

We can learn to be content in any circumstance, through Christ who gives us strength. (Phil. 4:11-13)

We need each other. God created us to be in fellowship with each other. (Gen. 2:18)

We are blessed when we help others in need. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

No matter how bad things are, we always have a reason to be joyful and give thanks! (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

Love one another. As Jesus has loved us, so we must love one another; by this everyone will know that we are Jesus' disciples. (John 13:34-35, NIV)

The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

Love your enemies and do good to them. (Luke 6:35)

Speak only words that build up and encourage others. (Eph. 4:29)

Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength in him. (Isa. 40:31)

Christ's grace is sufficient for us; his power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)

Hopefully 2020 has given us clarity and helped us see what is most important in life. As people say, “Hindsight is 20/20.” We may be anxious to see 2020 go but let us never forget what 2020 has taught us!

What have YOU learned this year? (Feel free to share in the comment section below.)

PRAYER:

Loving God of all creation, thank you for loving us and being with us throughout this year! Although we may not have enjoyed all the trials we faced, we give thanks for the lessons you have taught us. As we rejoice to leave 2020 behind, help us to live with 2020 vision. Help us to never forget what we have learned, and help us to be a witness of your love, grace, hope, and peace throughout the coming year! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.