

## **Blessed to Be a Blessing – February 6, 2011**

### **Everyday Signs**

**And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 8:21-22 NKJV**

This past week we received a healthy taste of both “cold” and “winter”. It brought with it a myriad of experiences, many of which were less than pleasant. Bitter cold winds and bone chilling temperatures resulted in cancelled fights, dead car batteries, frozen pipes, failing heating systems and the like. God spare us from these things many prayed or thought. Perhaps they even cursed such winter cold with longing thoughts of coming spring.

Everyday signs of God’s commitment to mercy and grace touch our lives each day. Cold and winter were promised to be part of the way life would be until God brings an end to this earth---not as a curse, but as a remembrance of God’s love and mercy towards sinful man. We take for granted the everyday signs that God is in control and we go about our business oblivious to the fact that God is upholding all things by the word of His power.

Noah and his family had just experienced a horrific event---a horror far beyond any “natural” disaster known today. The worldwide flood had destroyed all but what was safe in the ark. Life as they knew it before God had sealed them in the ark was a distant memory. What would the world be like now? Would such another cataclysmic event usher forth by the wrath of God? Noah’s sacrifice of thanksgiving was right and proper. God had saved him....he was blessed! Now he would be a blessing to the earth. God’s sign concerning the business of the kingdom moving forth was the certainty of the seasons, the normalcy of day and night....for as long as the earth remains. And so it is today---everyday signs, as it were,

reminding us of God's intention to allow us opportunity to live by His grace and to share His Word.

The prophet Isaiah makes reference to some of that "cold" and "winter" experience. He talks about the snow that falls from heaven watering the earth and giving bread to the eater and seed to the sower..."so shall My Word be", says the Lord, "it shall not return to me void, but shall accomplish the purpose for which I sent it."

The stability and the certainty of the created order around us, serve to call to memory just what that Word of God accomplishes. For the Word did become flesh---Jesus Christ our Lord, and took upon Himself our sins that by His death upon the cross we might have eternal life. Through Him we have the certainty of life everlasting while all around us are living in the human frailty of the uncertain.

Hot or cold---summer or winter---day or night, these all direct us to the Word of God. They display His handiwork and they remind us how blessed we are. Everyday signs of God's mercy to the just and the unjust abound. Everyday signs that are beyond the miraculous, for they show forth how God has intended to be merciful to His people and they remind us of the promise of His love which He ultimately fulfilled in Christ our Lord.

If the heat of the day bears down upon you or the cold winter winds whip mercilessly around you; if day and night drag on endlessly---do not despair. Know in these everyday signs that God has not ceased to be your God and His intention for you remains the same---mercy and grace through Christ our Savior, that through Him we might have life everlasting. Blessed ones of God---be a blessing to someone else. Tell them about Jesus!

Pastor Jacobs

**Blessed To Be A Blessing 2011**