

Happy New Year!

"Are you free for lunch today Dave?" "Yes, how about we try that new deli down the block?" "That sounds good, I'm hungry."

"I received my invitation to our annual "Happy New Year Luncheon" today." "Me too." I don't think I'm going to RSVP this year." "Why not? I'll be going, and remember, management gives this luncheon as a gift for the staff. They spare no expense and we always have a good time. I'd think twice about not going."

"It's the whole idea of a "happy" new year. What is there to be happy about or look forward to? Look at the world around us, the financial upheaval, job uncertainty, crime and shortages in the shops. Can you honestly say you are looking forward to next year? What is there to look forward to?"

"Recently, a chap I know in Indonesia sent me an email wishing me God's blessings in the new year. That one sentence was a key of understanding for me. It changed my outlook and perspective." "Come on Clay, how could a holiday greeting make a real impact other than warm and cheery feelings?"

"Strange as it sounds Dave, it spoke to me. It was a call." "What?" "In my heart, mind and spirit, it was as if the sound of a beautiful church bell was ringing out. In my mind, when I heard those beautiful peals ringing out, I turned around and saw a large bell in a tall bell tower. It was surrounded by a blanket of snow, sparkling in the sunshine. The scene was so peaceful and compelling that I found myself running toward it." That's when I realized that I had lowered my perspective." "What do you mean?"

"I think it has many depths to plumb, but what came through clearly to me was the wonder of God." "How so?" "The sweet, pure ringing of the bell was drawing me to see God in a way I never had before. I lost myself in texts and writings that set before my eyes thoughts and truths that leapt into my heart, mind and soul like a beam of sparkling light." "What did you read? Tell me."

"I can hardly express it. I begin to cry for joy sometimes when I read my notes. I carry them in my pocket. They seem to overarch and illuminate my life and thinking. Especially when reading the Bible." "Well, read them to me man, read them!"

"I am astonished and lost in the wonder of Jesus' love and sacrifice for His bride. He washes our garments whiter than snow."

"Do you know that Jesus only has eyes for us, His bride? The King of the Universe only has eyes for me."

"All earthly beauty flows from God, more specifically, from the beauty of the Trinity, in which three Persons give themselves in love to one another."

"All true virtue exists in God. He is perfection, the head of the universal system of existence; the foundation and fountain of all being and all beauty; from whom all is perfectly derived and dependent upon."

"All beauty found throughout the whole creation is but the reflection of the diffused beams of God who has an infinite fullness of brightness and glory."

"The world is full of beauty because beauty and light constitute the Holy essence of its Creator."

"God's beauty has implications for every dimension of my life. It means not just submitting to the Creator, but seeing the beauty of His infinite love in Jesus Christ."

"Grace is not just supernatural help to do the right thing, but seeing more and more of the beauty of truth and goodness in God. It is not a one-time seeing, but a growing vision of the beauty of the depths of God."

"Infinite majesty displayed itself as stunning meekness. Think of it, the infinite God of the cosmos, the King of kings and Lord of lords, permitted Himself to be born in a barn and to be spat on, mocked, and nailed to a cross between two thieves out of His love for us and His Father."

"God is infinitely the greatest being, so He is allowed to be infinitely the most beautiful and excellent. God's beauty is infinite and the degree of his virtue and His greatness is exhibited in Himself, in His being, His infinite greatness and excellency."

"Dave, I fear the Lord in reverence and respect, thinking of His might and supremeness. He is Who He says He is, and He will do what He says He will do. I run to Him because He is irresistible."

The second person of the Trinity - think of it! He is my friend. Can you comprehend that? And what a friend He is to me. He has eyes only for me, and His bride."

"Clay, you talk like a man in love." "I am! I'm in love with the Lord. My eyes had not been opened to such divine beauty before, because I did not search it out, but God called me to see and know Him for Who He is. When I consider the inherent beauty and grace of God, it causes me to adore and worship Him more. I want to be a spotlight shining on Jesus."

"No matter what happens in this world, my Father, my Lord and King, my friend that sticks closer than a brother, will guide me through as long as I keep my eyes on Him. I can hardly grasp that the Holy Trinity only has eyes for me. And for you, if you know Jesus as your Savior and walk with Him daily."

"So you see, every day, this week, this month and all of next year are all opportunities to reflect the light of Jesus to the world. We can't hide what we know about Him."

"Clay, let's ask the minister if you can stand up and tell what you shared with me. All eyes need to be opened and all hearts awakened afresh so we can better be that light that will draw others to Christ - a light and also a sort of an information desk."

"Imagine Dave, all that God has done for us, He will do next year and more. There's no telling how we will see God's hand moving through us."

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone. -Psalm 50:2

Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. -Matthew 5:16

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness and in Holy array. -1Chronicles 16:29

All text, information, ideas, explanations, thoughts and commentary obtained from and credited to:

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