

# Reflections 2021

Hebrews 6:16-19

## INTRODUCTIONS:

This morning I want us to be reflective of the year. It is a good thing to stop and pause every now and again to see where you've been to give insight better in what you may be entering. This time last year I remember everyone saying I'll be so glad when this year (2020) will be over, and I often would reply, "What makes you think 2021 will be any better? Sometimes we conjure up false hope and place hope in the wrong things such as "hard times" having a calendar versus looking to the One who is our only hope.

This morning I want to share some reflections I have gathered throughout the year that hopefully we may all identify with and more importantly grow in and learn from as we prepare ourselves for 2022.

2021 has been a year that has been hard to track. It has had many ups and downs, rich with opinions being thrown around and often poor in common sense and logical thinking. Our society has displayed more of itself, the true colors underneath, this year than in many of the years past it seems. What we must remember is that each year is a gift of God to be used either for Him or against Him.

### **St. Joan of Arc**

All battles are first won or lost in the mind

This is the very reason it is important to be reflective of each day, week, month or year because the battles we face begin in the mind, and the mind is conditioned by the heart. We must learn to be proactive in preparing for what's ahead as we are in victimizing our lives in what is now behind us. Reflections help us make the most of every opportunity to learn and grow as the Scripture says.

### **Ephesians 5:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Don't be

drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With that let us begin to be reflective of a year that may go down as one for the ages unless 2022 topples it.

### **Reflections of 2021**

- Life keeps moving forward no matter how bad you need a break...
- There's still beauty, and it is still a privilege to live, even when life is messy...
- They don't call it growing pains for nothing...
- The people in our lives make up the decor of our lives...
- When it rains, it sometimes pours, and when it pours that doesn't mean the storm is nearly over...
- The Storms of Life sure make you appreciate the sunrises more...
- Life comes with no receipts or guarantees...
- Memories are never as fun as the real thing. So, remember every day is a chance to make, what will someday become, a good or bad memory...
- Common sense isn't common even among those who think they have it...
- Time is either a friend or an enemy. Wasted time is worse than wasted money because you can get your money back, but time is forever gone...

- Quiet places are invaluable pieces of real estate...
- The most common addiction today is not alcohol or drugs, its chaos...
- Often why we call the world dramatic is because we are experiencing our own drama...
- Kids aren't different, but parenting nowadays sure is...

### **From the Andy Griffith show**

When a hobo told Andy he should just let Opie "decide for himself" how he wanted to live... He had these words of Mayberry wisdom.

"No, I'm afraid it don't work that way. You can't let a young'n decide for himself. He'll grab at the first flashy thing with shiny ribbons on it. Then, when he finds out there's a hook in it, it's too late. Wrong ideas come packaged with so much glitter that it's hard to convince them that other things might be better in the long run. All a parent can do is say 'Wait' and 'Trust me' and try to keep temptation away." Somehow... we have lost this basic truth.

- Christians should be as faithful as they are political...
- Make plans then live out only those that God endorses...
- Hope is hell if not in Jesus...
- Prayer is the most powerful, unused weapon in the world...
- Instead of living for a moment, live for Jesus who infuses meaning into all moments...
- The irony of many "Christians" today is that they want God for eternity but find no time for Him on Sunday...
- God knows...

### **Hebrews 6:16-19**

<sup>16</sup>Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than

themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding.

<sup>17</sup> God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. <sup>18</sup> So

God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. <sup>19</sup> This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

### **Corrie Ten Boom**

In order for us to realize the worth of the anchor, we must first feel the stress of the storm.

## **Take it as it comes**

My Mimi used to say, "We got to take it as it comes."  
Referring to life and the things that are done  
These last few years has taught us quite a lot  
Instead of running so fast, it's important to stop  
And smell the sweet roses while they still last  
Because each day we are all making memories for our past  
The laughter we hear we better take it all in  
No one is guaranteed to ever hear it again  
The boring conversations we wish now would go away  
Will be our deepest regrets looking back someday  
The seasons change and the winds their directions  
Like the scenery of life which holds our affections  
We live so many lifetimes it seems thru the years  
Some the joys of Heaven, some with Hell's awful tears  
But there is hope in Jesus that I can't deny  
To say anything else would just be a lie  
He has our back when all others have fled  
Only He gives eternal peace to our sleep when we crawl into bed  
He is the Lighthouse when the seas grow dark  
He is the safest place to share the secrets of our heart  
When I'm lost on life's highway and completely out of luck  
He will be there in a flash to pick each hitchhiker up  
When the night grows cold and the lonely is left  
He is a friend who is always willing to help  
Life is a gift that comes and fades away

With unexpected scenes in each Act of Life's play  
But Jesus is the reason we hold onto love  
And Jesus is the reason we can take life as it comes

***Philippians 4:13***

I can do all things thru Christ who gives me strength