

Goodbye Twenty-Twenty!

by Wayne Goff

Friday will mark the beginning of a new year — 2021 — and with it the hope of a better year. This year has indeed been most difficult for all of us; one like we have never experienced in our lifetime!

The **cons** of this past year are many, but at the top of the list was our inability to “*assemble yourselves together*” (**Hebrews 10:25**) and the great strain that placed on our very lives spiritually. I have often wondered if it wasn’t God’s response to a nation that has turned its back on God. America is certainly deserving of such a pandemic, and God’s people often suffer along with a wicked nation when it is punished. But then again this has become a world-wide pandemic, and God could even be punishing the entire world! Read Jeremiah and Ezekiel and you will quickly see that when God begins to exact punishment on one nation, then He will not leave the others unpunished. The solution to the problem? “*Be faithful (even) unto death, and I will give you a crown of life*” (**Rev. 2:10**).

Another **negative** is that those with *little* or *weak* faith may very well fall away permanently. Such is the case when “*a fiery trial*” comes upon God’s people (**1 Cor. 3:12-13; 1 Pet. 1:7**). The little, weak faith is burned up in the fiery conflagration of trial, and the brethren suffer loss! It seems that some, no matter how much you warn them, never learn the danger. Like Judas, Esau, and others, they fall away in time of testing.

The **pros** of this past year are also numerous, and at the top of that list is the **awareness** of *how precious* it is to worship with the saints! “*Edification*” (building up) is only accomplished by our gathering together. We speak to *one another* in songs, we pray *together* holding up holy hands, we commune *together* in the Lord’s Supper, etc. Hand shakes, hugs, and other physical contact are so emotionally rewarding and needed. If life ever returns to “normal”(?), we will never take these things for granted.

Twenty-twenty-one. What does it hold for Christians, the church, our families, and this country? Only God knows, James 4:14. Draw near to God, while you can.

355201