

Message: It's the Semi, Dummy! (A New Year and the Kingdom)

Scripture: Romans 5:1-2; I Peter 2:9-10; II Corinthians 5:16-21

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Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

I Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. once you were no a people, but now you are god's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

II Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, that is in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

Points:

Having just celebrated Christmas and standing on the edge of a New Year, Christians have been called to...

1. Affirm the Kingdom...

I Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...*

2. Model the Kingdom...

1 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

3. Proclaim the Kingdom...

1 Corinthians 5:18 - All this is from God, who through Christ, reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

1 Peter 2:9b ... that you may proclaim the excellents of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

4. Celebrate the Kingdom...

Romans 5:2 - Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.