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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

WHAT THE NEW YEAR WILL BRING

As this article is being written it is just a few days until a new year begins. None of us know exactly what will occur in each of our lives this coming year. However, we can be certain of some things that will occur if the Lord allows this world to continue.

Death will be a part of 2021 just as it has been a part of every previous year. Hebrews 9:27 tells us, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." James wrote, "whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). What if you knew that you would die in 2021? Would you live your life any differently than in 2020? Would you think more seriously about your relationship to God and your soul's eternal destination? Because of His love, God in His grace has provided the means by which one may face death with assurance. Through the blood of Jesus, one may receive the forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal life (Romans 5:8-9). However, to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus requires the proper response to what God has commanded for salvation. In loving obedience, penitent believers who confess faith in Christ and are immersed in water into the death of Jesus are washed from their sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 22:16; Romans 10:9-10; 6:3-5). Think about it – how many who died in 2020 expected that it would be the year of their death? Please dear reader, do not let death catch you unprepared to meet your God. Make your preparation now while God has blessed you with the opportunity. When death comes it will be too late. Death ends any hope of preparation and seals one's eternal destiny.

The gospel of Christ will be proclaimed in 2021 just as in previous years. And, as has been true in previous years, some will reject it and others will receive it and obey it with joy. The gospel of Christ will lose none of its power in 2021 (Romans 1:16-17). The message of Christ crucified will still be a stumblingblock to some and foolishness to others but to those who answer its call Christ will remain the power and wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:21-22).

The year of 2020 has certainly had many challenges. As this year ends and the new year begins, why not take the time to look at your life and make the necessary changes to please your God. Visit gbntv.org.