



2023! It seems incredible to me that another year has flown by. We have escaped the nightmare covid years (sort of) but like the flu we might get reminders in our arms that bad stuff is still out there.

Christmas and the excitement it brings is past, or is it?

Jesus' birth didn't change the world or our lives for just one day. The shepherds and wisemen (a term used loosely even then) would never be the same.

Evil in the form of Herod would try to eliminate the gift from God by killing as many baby boys in the region as he could. Evil today in the form of Putin and others filled with hate for life still want to murder the innocent of the world.

The gift of Christmas in the form of Jesus is with us every day of our lives. It doesn't leave us when we are being naughty or breaking Jesus' simple breakdown of the commandments. Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.

We enter a time that the song title often fits.... "In the bleak mid-winter". More people become depressed during the time after the Christmas season has passed than any other time in the year. (Con't)

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Pastor con't,

Why is that? We live in the south so the weather though cold at times will still give us more sunny warm days than frigid cold ones.

Perhaps the joy and excitement of family and friends together and then just as uickly apart is more than we can handle.

The gift of Jesus doesn't take away all the hurts we experience in this life on earth.

Jesus' gift is not controlled by the dates on the calendar and is not controlled by anything on this planet.

It is a gift that lives in our hearts, so that wherever we are emotionally and physically Jesus is there.

What will 2023 bring for any of us?

The most important thing we already have....God's son! ...pjh