THE NEW YEAR (SUNDAY MORNING OF JANUARY 3RD, 2016)

"And the LORD will contunually guide you, and satifsy your desire in scorched places,and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell." (Isaiah 58:11-12)

"But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5)

(SUNDAY MORNING OF JANUARY 10TH, 2016)

Romans 12 (Christian conduct): "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed unto this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God..."

TRUE GRACE (SUNDAY MORNING OF JANUARY 24TH, 2016)

Romans 12:14-13:7 ("Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men...")

Grace is God's love for us, not the world's version of love. Grace is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. That would be a sloppy version of grace. God's grace empowers us to be better.

When we reside in God, evil has no place. When we abide in the light, darkness flees. When we walk in grace, darkness should be repulsive to us (and repulsed by us).

Activate grace to know what it truly looks like. True grace requires repentance. It is not a blanket that covers you, or else everyone in the world would be saved.

We can access grace anytime. If we do not repent, then we build a wall between us and God. We can forgive, repent, be saved by grace, etc; however, that does not necessarily mean that there are no consequences in this world. But we do not desire that anyone suffer hell.

There are more for us than against us. Where sin abounds, grace abounds more. We must forgive as those who are forgiven. We should not desire our own justice, our own vengeance, our own way. We should desire it God's way. We have grace; therefore, we give grace. We give correction in love, just as we receive it in love.

Grace is not just about "good feelings." It is so much more. Let us contemplate grace, receive it, let it have its perfect work so that peace can have its perfect work.

We have one enemy, which is Satan. Let us remember who and what we really fight. Mercy, justice, forgiveness, and repentance are all involved in grace.