

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
January 1, 2020

**“SO FAR...SO GOOD”**

It appears that I'm on a roll! In this entire year I can honestly say that I have exercised every day, refrained from snacking, been able to hold my temper, not lost at tennis or spent any money. Now if this weren't just the second day of the year that might be a bit more impressive. This is the time for New Year's resolutions, right? Perhaps you made one, and perhaps you've already failed. That's why I don't make any, because I know that I will fail...quickly. I do make predictions though (that seems to come naturally), and I know that my prediction for 2020 will come true. In the coming year I foresee that all of us will be getting another year older. Beyond that, everything else is "up in the air". As we've turned the page on the calendar to a new month, year and decade it is obvious that time marches on and we are powerless to stop it. With advancing time comes advancing age, and for most of us here at TLC advancing age doesn't treat us all that kindly. BUT, on the flip side, every day that comes and goes brings us one day closer to the time that we will be in the Lord's face to face presence forever, with all the wonders that go along with that. In the beginning God created time and space as a gift to His crown of creation; mankind. In the beginning all creation (including time) was perfect and would not or could not cause us any trouble. But mankind made a mess of that by inviting sin into the world and causing God's creation to be corrupted. Since then time could and would be considered our enemy. Just as with all things God redeems time for us in the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. From a worldly point of view nothing changes; for all people time appears to continually marches toward death. For us who have been redeemed in Christ, and have an eternal point of view, God has even redeemed death; making it simply the doorway through which we enter into His heavenly glory to be at home with Him in His kingdom forever and ever. Any New Year's resolution that involves us fixing ourselves or some flaw in our lives by our own power is doomed to fail. Only God can "fix us" and He has already done that in Jesus. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* Notice the verb tense there...it's present. That means it has already happened; is a current reality. Christ has already renewed us in soul and spirit and will finish the physical part of it in the resurrection. When our time in this life comes to its end, and this decaying body gives out, we will be released from all of the trouble that it causes, to the joys of a perfect eternal life that will be instantaneously revealed.