

Life goes on...

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We are again coming to the end of another year! I was thinking... this will mark approximately 24 years past the time the planet was supposed to be engulfed in ice, as we were told in elementary school back in the 1960's. Do you remember that? Yes, the teaching back then was that we were headed towards another "Ice Age." This was supposed to happen by the year 2000 at the very latest. The teaching was that pollution from automobiles burning "Fossil Fuels," was causing the warming rays from the sun to be *blocked* causing the Earth to cool. This is the same pollution that kids today are taught that is causing the planet to heat up by trapping the warming rays of the sun! Who is right and who is wrong? I guess a lot depends on whom one *chooses* to listen to! The modern trend is that people gravitate towards others that agree with the way they feel about various issues; but wait... hasn't that always been true? Yes, this has always been the case, however, what *did* change was how people interface with the people with whom they disagree. Years ago, people, although they may have disagreed concerning certain issues, remained friends. Yes, there were occasional "Heated Arguments," but 99% of the time it ended up with both parties simply agreeing to disagree. They were still friends, they didn't slander or threaten one another as they do today... life went on! So... we have gone from the fear of Freezing to Death, to the fear of being Roasted Alive, all within a few decades; interestingly, "life **still** goes on." It seems that "Fear" is a very powerful influence wouldn't you say? I have mentioned many times in my writings that "Fear" is one of Satan's most often used, and perhaps his most effective tool.

A major difference between when I was a kid and now is that people have a hard time dealing with, and in some cases, cannot deal with differences of opinion. Instead of agreeing to disagree, we now tend to try to force our beliefs on others. Christians are accused of this all the time! While it may be true in some instances, most of the time people confuse concern, testimony, and conversation, with forceful manipulation. It seems that rather than defending one's beliefs or lack thereof via civil conversation, people try to either force their beliefs on others or simply refuse to engage in conversation about it. What seems more prevalent these days is people more often than not seek to censor, thereby eliminating dissenting points of view challenging their philosophy. Yes, this is true with some Christians as well; however, it is more common for people with a "Secular world view" to demand conformity among those of us with a "Biblical world view," rather than the other way around.

My personal prayer for the New Year is that people once again, simply respect one another despite our differences. Think of how boring life would be if there were no differences of opinion on various subjects! As far as "Political" differences are concerned, consider the difference between a free society and tyranny. One side allows freedom of speech and freedom of thought, as opposed to the other the other that demands conformity. Which would you prefer? If we, especially we here in America, do not re-engage in freedom of thought and freedom of speech, there **will** indeed be continuing major changes in our society, and none of these changes will be for the good. All one has to do is look at the history of past societies that capitulated to tyranny to see what is in store for us if we do not wake up to reality soon. I do not insist, nor do I expect everyone to agree with my points of view on anything. However, there are many, (some of you reading this,) that insist, and expect me, and others, to agree with your point of view whether we like it or not! Failure on my part to do so has in the past, resulted in me being slandered, censored, and outright cursed by some of you! What happened to that old saying, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?" I wonder where that concept came from! *How about you... do you treat others as you want to be treated?* Are you open to different points of view, or do you seek to shut down all opposing points of view? All I ask of those reading this message is to consider the meaning of tolerance as there will always be differences of opinion.

Have a Wonderful New Year and remember, "Tolerance is a Two Way Street!"