

Winter Will Always Give Way to Spring

By Mark T. Tonkery

In Job 38:22, God asked Job, “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow...?” This winter it seems that God has emptied some of His snow from His storehouses on us. We have endured another long, cold, snowy winter. Many congregations have had to cancel services, the children have had several days off from school, and the snowplow truck drivers have been very busy because of the weather. The winter weather has been very discouraging to many.

Yet, Solomon reminded in Song of Solomon 2:11-12, “For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.” Solomon reminded that winter will always give way to spring. Soon the flowers will be budding, the bees will be buzzing, and we will be enjoying the sun and warmer weather.

God reminds that this is the process of creation in Genesis 8:22. “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” We still may have a snow shower or two, maybe some frost, but don’t get discouraged because **winter always gives way to spring**. The same is true of life; there will be moments of winter, days of coldness that are dark and dreary, and times of deadness. These times always give way to spring and new life, new beginnings, and new hope.

Such is the case when one is converted to Christ. Romans 6:1-6 reminds us that we are dead in our sins, but when we are baptized, immersed into Christ and buried with Christ, we are raised to a new life! Have you experienced the new life of Christ? Think about it!

The Best of Friends

By Travis Robertson

The book of Proverbs is filled with wise sayings covering a gamut of topics. One topic that it covers quite well is that of friendship. Let's note four qualities of friendship from the book of Proverbs that will help us discover the best of friends.

First, the best of friends is one who is always in your corner. "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Prov. 17:17). That doesn't mean they will always agree with your actions and decisions, but they will never give up on you. They love you and desire the best outcome for you.

Second, the best of friends offers you strength and wisdom. Solomon instructs us, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (Prov. 27:17). If we are without good friends, we will soon discover how dull we truly are, and that we are in need of sharpening.

Third, the best of friends is one who tells the truth. He will be open, honest, and sincere. Solomon said, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy" (Prov. 27:6). We feel good when everyone agrees with us, but we need a true friend to be candid at all times.

Fourth, the best of friends is one who is thoughtful and considerate. We are told, "Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar on soda, Is he who sings songs to a troubled heart." This friend knows when and how to say or do things to help their friends.

Let's do our best to become a friend like this, and seek out friends that fit these qualities.

- Travis Robertson preachers for the Lake Norman Church of Christ in Huntersville, NC. He may be contacted through the congregation's website at <http://lakenormancoc.org/>