



- Up Words # 28

Putting Up



I think this time of year could be referred to as “putting up time.” I recently put away my grill and patio furniture for the winter. And, I’m pretty sure I have mowed my yard for the last time this year, so I’m ready to put up my mower. I fertilized the yard and have now put up my fertilizer spreader. In anticipation of the harsh winter, I put up an extra bird feeder two weeks ago. Then, too during this transition time I’m almost finished putting up my outdoor Christmas lights. We don’t turn them on until after Thanksgiving but they are almost ready for their November 23rd debut for the Christmas season. My son put up his elaborate Christmas village last Saturday and this weekend we will put up our Christmas tree and transform the inside of our house for a festive look. I plan to tune up my snow blower soon, so we’ll be ready for whatever snow we have to put up with. It seems putting things up and taking them down is just part of the seasonal cycle of how things work.

I recently read Paul’s sermon to the people of Antioch Pisidia in the book of Acts. He notes, “The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.” (Acts 13:17-18). I note two things God put up in these two verses. First we see that God put up His arm and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage. That is a great putting up! Unfortunately we also read that once the Israelites were in the wilderness God was forced to put up with them. This is not encouraging. In fact, throughout much of Moses’ account of the Israelite sojourn we find that they are disobedient and defiant ... we find that God is incredibly disappointed with them and on several occasions considered destroying them.

I wonder what God thinks of us? Are we worthy of His consideration and deliverance? Or are we sinfully wicked and thereby a disappointment to Him? My guess is that we are both. Like Israel, we move in cycles. Sometimes righteous and other times rotten. I wonder where we are right now? Where are you? How are you doing? What does God see?

Looking Up!

Pastor Chuck Circle