



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 20, 2020

UNCLUTTER



NOW THAT THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER, AND THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY VISITS HAVE SLOWED DOWN FOR A WHILE; NOW IS THE TIME TO UNCLUTTER YOUR HOUSE. YOU'VE TAKEN DOWN THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND STORED THE DECORATIONS FOR ANOTHER YEAR. YOU'RE THROWING OUT THOSE SCRAPS OF PRETTY PAPER YOU LAID ASIDE AND CLEANING OUT WHATEVER GOT PUSHED TO THE BACK OF YOUR FRIG. YOU EVEN FOUND THAT GIFT FOR AUNT MILDRED THAT YOU STASHED IN YOUR CLOSET (SO NOW YOU'RE ALREADY AHEAD FOR NEXT YEAR'S GIFT SHOPPING). ANYWAY, YOU GET THE IDEA . . . IT FEELS GOOD TO GET THINGS STRAIGHTENED UP.

SO NOW MAY BE A GOOD TIME TO CONSIDER OUR CLUTTERED SOULS. WHAT ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT? WHAT ARE OUR FEARS? ARE WE FRETTING? NOW IS THE TIME TO UNCLUTTER AND GET THINGS IN ORDER SO THAT OUR FALTERING FAITH CAN THRIVE AND FLOURISH. WE NEED TO GET RID OF THE DOUBTS, DREADS AND SINFUL DEFILEMENTS THAT MAKE OUR LIVES MESSY AND MISERABLE.

REMEMBER SOME LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM AND SARAH. THEY HAD TO CLEAR AWAY THE THINGS THAT DISTRACTED AND SOUGHT TO DECEIVE THEM. IN GENESIS 15:1-3 ABRAHAM IS FRUSTRATED WITH GOD. THOUGH GOD PROMISED TO PROTECT AND PROSPER HIM (V. 1), ABE QUESTIONED IF GOD WOULD EVER GIVE HIM A SON (2-3). HE ASKS GOD WHY HIS SERVANT ELIEZER IS STILL HIS HEIR AND WHY GOD HAS GIVEN HIM NO OFFSPRING. SARAH TOO, DEMONSTRATED A CLUTTERED AND QUESTIONING ATTITUDE WHEN THE LORD APPEARED AND TOLD HER AND ABRAHAM THAT THEY WOULD BE PARENTS WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR. SARAH LAUGHED AT THE APPARENT IMPOSSIBILITY AND SAID IN HER HEART, "HOW CAN THAT BE?"

REMEMBER GOD'S FAVOR FOR THE FRUSTRATED, FEARFUL, AND FRETTING COUPLE. THOUGH THEY STRUGGLED WITH GOD'S PLANS THEY STAYED FAITHFUL TO HIM. ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD (GEN. 15:6) AND THEN BEHAVED ACCORDINGLY BY NAMING HIS SON WHAT GOD COMMANDED (SEE GEN. 17:19 AND 21:3). TOGETHER, IN THEIR OLD AGE, THEY WERE ABLE TO BEHOLD GOD'S BLESSING WHEN THEIR SON ISAAC WAS BORN. (GEN. 21:1-6).

WE NEED TO DECLUTTER. WE MUST MOVE STUFF OUT AND MAKE ROOM FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS. MAY GOD HELP US TO DO SO!

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE

NOTE: SOME OF THESE ELEMENTS WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED IN THE MORNING SERVICE AND EVENING LIFE GROUPS YESTERDAY (JANUARY 19). IF YOU MISSED EITHER OR BOTH PERHAPS YOU NEED TO UNCLUTTER YOUR SCHEDULE AND BENEFIT FROM THE INTERACTION WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.