

LET IT SNOW

The title alone to my message may already have some people reading this upset. Many people have shared with me how sick and tired they are of all the snow we have experienced to date. We knew a bad snowstorm was coming this past weekend. Last Friday we were already hearing reports to expect flight delays and cancellations over the weekend. Churches and other groups were beginning to send out news that their services and programs might be cancelled on Sunday. Warnings were also issued to stay in on Sunday and avoid being on the roads.

Sometimes these storm warnings do not turn out to be as bad as predicted, but this one delivered as expected. Like most people, I found myself bundling up in warm clothes and shoveling my driveway several times on Sunday. Even though we got a lot of snow, thankfully it was not too heavy to shovel. While I was shoveling, I found myself singing over and over, "**Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.**" I was surprised that I was singing these words to be quite honest. I like the sight of snow, but I do not enjoy the disruptions that storms like we received on Sunday can cause. I do not mind shoveling my driveway, but 3 or 4 times during a day can be much.

After I got back in, I sat down at my table and wrote out the word "**snow.**" As I focused on the word, I began seeing other words that can be derived from its letters such as:

- Son
- No
- Own (Owns)
- Won
- Now

If I missed another possible word, I am sure I will hear about it. After spending a few moments reflecting on these words, I began to understand why God had me singing, "**Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.**" The words that I derived from it, told the story of what Jesus did for us and how we should live as a result.

A passage that reminds us exactly what Jesus did for us can be found in **Titus 2:14**:

He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

When we closely examine this verse, we begin to see each of the words I derived from the word "**snow**." We start with the mention of God's "**Son**" who came to give His life for ours on the cross. The word "**No**" is reflected in Jesus being the perfect substitute to free and cleanse us from every kind of sin, because He constantly said no to temptation. The word "**Won**" is seen in the victory Jesus secured in having our sins forgiven and winning for us a restored relationship with the Father through our belief in the Son. The word "**Own**" is wonderfully expressed here as He has made us His own. The word "**Now**" comes into play with the mention of being "**totally committed to doing good deeds**." While it is our belief in Christ and not our good deeds that leads to us being saved, what should result from this gift is us using our God-given talents to show His love toward others, and build His kingdom here on earth.

I was provided with a wonderful example of somebody living in the now and doing good deeds for another person on the day before the storm. On Saturday morning, Nadine and I drove to London to take my daughter out for breakfast since she would not be coming home for the weekend with the bad weather forecast for Sunday. As we were driving by the university, I spotted a homeless person standing at the intersection with a sign in hand looking for any help possible. Suddenly out of the corner of my eye, I spotted a female student coming out of a convenience store with a wrapped sandwich in hand. While I was still at the light, I watched as she proceeded to cross into the center median and hand this man the sandwich. I was so touched to see this good deed on her part. She definitely was following the advice to live in the here and now by showing Christ's love toward others.

I see from the weather forecast we are expecting more snow in the days ahead. Before anyone blames me for singing "**let it snow, let it snow, let it snow**," please remember God used it with a message in mind. I guess this is my way of saying, "don't blame the messenger."

Stay safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean