

Take a deep breath. Christmas is over. The hectic reality of trying to cram a whole bunch of extra things into an already busy life is done...but the aftereffects remain. We have extra fatigue from an overly busy month. We have extra bills from over spending at Christmas. Some of us have extra wounds from family gatherings gone wrong.

Let me give you a few words of advice.

1. *God really does love you!*

You might be frustrated by the fallout you experienced from the holidays. Maybe somebody else messed up and created stress in your life. Or maybe you're the one who messed up. But your mess hasn't stopped God's love. He still thinks you are special and He wants you to know it!

2. *God really does love you!*

It may be that your holiday season was fantastic. Maybe nobody messed up, including you. That's great. But you still have to live through January. What are you going to do with the cold and the dark and the "life as normal" in the Midwest?

3. *God loves you and has a plan for your life.*

We have a sermon series planned for January and February that we are calling, "**No Perfect People Allowed: Managing the Mess of Life.**" All of us know what it is like to not be perfect. All of us need to know how to deal with it.

During this season when many of us go to work and come home in the dark, why not put yourself in a spot where God's light shines on you? God's going to be at church every week! I hope you will be as well.

Pray for the Me

I'm going to be taking a few weeks away in January. I'll spend about half the time relaxing in order to get physically restored. As I get older, I've discovered that is more important than ever. But I'll spend about half the time every day praying and reading and thinking. I'll connect with God about the future of the church. I'll seek His direction for Heritage. As the church continues to grow, that is more important than ever too.

Will you join me in prayer? Sometime each morning in January will you ask God to reveal Himself in a great way to me?



It's Time to Get Control!

Often, resolutions for the new year do not become reality. Lots of us are wrestling with the same things we did last year. That's true in many areas of life...including money.

We have a great class we're presenting that will help you. It's called "Creating a Spending Plan." Sounds almost silly doesn't it? But lots of us don't have a plan for how we are going to spend our paychecks and we don't have a way to track how we spend them. And, as a result, we stay stuck financially. Check out the website (www.heritageqc.com) or the bulletin for times and location.