

## A WEEKLY WORD

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Lois Drover

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12 , 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

***1 Thessalonians 5:9 “For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”***

God created us to be in harmony with him, to be in a loving relationship with him and to spend eternity with him. If we are not, then that is up to us. God seeks us out continually, but we turn away, choosing earthly things instead of heavenly things.

If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we cannot help but value relationship with him above all else. Salvation is a free gift offered to all of us, not just a choice few, but to all who want it. In these days, especially with the Advent and Christmas seasons near, we must look to the mission that Jesus set out for us “to make disciples of all nations”.

Advent is a time of preparation, soul searching, and decision making. Do we take Christ out of Christmas by going all out and spending more than we can afford, to supply the wants of our families, or do we carefully and wisely look to the needs of our families and others. It is hard to say no to kids who want more than we can afford or they need, yet in the winter months when we are trying to pay off our credit cards, do we berate ourselves for buying that “must have” that is already in the cast off bin? We have all been there. We want to have the “best” Christmas ever. Everyone does. Maybe this year, we can put Christ back in Christmas and spend some time working on that mission “to make disciples of all nations” by reaching out to someone in real need and helping them to see Christ in you.

***“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6,19-21***