



January February March 2019

To our supporting Churches and Dear Friends:

Greetings in Jesus name.

Mamie and I are very grateful for folks like you whose are so faithful and thoughtful that have stood with us so many years now. God has kept us busy in helping others in these winter days. It is a joy to witness about our Lord, it's wonderful when someone listens. These months have been in North Caroline, Virginia, and Florida. We are sowing the seed and trying to encourage others to do the same. **We 78 years young and are still excited to serve the LORD JESUS.** We are thankful to be able to continue travel for our LORD.

Wintertime is a very special time of the year, and for us in North Carolina it been very wet and now we want **Song of Songs 2:11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;** Praise the Lord he gives us what we need not just what we want. We may use this type as a picture of the long life of hardship, sorrow, darkness and difficulty which one may live on this earth. In the case of the Christian this time is followed by God's blessing, care and recovery, both in the millennium, in heaven, or in the individual experience. **Seasons** are a leading image of order in the Bible. They signify regularity, predictability, cyclic succession and sometimes (when taken together) completeness or wholeness. Yet the "seasons" of the Bible are not primarily the cycle of nature during the course of a year. They are more generic in nature, signifying an appointed or appropriate time for something.

**The Natural Cycle of the Year.** Anyone who comes to the Bible looking for references to the four seasons will be disappointed by their scarcity. For one thing, people in the biblical world lived in just two seasons—**summer and winter—with only scant awareness of brief transition seasons between these two.** **Spring is identified as the time "when kings go off to war" (2 Sam 11:1 1 Chron 20:1),** and it is an implied time for romance in the **Song of Songs**, with its rapturous descriptions of burgeoning buds and blossoms (**Song 2:11-13; 7:11-13**) offered as an appropriate setting for romance. Summer and winter are the major seasons in the world of the Bible. Summer is hot and **dry (Ps 32:4),** a time of **harvest for crops (Prov 6:8; 30:25; Jer 40:10, 12; Mic 7:1).** **Winter is rainy (Song 2:11; Hos 6:3),** a time of inclement weather when people regard themselves as vulnerable (**Mt 24:20; Mk 13:18; Acts 27:12; 2 Tim 4:21; Tit 3:12**). We catch glimpses of seasonal living, especially for the privileged classes, in references to a summer palace (**Judg 3:20**), a winter apartment (**Jer 36:22**), and a winter house and summer house (**Amos 3:15**).

**Praise and Prayer Request (Worthy of repeating)**

1. Praise the Lord for your love, faithful prayers and support, phone calls, it greatly encourages us.
2. Praise for all the safe miles we have traveled so far, preaching the Gospel of Christ.
3. Praise for he keeps us very busy and for the many little things every wonderful day of our lives
4. Praying for more to trust Christ.
5. Pray for Mamie her stomach is much better but still flares up once in a while.

Joyfully Serving Jesus

Brother Russ & Mamie Bell

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Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.