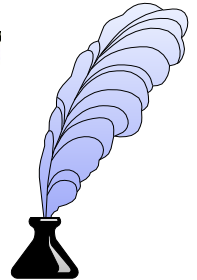


Christ Church

Bringing People Together In Christ Who Are Worlds Apart.

“ COME BEFORE WINTER ”

Pastor Stephen R. Yadon



II Timothy 4:21

This earnest plea of Paul, the apostle, provokes serious thought about the approaching winter. These were some of his last written words. He had already acknowledged that his death was imminent. The prospect of his last winter on earth loom ominously over him with loneliness and dismay. Prisons weren't equipped with comfortable beds, color tvs, warm food, and a thermostatic controlled heating system to lessen the impact of those gray months. Paul was reaching for the resources found in the body of Christ.

He asked for just three things; one physical and the other two spiritual. The coat he had left at a friend's house would certainly be welcomed during the winter nights. Next he wanted the books and parchments which were probably copies of the scriptures. By prison light he could read the wonderful words of life that would transport his spirit beyond his confines. Then he wanted the company of Timothy and Mark. No winter night could diminish the comfort he would have visiting with these promising young men. Paul would be able to pour the last measure of fatherly love and advice to them and thereby impact the churches that he was so concerned about.

I like to think that Timothy was able to fulfill Paul's request and bring great comfort to the aged apostle before he felt the winter's cold chill and the Roman sword. I like to think Paul's last winter was the best it could be under the circumstance. I like to think Paul faced the executioners with an even greater praise to God for the kindness shown to him by Timothy and Mark.

Winter is coming upon us. It seems to add to the need for comfort for all of us, both physically and spiritually. It is an occasion for us to minister and to be ministered to. These 'shut in' times can really bring great warmth in our relationships with the Lord and one another. It's time to get your coat out and to make sure others have one too. Gather some good spiritual reading material that will set your affections on things above. Make fellowshiping with others a priority. We don't know whether this would be our last winter on earth. Let's make it a good one. Let's spread some cheer. Think about it...before winter.