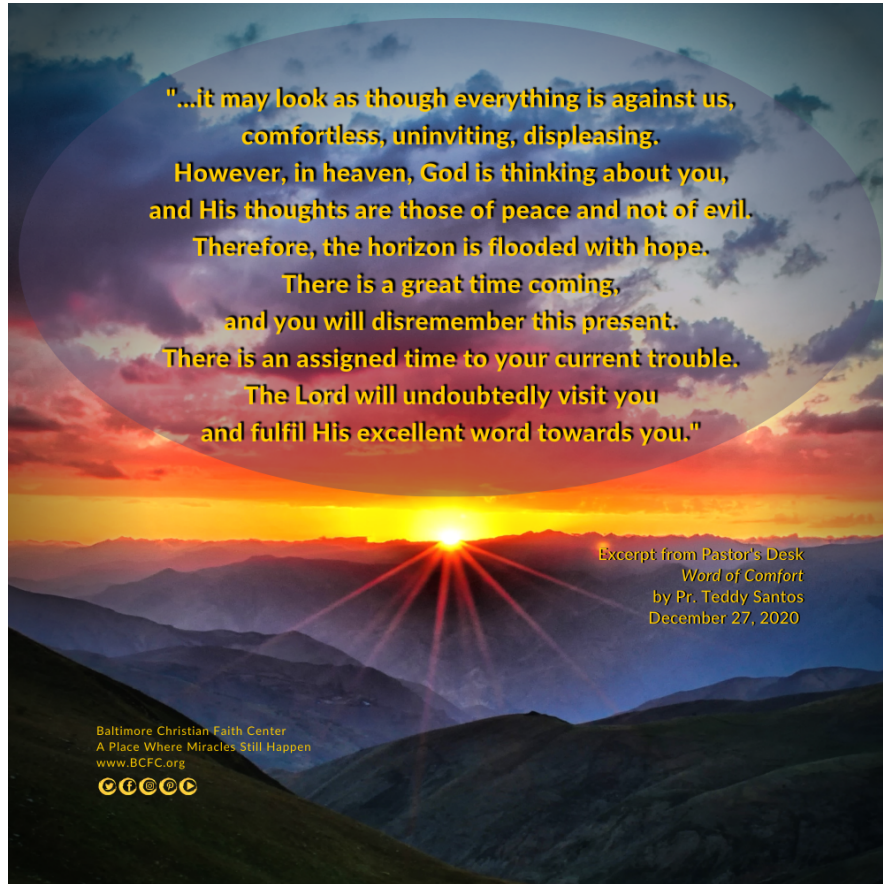


WORD OF COMFORT

Pastor's Desk – December 27, 2020



Jer 29:11 *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

There is much to learn from the excellent advice given in this letter. These exiles were reluctant to settle in the land to which they had been exiled. Hence this letter was sent, not only to them but to all in comparable situations.

Do you feel you are in captivity? Your circumstances are the bonds and constraints that hold you. No prisoner behind bars could be more helpless than you are. You cannot do as you would, but you can be. It is by discharging present weigh-downs that you become suited for better works!

Consider the needs of those around you, as stated in *Jer 29:7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.*

The story of Joseph is a remarkable example in all this. When in prison, he set to work on ministering to the prisoners there, conveying a personal interest in each - "*Why do you look so sad today?*" (*Gen 40:6-7*). Only words of hope and comfort are given to the captives. Troublesome though their external conditions seemed, God was contemplating thoughts of peace, not of evil, concerning them.

As for us, it may look as though everything is against us, comfortless, uninviting, displeasing. However, in heaven, God is thinking about you, and His thoughts are those of peace and not of evil. Therefore, the horizon is flooded with hope. There is a great time coming, and you will disremember this present. There is an assigned time to your current trouble. The Lord will undoubtedly visit you and fulfil His excellent word towards you.

Meanwhile, a life of constant prayer is a must. "*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*" (*Jer 29:12-13*). All of our heart is what our God demands; all of His blessings are what is in store for us when we come close. Choose closeness!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos