

John 20:21

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- It's a new year and a new day. 2020 is now officially behind us. As is my practice, I have checked what the "20:21" verses in the Bible have to say and I would like for us to look at **John 20:21**.

Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! [Just] as the Father has sent Me forth, so I am sending you. **John 20:21 AMPC**

I give you the gift of peace. In the same way the Father sent Me, I am now sending you. **John 20:21 The Voice**

Jesus repeated his greeting, "Peace to you!" And he told them, "Just as the Father has sent me, I'm now sending you. **John 20:21 The Passion Translation**

- Jesus gives His disciples a fresh impartation of peace...a "now" sense, presence and power of peace, for a "now" sending of His followers as representatives, ambassadors, and faithful envoys.
- A look at this verse in context:

¹⁹ Now when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were *together* due to fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and *said to them, "Peace *be* to you." ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **John 20:19-22 NASB**

- He imparts peace to them and commissions them, sends them and then He breathes on them and they receive the Holy Spirit...
- In **Genesis 2:7**, God breathes on Adam and Eve, and bestowed life to them. In **John 20**, Jesus breathes on the disciples and empowers them for ministry to others and intimacy with Him.
- It seems to me that in a time of turmoil, uncertainty and people wondering what the future holds, the Lord spoke in **John 20:21**. He infused His followers with His peace and empowered them with His presence so they could live their lives as His representative.
- Those sent to re-present Him.

2021: COMING OF AGE

- We live in just such a time and I think we should pray to receive exactly what Jesus gave His “team” that day.
- We need to believe, receive and respond to His powerful, peace-filled “sending”.
- He sends us with the peace, power and presence of Heaven.
- We are Heaven sent with Heaven’s scent.
- Other concepts about 2021:
 - “21”- This number symbolizes, wickedness, rebellion or sin...it is closely related to ‘13’ which stands for sinfulness...’13’ (sinfulness) + ‘8’ (new beginnings) = 21. 21, then, can represent a new level or new effort that is sinful and disobedient to God.
- An effort of trying to prompt people to sinfulness and disobedience to God...that sounds like exactly what the enemy would try to introduce as a theme for the new year!
- The Bible has a lot to say about such a time as this.

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid *such people as* these. **2 Timothy 3:1-5 NASB**

2 Timothy 3:1-5 from the New Testament Transline:

- But know this- that during the last days difficult times will be present.
 - For the people will be
 - Self-lovers, money-lovers.
 - Boasters, arrogant, blasphemous, disobedient to parents.
 - Ungrateful, unholy, unaffectionate, unreconcilable, slanderous, without self-control, untamed, not lovers of good, traitors, reckless.
 - Having become conceited.
 - Pleasure-lovers rather than God-lovers.
 - Holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power of it.
 - Indeed, be turning away from these.
- There are 21 sins listed that describe how humans can act, especially in difficult times...
- Why don’t we list 21 ways to walk in the spirit in difficult times?
- For many years, it was common to say in our culture that someone turning ‘21’ had ‘come of age’...come to a place of adulthood or maturity.

2021: COMING OF AGE

- I think this is a time for the family of God to 'come of age' and outgrow the enemy's scheme for difficult times.
- With that in mind, here are 21 ways we can cooperate with the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and truly be a 'healing place'!
- We can be these 21 things in 2021:
 - Compassionate-loving others-NOT self-lovers
 - Generous-NOT money lovers
 - Encouragers- NOT boastful
 - Humble- NOT arrogant
 - Blessers- NOT blasphemous
 - Obedient-NOT disobedient to parents
 - Grateful-NOT ungrateful
 - Holy-NOT unholy
 - Caring-NOT unaffectionate
 - Reconcilers-NOT unreconcilable
 - Truth speakers-NOT slanderous
 - Self-controlled-NOT out of control
 - Balanced-NOT untamed
 - Discerning-NOT those who don't love what is good
 - Loyal-NOT traitors
 - Considerate-NOT reckless
 - Temperate-NOT conceited
 - Joyful-NOT indulgent or lustful
 - God lovers-NOT God dismissers
 - Genuine relationships with God-NOT a lifeless religious form
 - Acknowledgement of God's power-NOT deny God's power

Lord, grant us Your peace, Your power, and Your presence and send us to people living in difficult times who so need to encounter the living God. May we live as Your representatives and 'come of age' in these difficult times!