**SONGS OF THE SEASON**

 **Dr. Kevin Clarkson December 27, 2020**

**“PEACE ON EARTH?!”**

Cynicism, skepticism, criticism, and depression are all around…

**Matthew 2:13-21**

**When Injustice Abounds (v.16-18)…**

 Tyranny terrorizes

 **Ecclesiastes 4:1-4** Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is

 done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no

 comforter—On the side of their oppressors *there* *is* power, But they have no

 comforter. 2 Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the

 living who are still alive. 3 Yet, better than both *is* he who has never existed,

 Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun 4 Again, I saw that for

 all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also *is* vanity and

 grasping for the wind. NKJV

**Ecclesiastes 5:8-9** If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of

justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches

over high official, and higher officials are over them. 9 Moreover the profit of the land is for all;

*even* the king is served from the field. NKJV

The powerful exploit the weak

 Misery multiplies

 **Exodus 2:23** Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the

 children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came

 up to God because of the bondage. NKJV

 **Psalms 107:10-12** Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction

 and irons—11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of

 the Most High, 12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and *there*

 *was* none to help. NKJV

Sin ravages ALL people

 Refugees run

 **Psalms 107:4-5** They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to

 dwell in. 5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. NKJV

 **Luke 15: 13-14 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed**

 **to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.**  14 **But when he had**

 **spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.** NKJV

 Some run in rebellion, others run from problems

**And God Doesn’t Seem to Intervene (v.12-14)…**

 Seek safety

 **Hebrews 11:27** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured

 as seeing Him who is invisible. NKJV

Take sensible steps of precaution

 Wait on God

 **Psalms 27:12-14** Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have

 risen against me, And such as breathe out violence. 13 *I*  *would*  *have*  *lost*  *heart,* unless I

 had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. 14 Wait on the

 Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord! NKJV

 He will guide those who walk with Him…keep doing the last thing He showed you

 Trust His provision

  **v. 11**

**Philippians 4:19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by

Christ Jesus. NKJV

 Pro (before) – Vision (to see)

**His Promise Still Stands (v.19-21)**

 Working salvation

 **2 Corinthians 7:9-10** Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to

repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in

nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but

the sorrow of the world produces death.  NKJV

 Working judgment

 **John 3:18, 36 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is**

 **condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of**

 **God.** 36 He who believes in the son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son

 shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” NKJV

 **Psalms 76:7-9** You, Yourself, *are* to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence

When once You are angry? 8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared

and was still, 9 When God arose to judgment, To deliver all the oppressed of the earth. NKJV

 Working all things for His glory and our good

 **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those

 who are the called according to His purpose. NKJV

 **Romans 9:17** For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up,

 that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” NKJV