

**Pastor's Pen...**

**Another year has passed and now another new year is upon us. We have seen so many challenges during this pass year that makes us wonder what type of challenges we will face in this new year? With this new year being an election year, we can only imagine what might be in store for us.**

**It truly appears like our country is coming apart at the seams. There is so much division, deception, and destruction around us causing so much disappointment and disillusionment to the point of total disgust and disbelief on the part of those who have their eyes open to what is taking place all around us. Is there no answer to the problem we are now facing?**

**There is a song that says, "In times like these you need a Savior." In times like we now find ourselves; would you not agree we need a Savior? The good news is there is a Savior, Jesus Christ. He alone is the "solid rock" upon which a person can build a life of peace and security in these days of strife and struggle.**

**In the days of Joshua, as the people were preparing to enter the new land, God gave instruction to Joshua and the people. God told them to "follow the ark" – (Joshua 3:1-4) It was a new time for the nation of Israel. They were on a journey to a new land. They had no idea what would lay ahead and for this reason God told them to follow the ark. The ark spoke of the presence of God amid the people.**

**It is living in the presence of God that will give us what we need to face the challenges of this new year. How close are you willing to follow in the presence of God? Satan seeks to cut us off from the path of God's presence because he knows if one is isolated and separated from the company of God's people, they become an easy target for discouragement and defeat.**

**Let this be our personal resolution to follow the presence of God, walking close by His side. May we determine to follow the ark.**