

**Happy New Year!**  
**Remember that in 2017, God is on our side!**

"*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*", God's message we received on Christmas day, from 1 Tim 1:15, summarises what Christ came to do on earth. It is the foundation of the Christian Gospel and the single key to understanding everything written in the Bible. When we made this word of God our own, we start living in faith and to the glory of God.

This Gospel is clear to young and old, to experienced and not experienced Christians and whenever we find our faith wavering and we are confused about the true meaning of being God's Church, we should spend time reflecting on what it means. **In what Jesus came to accomplish for us, we learn that God is now on our side.**

But, even more importantly, that we now learn how to live on God's side too.

Our failure to love and our inability to first of all live to glorify God, is our sin. We all are guilty before God. Yet - "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*" We know that Christ had to come, because if he didn't, none of us would be part of God's victory over death, life, challenge, judgment and fear.

*All of us need to be saved from the dangerous world we live in and not one of us can save ourselves.*

We all need forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, freely being given the righteousness of Christ as our own and being bought by the blood of Jesus. The darkness of our sin is replaced by the light of Christ's presence in our lives and we know we already received eternal life. We belong to God every day of our lives!

**And because we belong to God and know him as our almighty Father, we enter 2017 with confidence and hope.** We are never alone. We are under no judgment or curse anymore. We are saved from the perils that are the result of our imperfection and disobedience.

We are saved from our sins and delivered from temptation and therefore our faith gives us the courage to look forward to being the followers of Jesus during a brand new year, in spite of its uncertainties and challenges!

*Take heart - Christ Jesus became one of us, to save us from our sins and the consequences of our foolishness.* Be courageous and enter into a new year with joy and with peace in your heart! Even before we tread the first uncertain step into 2017, we are saved from ourselves and God is with us in Jesus Christ, through the gracious work of his Holy Spirit.

May you experience that God is on your side and live as people who are on God's side during every day of 2017!