

## Weekly Health Update from Pastor Jim – Weekend of February 24 & 25, 2018

### **Dear Friends and Family:**

Slow week, with no appointments, but I am on chemo this week, and had a mild reaction to the drug, you know that red, itchy rash. It really started last week when I as off chemo, and then got worse when I started with chemo. But toward the end of the week, it seemed to improve. On Wednesday evening, I have my support group for blood cancers. We have not met since last year, so it will really be good to get together with the group. This support group has been great support to me throughout my ordeal.

Over the last several weeks, I began to take a fresh look into God's promises. And what I found took my breath away. In Matthew chapter 19, Peter has actually just asked Jesus the same question I had — What is it we are supposed to look forward to? Jesus replies like this: “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne...everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19:28b-29 (NIV)

That phrase — “at the renewal of all things” — is what caught my heart. I'd never heard God's promise of hope to us described in this way. I began looking up other versions: “Jesus replied, ‘Yes, you have followed me. In the re-creation of the world, when the Son of Man will rule gloriously...(and) anyone who sacrifices home, family, fields — whatever — because of me will get it all back a hundred times over, not to mention the considerable bonus of eternal life.’” (MSG)

The renewal of all things? The re-creation of the world? We get it all back?! The Holy Spirit gently nudged me to remember Revelation 21, a passage of Scripture that's been dear to me: “‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” Revelation 21:4-5 (NIV)

When Jesus Christ returns, heaven and earth are restored. As it says in Acts, Jesus remains in heaven ... “until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets” Acts 3:21b (NIV). He restores our lives and the earth we love — even our homes and “fields.”

When Jesus spoke of the Renewal of All Things, He talked about our relationships, our homes (places that are special to us) and even our work (that's what “fields” meant in his day). My heart started to sing at the thought that nothing is truly lost.

The great hope of the Christian life is not that we'll find a parking spot tomorrow. Nor that we'll get a raise next week (although God cares about those things). The real hope that's the anchor of the soul, the unbreakable spiritual lifeline, is the hope that any day now, our loving Father and our Lord Jesus Christ will usher in the Renewal of All Things. Everything you've lost ... everything you might still lose. It's all coming back to you. And that's truly a hope worth looking forward to.

Bless You! Pastor Jim