

2022

We . . . look for new heavens
and a new earth, wherein
dwelleth righteousness.
(2 Peter 3:13)

2022: THE YEAR OF PERSEVERING GRACE

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ADAM'S LIKENESS REMOVED

A lesser-known verse of *Hark! The Herald Angels* states this: "Adam's likeness now efface / Stamp Thine image in its place / Second Adam from above / Reinstate us in Thy love." They articulate a wonderful truth: when a person comes to Christ in repentance and faith and is made a new creation, he or she begins the long process of progressive sanctification—that is, being set apart from old ways of life that were driven by the values and priorities of a secular worldview (with self very much at the center)—and commencing a journey whose purpose is to be made like Jesus, and which is expressed in such ways as bearing the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc., see Galatians 5:22, 23) and being prepared for life in "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13). Christlikeness is as simple as the words suggest—gaining the likeness of Jesus and putting off the likeness of our original parents. Sinners—and everyone by nature is a sinner—are under the wrath of a pure and holy God and yet are called back to Him through the loving and reconciling work of Jesus, whose life of perfect obedience to God's law and whose substitutionary death for others secures and guarantees their entrance into heaven. Bethlehem's Babe was destined for Calvary's Cross so that sinners like us may be reinstated in the love and grace of God.

GENERAL REFLECTIONS FROM 2022

2022 has speeded by! Matthew has entered his sophomore year at college and has enjoyed his studies. Sue's work circumstances changed; she now works freelance on a full-time basis as well as continuing her MA study program. Jim has worked on some big and exciting book design and publishing projects this year.

We were able to have a few enjoyable days of vacation in Georgia before traveling to Britain for a week to see family and friends, and to hold a short memorial service for Jim's mom (who passed in 2021) in the Lake District.

We are very thankful to the Lord that Sue's health has improved greatly in the latter half of the year. In God's kind providence, she is now under a doctor who is treating the cause (rather than just the symptoms) of her problems.

We send love and best wishes to you for 2023.



About Some of the Pictures:

Main: UK Delta flight; Above: At the Reagan Museum, CA; Top right: Grandma's Memorial Service in the Lake District. At Keswick with Jan, Shaun, Pru and Raymond. Roundel: Raymond in his car; Lower right: With Jan.

