THE BEGINNING OF MONTHS

EXODUS 12:2

This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

As I began this devotion, I had a few problems with my computer. While trying to get out of one program I was given the option of shutting down the computer or restarting. Shutting it down would take longer and I wasn’t sure that was good for certain things that I wanted to save so (whether right or wrong) I chose to restart the computer.

Beginning this new year, two-thousand nine-teen, some may feel they have similar options in their lives. If you have been hit with tragedies or hardships you may be tempted to just shut your life down for a while. The problem is we cannot put our lives on hold. Oh sometimes we use that term especially if we have been helping out a loved one or friend but in reality our life is continuing all the time. Hardships are part of our life.

Israel would have liked to just shut down their lives for they had hardships like we have never seen. They were under a tyrant king and living every day with taskmasters who were forcing them to work as slave labor to build cities. They were forced to do more than they normally could do. So they cried out to God continually. No one was even sure that God was hearing their cries until The LORD told Moses that he had heard their cry. God would not allow a shut-down but he did institute a restart for them. In this month that would be the beginning of months, they would choose a lamb for sacrifice put it up for four days and then slay it according to God’s instructions. The blood from this lamb would be the salvation of many lives and their way out of Egypt.

In our restart this year may we once again focus on the blood of Christ that was shed for our salvation? He is our way through hardships and tragedies. The Children of Israel would face many more hardships but the Lord was there to bring them through all the difficulties that would come their way. Even after escaping Egypt, Israel had many troubles to deal with. They had forty years of wilderness to live through. There were no buses, cars, trains, or airplanes to take. We don’t read of them riding on horses or even in wagons so we assume that their primary travel was on foot. God was good to them. They needed only one pair of shoes for the whole trip (Deuteronomy 29:5). May we learn to put all our trust in the same God that led his children through the wilderness?

Yes, we always have options but a major part of life is built on what we choose to live by. I suppose that we wake up with an option every morning; will we shut-down or restart. I choose to restart especially since we have all God’s grace at our disposal.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram