

Pastor's Message — MARCH 2010

“In like a lion and out like a lamb!”

If you have ever been to Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center early in March, you will get a very good idea about the meaning of the first part of this phrase. It is biting cold and windy. Snow is still around. The sky is dark grey and gloomy. This reality sends chills up and down my spine just thinking about it. In this writing, it certainly looks like the snow and cold and wind and grey skies will be with us around here well into March. Once Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter, we were slammed hard with that bitter fulfillment. This is a great object lesson for the Lenten season. Starting February 17th and continuing throughout the month of March, we will have the opportunity to take a look at the spiritual winter we face and Ash Wednesday will have brought it in like a lion.



For God's people, we are well aware of our need of forgiveness as well as our need for a Savior. Our struggle to “get things right” always ends up messed up. No matter how hard we try, we cannot free ourselves from the bondage of sin and hopelessness that holds us back. That spiritual reality comes into our lives like a frightening, roaring lion and keeps us in the cold and darkness of our failures. Lent is OUR time to reflect on our desperate need for a Savior and on the price that Savior had to pay to free us from our sin and despair. We will have the time to once again have a clear picture of just how much God loves us and the extent He will go to save us. ***He sent Jesus Christ into our world to save the lost, condemned, and hopeless.*** That's us, stuck in a spiritual winter of darkness!

The last part of our opening phrase is also important for God people. March will end and lead us to the beginning of April where we celebrate the joy and victory of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. ***Literally this year, March will go out like a lamb – with the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!***

Thanks be to God that He provides the spring of hope that leads us out of a dark winter of despair all through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

“In like a lion and out like a lamb!”

In His Hope!
Pastor Dave

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