



## **South Hill Church of Christ**

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### **Snow Bound**

*“Come now, and let us reason together”, says the Lord, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’” Isaiah 1:18*

For the second week in a row we are snow bound. This time more than 18 inches blanketed our little part of the world, and it is beautiful. But no matter how pretty it is the area has come to a standstill. Businesses are closed, roads are impassable and stores are running out of snow shovels and salt. The schools were closed for 4 days last week, and this week schools were opened for 2 days and now have been closed for 2 days; I doubt schools will be in session tomorrow either. Of course, this dampens the spirits of students and parents alike because they don't want to be in school until the end of June!

The weather is something that we can't control and it reminds us of Robert Burns' line in his poem, *To A Mouse*, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men /Gang aft a-gley." We can rail against the weather and we can curse the weatherman, but we will not change the direction of a cold front. This snow reminds us that man is at the mercy of God, no matter how sophisticated his scientific discoveries or how advanced his technology. God's questions of Job are ones that more men should consider, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? (Job 38:4-5). Weathermen can sometimes tell us in advance what is coming our way thanks to Doppler Radar, but they can't change the direction of the wind. This snow storm can teach us something about the power and mercy of God if we will just listen.

This snow storm can also help us to be thankful people. I am so thankful that I have a nice warm house with plenty of food to eat. I know that not everyone enjoys these blessings. The news runs stories about various shelters in the city where those who are homeless can go to stay warm. This reminds us of the needs of those around us and the blessing it is to share our wealth with others. I am thankful for those who run the shelters and for those who donate their time and money to keep them open. The theme of one of Leo Tolstoy's greatest short stories (*What Men Live By*) reflects this truth that is highlighted by the snow storm: "I have learned that all men live not by care for themselves, but by love." A little later in this story Michael, the angel punished by God for disobedience, says to Simon, "I remained alive when I was a man, not by care of myself, but because love was present in a passer-by, and because he and his wife pitied and loved me." We live by love and concern for one another.

One more lesson this storm can teach us is that we should not sweat the small stuff. Sometimes we make mountains out of mole hills and we fret our lives away over insignificant matters. When a storm like this hits we will readily assist a cranky neighbor if he needs our help. Shouldn't we have the same attitude toward the neighbor in the bliss of a summer day? The key to putting pettiness aside is in entrusting things to God. I can spend a life time brooding over spilt milk or I can trust God to help clean up the mess and move on to more important issues. Thank the Lord for snow storms and some of the lessons they can teach us if we will take the time to think about it.

*“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psalm 51:7*