



*“See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who reverence my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.” (Malachi 4:1-2a)*

The Beatles or the Stones? Most will understand the nature of the question. The way one answers usually indicates something about one’s growing up years, or perhaps one’s character type or self-perception. I have never been a huge Beatles fan, although I’m familiar with their catalog, and generally would prefer to listen to the Rolling Stones.

I bring this up because one day recently “Here Comes the Sun” popped up on my radio while I was driving into church, and it became the impetus for this devotional. (The song was actually the B side of “Oh! Darling” which has nothing to do with the point of this piece but it’s an interesting bit of trivia.) Anyway, it was yet another cold, gray, dreary winter day in Northeast Ohio and, on top of it, I was reflecting on a sad experience from the day before. My eyes welled up for a moment, a sign of unresolved emotions, and as I was pulling myself back together, I was reminded once again not only of the power of music, but of God’s promise that everything will be alright. Maybe not immediately, but eventually, in God’s time. And that gave me hope.

*“Little darlin’, it’s been a long, cold lonely winter. Little darlin’, it feels like years since it’s been here. Here comes the sun... here comes the sun... and I say, it’s alright.”*

In the midst of what's going on in our world, our country, in our personal lives, in the life of the church and so forth we need to know that everything is in God's hands and will ultimately be alright. It's easy to get wrapped up in the negative things, to listen to contrarian voices, and to be swayed by cynical influences, which makes it even more imperative to intentionally seek positive messages. Those could come in a number of forms: books, music, prayer, regular phone conversations with people who are able to keep you grounded, Zoom chats (even though we're all tired of them, they still can serve a valuable purpose), online church services, etc. You know what's best for you.

The Old Testament prophet Malachi reminds us, *"But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings,"* a reference to God's constant presence. Hang in there brothers and sisters! Be hopeful! God's promises are steadfast and true. The sun will continue to rise. And the Son has already risen, a visible sign of what lies ahead for us all.

Pastor Chuck

Let us pray. Lord God, may your Son be a constant presence in our lives, helping us to rise each day with hope. Amen