



**SPOKANE COUNTY  
CHAPLAINCY  
SERVICES**



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**NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITY**

We have begun 2019! Wow. The old saying; “out with the old in with the new” not only speaks to a new year but also new hope. The bible in Lamentations 3:22,23 says; “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Though many things have changed over the years God’s love and provision has remained the same. We are marching off into a new year and as we march this course much remains unknown. We can see the uncertainty of our times in the media daily.

I believe the answer to this uncertainty still lies in our dependence on a loving and all-knowing God. He knows all things and is never surprised by anything that happens. Let us not get the thoughts about God’s love confused. It would

be easy to think that God loves good people but not bad people.

Although humanly speaking it may seem that that makes sense it is not what God teaches in his Word. The scripture says in Romans 5:8: “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” RSV It also says in Romans 3:23 “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” RSV The point being is there are not two classes of people in God’s eye. He sees things differently. His love goes out to whosoever.

Ephesians 2:8 & 9 tells us: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God not because of works, lest any man should boast.” This message goes out to everyone. God’s love is universal. It is for anyone and everyone.

John 3:16, a verse that has been used many times, in many places, tells us that God sent His son into the world that all might be saved. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” RSV This new year will bring many opportunities. We may very well face different and challenging circumstances, but our God is steadfast and unchanging. When we put Him into any equation we will find answers and guidance to make this new year successful. It is my hope that 2019 will find you looking to the One that is not surprised by the what ifs of tomorrow and the days ahead. He has a plan for each of us and His love is behind it all, for us all.