

## GOOD ADVICE FOR A NEW YEAR FROM AN OLD BOOK

Various thoughts come to our minds as we face a new year. Some of the thoughts are *retrospective*. They cause us to look back and review the past year. This can be good. We ask, "What has been accomplished? Have I grown spiritually? What lessons have I learned?"

Some of our thoughts also need to be *prospective* in nature. Not only do we look backward, but we need to look forward (cf. Philippians 3:13). We reflect, but we also expect, with the attitude of "If the Lord wills ..." (James 4:15).

The Bible has many things to say to us at the crossroads of the old and new years.

**CONSIDER YOUR WAYS** (Haggai 1:5, 7). There is always the need for each one of us to consider his (her) ways. Where will the way I'm living now at the end of this year cause me to be, not just in the new year, but in eternity (2 Corinthians 13:5)?

**BE STRONG** (Haggai 2:4). We need to face every day, every year, and every responsibility and challenge with courage. This we can do with the promise that "I am with you," says the Lord (Haggai 2:4). No matter what happens in '17\*, let us *be strong in the Lord* (Ephesians 6:10).

**WORK** (Haggai 2:4). No plan for success in any year will work if we don't. Resolve to work harder in His service in 2017\*.

**CONSIDER YOUR WAYS - BE STRONG - WORK.** Old advice from an old Book! Let's give it a fresh application in the New Year! - Charles Pugh III

\* Dates updated from original article.

### *Happy New Year*

- H** - old Fast - Heb. 4:14; 10:23.
- A** - ssemble Regularly - Heb. 10:25.
- P** - ray Earnestly - 1 Thes. 5:17
- P** - repare To Meet God - Matt. 24:42-44.
- Y** - ield Not To Temptation - 1 Cor. 10:13.
  
- N** - egllect Not Yor Talents - 1 Peter 4:10.
- E** - xamine Yourself Daily - 2 Cor. 13:5.
- W** - ork Diligently For The Lord -1 Thes. 1:3; Heb. 6:10.
  
- Y** - ield yourselves Unto Righteousness - Rom. 6:13.
- E** - xercise Yourself In Godliness - 1 Tim. 4:7; 6:11.
- A** - im At Perfection - 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
- R** - edeemThe Time - Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God. - Corrie ten Boom

### News & Notes

**COVERED DISH DINNER:** TODAY at about noon at the Multipurpose Building. All are invited. Come and share in this time of a meal and fellowship.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Ladies are encouraged to participate to help make stuffed bears.

**MEN'S LEADERSHIP CLASSES:** Resumes this Tuesday, Jan. 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

**STUDY ON REVELATION:** Each Wednesday at the 7:00 p.m. Bible study hour. Come and let's study and learn about this book together.

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS:** Resumes this Thursday Jan. 5th at 11:00 a.m.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, Jan. 7th, 8:00 a.m. at Connie's Corner in Chester.

**NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL:** Next Saturday, Jan. 7th, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

**PANTRY:** Macaroni & cheese.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Irvin & Barbara Gainer in Texas (Jenny Rhodes' parents). Also, prayers are requested for Tasha Hall Beatty (member at Southern Hills). She is to have very serious surgery on Jan. 26th for recurring cancer.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** Mae McMahan, Jim Beagle, Doris Dunham, Betty Henthorne, Ruth Wright (Sharon Williams' sister) 1211 Mound St., Salem, OH 44460.

**CROSSROADS:** Jim Mick, 13280 Echo Dell Road, East Liverpool, OH 43920.

**CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Sarah Miller & Ella Beagle. **WORTHINGTON NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER,** Margie Logston, 2675 - 36th St., P.O. Box 4010, Parkersburg, WV 26104.

### *The New Year: How Shall We Enter?*

Two thousand seventeen is upon us. How shall we approach it? No two people enter into the new year with exactly the same emotions. Some enter with fear and reluctance while others enter with optimism and enthusiasm. None of us can look into the future, for God in His great mercy and wisdom has kept the future veiled from our eyes. Thus, we must make our entrance into 2017 in faith. Paul stated, (2 Cor. 5:7) "*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*"

Looking to the future will be governed by the way we look at the present. Looking around us today we must not permit the successes or the failures of the past to defeat victorious living in the here and now. Neither must we allow the fear of the future to rob us of contentment today. The prayer of serenity should express our attitude: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference."

Today is all we have. The past is gone. The future never comes because it is always made up of todays. Thus, to insure that all of our todays are worthwhile we must be people of faith. The writer of Proverbs admonishes us: "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

- Roger Massey, via *Bulletin Digest* (adapted)