

A Christian New Year All Year Long!

Mark N. Posey

Resolutions are typical this time of year. Most of us will make a resolution, promising to make changes in our lives for the better. Therefore, commitment, dedication and determination are in full swing and great abundance. Losing weight, exercising more, better financial stability and enjoying life rank high on most lists. However, as February rolls around, fires cool and steam fizzes, but it should not, especially for Christians. Resolute and resilient Christians should blaze the trail in the land called "Promises Kept," but in what areas? In what ways will this year be any different than the previous?

1. **This year I will lose the weight of sin.** I will lay aside every weighty transgression, encumbrance and distraction, and run with perseverance the Christian race (Hebrews 12:1-2). I will **not** run a competitive race, but a cooperative one. I am running with, not against, my brethren.
2. **This year I will exercise greater discernment between good and evil.** I will repetitiously and habitually train my spiritual senses to discern good from evil (Hebrews 5:14). In doing so, my ability to teach God's Word will dramatically increase; I will go from being a student to being a teacher.
3. **This year I will save the souls of my friends and family.** Jesus is the only Savior; so, I will live like Him, love like Him and labor like Him in bringing my loved ones to His precious and redeeming blood (1 Peter 1:19).
4. **This year I will improve my spiritual health.** I will consume large quantities of spiritual meat (Hebrews 5:13-14). My hunger and thirst for righteous-ness (Matthew 5:6) will help me grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18). I will be faithful and fit for the Lord!
5. **This year I will better organize my thoughts, words and deeds.** I will clean out all the evil from my heart, mind and soul, replacing it with virtuous and praiseworthy thoughts, words and deeds (Colossians 3:5-17; Philippians 4:8).
6. **This year I will enjoy my spiritual life more.** I will rejoice in "newness of life" (Romans 6:4), repentance of sin (2 Corinthians 7:9, 10), "joy of faith" (Philippians 1:25), "the Lord" (Philippians 4:4) and difficulties that strengthen my faith (James 1:2-4). I will realize more than I have in the past that lasting joy comes from a Christ-like mind (Philippians 2:5), faith filled heart (Philippians 1:3-11), soul centered hope (Hebrews 6:19; 1 Peter 3:15) and love motivated life (Matthew 22:37-39).
7. **This year I will quit making excuses and always abound in the Lord's work.** I will conduct myself as an effective and faithful worker for the Lord (Ephesians 2:10). I will refuse the notion that my efforts for Him are empty and worthless (1 Corinthians 15:58b). I will work, not to gain salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5), but to display it (James 2:18).

Resolutions are only as good as the ability and dedication of the promise maker to reach their goal. Therefore, my work is clear and ordered! I must determine to be unwavering, grounded and unmovable in my commitment to reach spiritual goals. **This year is for the Lord!**

- Gospel Gazette online -

A new year is not really new if we live the same old life!

News Notes

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY about noon at the Fellowship Building. Our **early afternoon worship will follow at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Resumes this Thursday, Jan. 9th.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Jan. 11th, 8:30 a.m. at Columbian Church of Christ. **Chester brothers will host.**

PANTRY: Canned green beans or carrots.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: John Sprout, Peggy Linger, Randy Beagle, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Becky McKitrick, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Gary & Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 103 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

The Golden Rule

Thomas Baxley

There are many in the past who have given us many rules by which to live: the **Iron Rule**, the **Silver Rule** and the **Golden Rule**. The **Iron Rule** is "might makes right." It cares nothing about justice or mercy, but is concerned only with power. The **Silver Rule** is "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you." The **Golden Rule**, contrary to popular belief, is not "the one with the gold rules," but "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). While there is a close resemblance between the **Silver and Gold Rules**, there is a very stark distinction between the two. The **Silver Rule** is very passive and reactive; it gives no calling for service to others. While it looks good on the surface from afar, upon closer inspection, it is found to be quite selfish. The people of God are to be a people of active service to one another. This is the Law and the Prophets

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A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year
a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all
sorrows and pain,
but by strengthening you to bear it,
as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
but by making you sturdy to travel
any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
but by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken
sunshine,
but by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always
pleasant,
but by showing you when people
and
their causes need you most,
and
by making you anxious to be there
to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy
to you for the year ahead.

- An old Irish prayer -