

A New Year and A New Spirit

There is something thrilling about the prospect of a new year. I think that most of us feel a prospect of doing better, and not making the same mistakes we made this year. It is like a clean page, a fresh beginning, where we can make a clean, fresh start.

So much of the Christian life is like this. We have begun with a “new birth.” We have entered with Christ into a “new covenant.” Our hope is based upon His promise of some day bringing us into the “new heaven and new earth.”

While Israel was in captivity, God tried to encourage them through the prophet Ezekiel by saying that the time would come when they would return to Judah and would have a new heart and a new spiritual outlook. He wrote, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26).

The King James Version translates Romans 7:6 by saying that since we have been discharged from serving under the Old Law, we should now serve “in newness of spirit.” This is probably our greatest need for the new year — an eagerness to serve the Lord, a new outlook on life, an optimism, a renewed hope,

So many Christians never change. We get into a rut in our living and thinking and we make very few changes. Our attitude is often. “What’s the use!”

That can be most dangerous. We are a group of people on this earth that are supposed to be “renewed daily in the spirit” even though our outward person is perishing (see 2 Corinthians 4:16). We are growing daily in “grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). We are to “forget the things which are behind ... and press on” toward the goal of a life dedicated to Christ. (Philippians 3:13, 14).

We cannot afford to “get set in our ways,” but must always be looking to God’s Word for ways that we can keep on improving and growing in Christ. Each new year should be met with some spiritual resolutions. The child of God who truly believes the Father’s promise, “I will never fail you nor forsake you,” cannot have anything but a “Happy New Year.” We must “be of good cheer” for the One whom we love and follow “has overcome the world.”

Yes, have a happy spiritual New Year!

- Harvey Porter, *Bulletin Digest*

Time has a way of showing us what really matters.

News Notes

2-YR. POCKET CALENDARS: Thanks to Ed & Chris Wiersbicki for donating these calendars. Pick up a copy or two on the table in the foyer.

NEW YEAR’S DAY BREAKFAST & DEVOTIONAL: This **Wednesday, Jan. 1st, 9:00 a.m.** at the Fellowship Building for ALL ages. Food will be provided. **NO EVENING BIBLE STUDY.**

MEN’S BREAKFAST: Next **Saturday, Jan. 4th, 8:00 a.m.** at Coplin’s in Newell.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next **Sunday, Jan. 5th, about noon** at the Fellowship Building. Our **early afternoon worship will follow at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

CONVERT’S CLASS: Postponed until **Thursday, Jan. 9th.**

PANTRY: Canned corn.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: John Sprout, Peggy Linger, Paula Clutter, Twila Adamson, Randy Beagle, Sue Haight, Bob McMahan, Charlotte Jones, Becky McKittrick, 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.

Resolutions

A little less impatient with those we deem too slow;
 A little less arrogance because of all we know.
 A little more humility, seeing our worth is slight;
 We are such trivial candles compared to stars at night!
 A little more forgiving and swifter to be kind;
 A little more desirous the word of praise to find.
 The word of praise to utter and make a heart rejoice;
 A little bit more careful to speak with gentle voice.
 A little more eagerness to understand each other;
 A little more real striving to help a ship-wrecked brother.
 A little more high courage to each task that must be done;
 These be our resolutions — and God help everyone!

- Author Unknown -

