

**"When the wind of change blows, some build walls,
others build windmills". (Chinese Proverb)**

New Year: Time to Diet?



**New Year's Day Prayer for
One and All**

Dear Lord So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen

New Year's Day Quotes

- One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things - *John Burroughs*
- Good resolutions are simply cheques that men draw on a bank where they have no account - *Oscar Wilde*

Marriage: There are a lot of people you can live with; the secret is to discover the one person in the world you can't live without!



 *"Join with others in following my example and take note of those who live according to the pattern." [Phil 3:17]*

Say What? Terri asked her Sunday school class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot.

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



**GETTING
CONNECTED**

Publication of...

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Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year

Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing—

I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leads me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleases Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.

Dear Master make me swift to
hear

And ready to obey.

And thus the year I now begin

A happy year will be—

If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleases Thee.

--Unknown Author

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New Year's Resolution...

**Love Christ, love
others love yourself.**



Join us each Sunday for Worship...

10:45am worship and praise

Thot: "As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools." — Anonymous

The Lighter Side...

A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."



A 3 Year Old was overheard saying the Lord's Prayer –

...Our Father, Who does art in heaven... Harold is His name. Amen.



As in many homes on New Year's Day, Janet and Nigel, a happily married couple, faced the annual conflict of which was more important: football on TV, or the lunch itself. Hoping to keep the peace Nigel ate lunch with the rest of the family, and even lingered for some pleasant after-lunch chat before retiring to the family room to turn on the TV. In a bit, his wife brought in a cold drink for Nigel. She smiled, kissed him on the cheek and asked what the score was. Nigel told her it was half-time and the score was still 0-0. 'See?' Janet said happily, 'You didn't miss a thing.'



Something to Think About...

"...One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 3:13, 14]

What baggage are you dragging along with you into 2015? As the old year ends, it's a new opportunity for a year full of possibilities - 12 months; 52 weeks; 365 days; 8760 hours; 525,600 minutes or 31,536,000 seconds. What will you do with all this time? Rather than holding on to disappointments, regrets or second guesses, look at the possibility that our Heavenly Father has something amazing in store for you this year. Each year we resolve to do things differently - to lose weight, exercise more; be a better person, dispense with old bad habits and begin better ones. If we are interested in finding our joy in successfully serving Christ this year, we should adhere to the methods employed by the Apostle Paul in Philippians. First, he considers, "Forgetting what is behind." Paul's talking about forgetting in such a way that the past - good or bad - will have no bearing on one's present spiritual growth and condition. Easy to want to forget the bad, but we

also need to forget even the good which might make us content with, too satisfied about our spirituality and like Paul who realized he still had a long way to go if he wanted to know Christ fully and completely keep working at it. In order to put the failures of previous attempts to completely know Christ behind us, we need to adhere to the method of Paul, "*forgetting what is behind*". We've a clean slate when we forget the past, when we leave it behind.

Paul's second lesson for us is to, "*press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me*". "Pressing" encourages us to work hard like a runner in a marathon. In order to win the prize, the runner must win and to win, the runner must focus on the end game. As Christ's followers, our end game is obviously heaven; yet our aim today is to serve Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Like the runner we develop a plan of action which once developed has to be held to with all our exertion and intensity. Concentrating on a solid plan will help to make our resolve to know Christ this coming year more of a reality. Ultimately, as we strive to know Christ we must also ask, "Will this make me more like Jesus?" It's not enough to know Christ as an academic endeavor; we must strive to be like Him. How would Jesus spend his time, what would Jesus consider most important? Once you find an answer to your questions – press on with doing the same thing with all your heart.

Some things aren't necessarily wrong, they're just not all that important. One way to make this distinction as you press forward in 2015 is to measure the positive impact of our actions on others. Will they make a positive contribution to your family, co-workers, church, community and your world? Will what you are involved in with other people be an opportunity to witness? Do your goals intentionally involve you with unchurched people so you can be a witness for Jesus Christ?

By following Paul's example to have our goals centered on a heavenward focus, we're saying, "I want to be better prepared for life in heaven by starting to live a more godly life right now.

Mark your Calendar...

Sunday Jan 4th – Communion

Sunday Series: *Start with a Blessing*

Wednesday January 14th, 21st, & 28th Bible Study.

When we put our focus on how Christ can use us today, we discover our choices are the ones that we'll enjoy throughout eternity. So go ahead and enjoy the New Year!