



Scriptures to Inspire in New Year

Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Psalms 90:12 - "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

As we begin "January" have you ever pondered where the name came from? The month is named after the Roman god Janus, an appropriate choice for the start of the New Year as he reportedly had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future, and back at the past at the same time. As we've bid farewell to 2016 and look forward to what waits in 2017, will we be a little like Janus? Will we review our experiences considering what we've done wrong or failed to do, and be glad with what we did right, hoping to do better this year?



Thoughts for New Year's Eve

- A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.
- New Year's Eve is the only acceptable time to wear body glitter.
- My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.
- I've only one resolution: to rediscover the difference between wants and needs. May I have all I need and want all I have! Happy New Year!
- I'll remember 2016 like it was yesterday
- In 2017, may your neighbours respect you, troubles neglect you, angels protect you, and heaven accept you.
- Dear God, my prayer for 2017 is a FAT bank account and a THIN body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.
- Remember you can reset your resolutions on January 14th (Orthodox New Year) and February 8th (Chinese New Year). After that, even I can't help you.
- Every year I make a resolution to change myself..... this year I'm making a resolution to be myself!
- New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

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



GETTING CONNECTED

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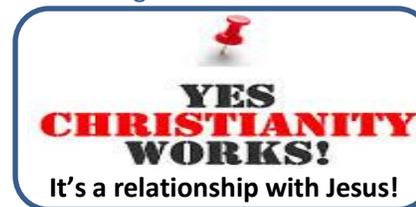
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Join us each Sunday for Worship...

3 p.m. worship and praise

22243 Allan Road (@Adelaide Road) South of Mt Brydges

Thot: "The gift of joy is the miracle of a life in whom Christ lives." — Nell Mohny

A New Year with the Lord

A New Year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord.
Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware.

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within.
What God has placed within our hearts,

We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through.
We mustn't let anything hold us back

But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace.

~ M.S. Lowndes

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about **all this Satan stuff?**" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably your dad."



Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite 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 quick 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 – he's the pilot."



Something to Think About...

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

Each New Year we're provided opportunity to consider the proverb, *"No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending"* It's about asking the Lord to help us each day, to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him. This way our focus is set on the things of heaven rather than earthly stuff.

Jesus reminds us *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* ~ Matthew 6:21. Each year we start with a clean slate with a new opportunity to focus on what is really important. What do we do with that opportunity? May it be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord. When the Apostle Paul called out to God to secure him from the thorn in his flesh, God's response was, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"* ~ 2 Corinthians 12:9. Certainly that's what we need to hear from our Lord today as well.

In a world that finds sufficiency in hefty bank accounts, successful careers, large houses, new cars, and picture-perfect families, we need a new direction that provides us with an eternal perspective. God wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that lie waiting around the corner. I'm not suggesting any blessings we receive from the Lord God should not be appreciated nor fail to lead us to give thanksgiving to God, but we

must be readily thankful people despite our circumstances. It's seeing God in your midst and walking with Him at all times. It's recognizing that all things are possible with God!

So this is the beginning of a New Year and the opportunity to begin once more on that journey that brings us into a renewed intimacy with the One who loves us intimately. The word "intimacy" means to be close, familiar, very personal and private; in this instance with our creator, God. As we do it begs us to ask, "How will we end this year as determined by how we started it"? This may be January but where do we see ourselves next December? As you look ahead to where this year will take you, do you want a new ending for this year over previous years? How do you want the ending of your life? If you're serious about today being the start of a new ending, if you're not a Christian, or you're sliding in your fervor with your faith, please know that this could be the best New Year you'll ever have if you meet Jesus. Your life can be filled with hope and peace - today.

What it takes is acknowledging that *"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."* ~ 2 Corinthians 5:21. Don't let the enemy hold you up through pride, or guilt; don't believe the lies Satan is speaking to you – God loves you! Whether you are on a journey to discover Jesus in your life for the first time, or are searching to rekindle that love affair that has stagnated over the years, it is essential you realize God calls us to Himself – He sent His Son Jesus to draw us to Himself and to pay the price for our sins – and He says, "Come to me, all who are burdened and heavy laden; let me give you my rest, my peace". Can you hear Him? That's Him tugging at your heart. Won't you respond?

Why should this year, like every year before proceed along the same path of broken resolutions with nothing really changing and nothing new accomplished in your life?

It's really a simple process. If you want Jesus in your life, stop being obligated to the old sinful nature, living as in the past in which you will die; but live in Christ. God's Word promises we do this by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in our heart God raised Him from the dead. **You won't regret it!** Happy New Year!

<p>Mark your Calendar...</p> <p>Sunday Jan 1st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Communion- <i>Getting Started 2017</i> <p><i>Bible Study: Mondays</i></p> <p>8771 Parkhouse (Jan 23rd)</p> <p><u>Annual Meeting Sunday</u>, Jan 22nd (following Service)</p>
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