

Another Year Begins

Introduction

1. King David wrote of God's blessings.

Psalms 65:11-12 **You crown the year with Your goodness**, And Your paths drip with abundance. They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, And the little hills rejoice on every side.

A. David reminds us that it is God who has crowned the year with goodness.

2. James also reminds us:

James 1:17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

3. According to our calendars, a new year begins tonight at midnight.

4. It is profitable to take some time to reflect on the blessings we received, the successes we enjoyed, and the failures we endured in the past year.

5. It is also natural for us to look forward to the future.

6. As Christians, the new year should cause us to be mindful of more than just the events of our recent past and those we look forward to in the near future.

A. As this year comes to a close and we prepare to start another one, there are some things for us to consider:

New Year Reminds Us of Our Creator

- 1. For many, the start of the new year is an excuse to have wild parties that are often nothing more than drunken revelries.**
- 2. To the Christian we should again be reminded of some very important things:**

Psalms 100:3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

A. Measuring time in “years” did not originate with man.

Genesis 1:14-15 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

- 3. With the arrival of each new year we should be reminded that God created the world with its cycles and seasons giving man the ability to measure time in years.**

New Year Reminds Us That Jesus Came Into the World

1. The apostle Paul wrote:

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

A. The impact that Jesus has had on the history of mankind cannot be denied.

1) We will begin the 2018th year since the time that our Lord Jesus came into the world.

B. The beginning of the new year reminds us that Jesus came into the world and had an impact on mankind more profound than any person who has ever lived.

1) His impact is such that mankind now reckons time by referring back to the point when He came in the flesh.

New Year Reminds Us of God's Mercy

1. The Bible says:

Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, **because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.** He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

2. The scriptures often refer to that day as "the last day."

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. **(See also John 6:44)**

3. As we enter a new year we are also reminded that another year has passed without the last day having come.

A. In this respect the new year makes us mindful of God's great mercy toward mankind.

4. The Day of Judgment signals the end of God's grace toward the unrighteous.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

A. God certainly is "longsuffering" toward us.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

5. The beginning of the new year shows us that God has given sinners at least a little more time to repent before it is too late!

New Year Reminds Us That New Opportunities Lie Ahead

1. Most people tend to view the new year as a chance at a fresh start.
 - A. This is seen in the “New Year’s Resolutions” made by so many.
 - 1) Most of these resolutions involve new attempts at sticking to a particular diet or exercise program.
2. For the Christian, the new year presents opportunities of a spiritual nature.
 - A. The new year gives us new opportunities to:

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn those who are unruly**, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 **pray** without ceasing,

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature.

Conclusion

- 1. Let's strive to take advantage of the opportunities we have to serve God now, and let us do our best to glorify Him in the new year.**

- 2. God has not promised us another year, or even another day.**
 - A. But in His great mercy He has granted us this day.**

- 3. Are you planning on putting God first in your life this year?**

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

