

Making the Best of a New Year

Introduction

1. One way we can improve our lives is to look at the positive side of things. We most likely will have a better year ahead when we make it a year filled with love, service, and optimism.

2. To begin our lesson this morning it is important that we learn some things about God.
Acts 17:24-28
 - A. We learn that God gives to all life, breath, and all things!

 - B. God has made all men one, to live on earth, with limited time and space.

 - C. God has given us a specific purpose and that is **TO SERVE HIM**.

3. To have a better year ahead, we need to make it a year of:

Love

1. For God – We must love Him first and foremost!

Matthew 22:37-38

1 John 5:1-3

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

2. For my brethren.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love one another**;

Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, **love one another fervently with a pure heart**,

3. For my fellow man.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, **bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you**, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Romans 13:10 **Love does no harm to a neighbor**; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Service

1. Our love for God demands service.

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.**

Philippians 2:5-8

2. The greatest is the one who serves.

Matthew 20:25-28

3. Let us always remember what it means to serve.

Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**"

Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, **and will come and serve them.**

Matthew 25:34-40

Optimism

1. A Christian has been a life of joy! Therefore we should be happy, making it our aim to let others see our happiness in Christ.

A. We rejoice in salvation!

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

B. We rejoice in those who walk in the truth.

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

2. The Christian has fellowship with God and Christ!

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

3. The Christian has been given the promise of eternal life and heaven!

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

4. These are the very reasons that every Christian should be a very optimistic Christian, filled also with love and service.

Conclusion

- 1. What will we really make of the coming year, 2019?**
 - A. We should make it the best year ever by providing love, service, and optimism.**

- 2. May we all challenge ourselves to get out of our comfort zones and do the work that is before us.**
 - A. Let's be like the five and two talent man – not the one talent man (Matthew 25:14-30).**

- 3. Love, service, and optimism: Very admirable traits of a faithful and zealous Christian!**

