

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

December 31, 2017

A New You For A New Year

This sounds like a commercial line from a weight loss clinic, a fitness club, a hair salon, or a skin cream company, but it's not. It's about making decisions about spiritual well-being. Are you satisfied with 'you' at the beginning of a new year? This is the time of year we generally look at ourselves and make resolutions for self-improvement. We often write them down or tell someone so we'll feel some pressure (encouragement) to stick to them. As you think about 'a new you for the new year,' please consider these common clichés and their spiritual applications.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE.'

We use this phrase to refer to applying oneself to a dreaded task. Is there a spiritual duty we need to do which we have been putting off? Perhaps it is obeying the Gospel. Have I believed, repented, confessed, and been immersed for the remission of my sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21)? Perhaps I need to make a public confession of sin, but have dreaded humbling myself and asking for prayers (James 5:16). Perhaps I have offended a brother and have put off getting things straightened out. It's time to do it (Matthew 18:15-18). 'Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend' (Proverbs 6:3). It could be the grindstone of a bad habit – drinking, smoking, cursing, gossiping –

that I need to break. Let's go ahead, 'put our nose to the grindstone,' and get right with God and others,

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR EARS TO THE GROUND.' We use this phrase to refer to listening for feedback from associates. It comes from the practice the Indians had of listening for approaching horses or buffalo by literally putting an ear to the ground. We are wise to listen to the constructive criticisms of those who love us. 'Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning...he that regardeth reproof is prudent...A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool' (Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 15:5; Proverbs 17:10). Those 'dull of hearing' were criticized by Jesus (Matthew 13:15). This applies to stopping the ears to God's Word (Psalm 58:4) and refusing to hear God's messengers (Acts 7:51, called 'uncircumcized' ears here). We should also be open to those who have been offended by our actions who come to talk.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR MIND IN GEAR.' If you had a daydreaming employee or student under you, you might tell him to 'get his mind in gear,' which means 'concentrate on the task at hand.' The young Solomon was told to serve God with a 'willing mind' (1 Chronicles 28:9). God says that we must 'renew our minds' (Romans 12:2, 'renew,' anakainosis, literally 'renovate'), because they can become 'faint' (Hebrews 12:3, ekluo, 'relaxed'). If we have just been going through the motions of worship and Christians living, it's time to 'put our mind in gear' and get serious about serving God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL.' If a weight is small, a man might move it with the strength of his wrist; if it is of medium weight, it might require the strength of his arm; but if it is heavy, he will have to put his shoulder to it. We use the phrase 'put your shoulder to the wheel' to mean 'give this project your full strength.' Christianity is not to be approached with 'wrist' or 'arm' strength, put with all the force of the 'shoulder.' Jesus said, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind' (Matthew 22:37). During this year, let's give 'all diligence to

make our calling and election sure' (2 Peter 1:10, 'diligence,' spoude, 'speed, by implication, dispatch, eagerness, earnestness').

This challenge will continue in next week's bulletin, until then
We wish you a

“Happy New Year!”

The End Of Crying And Dying

*A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning.*

— Matthew 2:18

Herod was furious. The wise men had outfoxed him and headed home without giving him the location of baby Jesus. Okay, he'd handle it himself: "he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under" (Mt 2:16).

God didn't stop that slaughter. Nor did he stop Megan Huntsman from killing her six babies and burying their little bodies in her garage in Provo, Utah.

Why doesn't God stop such madness?

Nothing is gained by fretting over why God does and doesn't do what God does and doesn't do. But everything is gained by knowing the price he paid at Calvary to ensure our happily-ever-after, where there will be no more crying and no more dying.

*Trust God unconditionally.
He knows what he's doing . . . and why.*

— Joe Barnett

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing

: Pop Tarts, and flavor (they love strawberry flavor) Fruit snacks, Fruit by the Foot, Gushers (a fruit snack)

Reading : Matthew 6: 24-34 ; Philippians 3: 12-16

NEXT WEEK : (January 7, 2017)

Song Leader : Greg

Scripture Reader : J.J.

Table & Announcements : Jonathan

Birthdays :

JJ Niehls January 1

Larry Johnston ... January 2

Gloria Zander ... January 5

Prayer list :

Rosanne Reynolds : Rose's knee replacement surgery went well. She is now recovering at home.

Bob Stevens : Will have 4 bypasses and will return to the doctor for tests on Jan. 4 to see if he will also need to have a heart valve replaced. His surgery will be in mid January.

Ron Bartanen : They are hoping for surgery in February.

Ernie Wasson : Transferred to the Prairie Rose nursing home

Megan Nichols : Megan's recovery has stalled. Awaiting MRI

Hailey Wilhour : Completed current round of chemo. Waiting

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Doris, Mary, Jeanne, Delores, Marg, Pete & Hazel,
Betty, Francis

Other members with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Nancy is recovering from two broken arms.

Robin Shumard : significant respiratory and foot issues

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues, and broken rib

Madonna : Madonna's chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Improving, but issues remain / surgery

Mindy Stevens : Experiencing immune system issues.

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

**** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders.***

***Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.***

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !