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At The Opening Gates of The New Year

I. Introduction

1.) New experiences await us

Josh 3:4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

2.) The future is uncertain

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

b.) But God is in the future

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

II. We are impressed with the thought of time

1.) Time means nothing to God because he has all of it.

II Pet 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2.) Time is important to man because he has so little of it.

a.) Job 14:1,2 Man that is born of a woman is of a few days, and full of trouble: He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

b.) Psa 90:10,12 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and

man has so little time

sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
(12) So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

c.) Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

III. This is the time of year when we take stock what have we done for the Lord this year?

1.) We should take stock of our blessings
Psa 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

How high can you count?

→ Count your blessings

2.) Take stock of church work.
What progress has been made during the past year?

IV. Lay aside the things that are holding you back.
Heb 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pride of life - lust of money of flesh

Holding you back from heaven

1.) I Pet 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Luke 12:08

2.) Rev 3:15, 16 TURN TO Pg 300

Worldliness 3.) James 4:4 Ye adulters and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?

whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

sorrows 4.) In the most shelt'ed life storms and disappointments will come, but they should be accepted so as to become wings and not weights.

Clay — hardens — FLAME — Tallow — melts

Some experiences of our life may harden some and melt others. (weaken or strengthen)

II Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

5.) Lay aside everything that is holding back your progress.

II. Resolve

1.) Good resolutions are necessary to moral and spiritual advancement.

2.) When the water pitcher, or plate, is broken we do not quit drinking, or eating.
<u>When resolutions are broken, we should not quit.</u>

3.) Resolve to make this a happy year.

Psa 144:15 Happy is that people, that is in such a case = yes, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

We must 4.) a.) Resolve to improve ourselves

I Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

b.) to be more like Christ

I Pet 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.

5.) Resolve to read the Bible more

I Tim 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Resolve to pray every day

I Thess 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

6.) Resist the devil

James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

7.) Resolve to keep the peace - to much strife in the church.

Rom 14:19 Let us therefore follow after ~~the~~ the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Psa 133:1 Behold, ~~how~~ how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

8.) Purpose to go forward

Strive forward

a) Phil 3:13,14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

b) Lk 9:62 and Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

I Tim 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.