

12-27-20 NEW YEAR CHALLENGES AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Intro: This is the last Sunday of December. Friday we celebrate the New Year 2021. As we look back on this past year it has been a very difficult year. We have had lock downs, rioting, political turmoil, just a lot of drama. This Wednesday we will have a funeral for Brother Art Demuysere. He passed away so quickly. This past year has just been filled with drama and difficulties.

I remember moving Art into his new apartment Feb 2019. This February will have been 2 years since he moved into the high rise in Olyphant. It is hard to believe time has passed so quickly.

This next Friday we start out with a new calendar year. The starting of a new year for many is a time to look back at where we have been and a time to think about where we would like to be in this future year. I am sure that each of us want to be blessed of the Lord in this New Year. I am sure that what we all want is to go forward in 2021 and to prosper and to be blessed.

There are two things we should do to move forward for the Lord in 2021. First of all we should learn from the past, and secondly learn how to make right decisions in the future. We have memories of the past, we live in the present, and we have to make plans for the future. We also have hopes for the future.

Jack Mckeeby used to say, good judgment comes from experience and experience through bad judgment. In other words, we learn from our mistakes or other peoples mistakes. In I Cor. 10:11 we read

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

In this verse Paul tells us that we should read through the Bible and learn from the history of God's people and their mistakes. As we read through the Old Testament there are stories after stories, account after account, of people who were chastened of the Lord for their sins and rebellion. We should read these accounts and learn from them.

In fact, we should learn even from our own life experiences as well as the experiences of those we read about in the Bible.

I. AS WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR IT IS A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PAST.

1. EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR PAST.

Not everyone sees the past the same way.

Winston Churchill once said, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

German Philosopher Friedrich Hegel wrote: "The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history."

As we look at our own past we should remember this verse:

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

The most blessed man is that man who sees himself for who he really is. This is the man that thinks soberly about who he is.

We all have strengths and we all have weaknesses.

One thing we cannot deny and that is what God has done for us in the past and how He has worked in our lives.

A. We each need to look at our past with a sober mind.

Paul warns that we ought not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

It is good to think soberly about our lives.

A sober person is a person who lives in reality. Sees things for what they are. Sees themselves for who they are and what they are.

We all have strengths and we all have weaknesses.
We all have limits and we all have potential.

Young people have a tendency to not be able to see things with a sober mind.

How many times people came to Jesus saying they wanted to follow Him and he said, no you won't.

Matthew 8:19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

I have seen young people do this often. They do not look at things with a sober mind.

We need to think soberly about who we are and the gifts that God has given to us.

B. WHEN WE LOOK AT THE PAST WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW A ROOT OF BITTERNESS CREEP UP IN OUR LIVES.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

So people look at the past and get bitter.

Bitter about tough breaks, things that did not go their way.

We need to remember.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Maybe we have fallen victim to sickness, or problems, or difficult times.

When we get bitter who are we getting bitter against? Ultimately you are getting bitter at God.

Think about this: What was the will of God for His only Son Jesus? It was a life of suffering and being contradicted by sinners at every turn of His ministry. Isaiah said it this way:

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Think of all the people in the Bible who could have gotten bitter but did not:

Think of Job.

Think of Joseph.

Think of Daniel.

Think of Jeremiah.

C. WHEN WE LOOK AT THE PAST WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN OUR LIVES.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

David is a prime example:

When David went to Saul and told him he could fight against Goliath, he was basing it on what God had done for him in the past. God helped him kill a Lion and a Bear. He knew Goliath was not any more powerful and therefore was able to trust God in the future based on what He did for him in the past.

When I sensed God's call in my life to preach, it was based on what He did in my life. It was not based on what I did or could do. It was not based on my natural gifts, it was based on what the Lord did for me spiritually.

You cannot deny what God has done for you in your life. This is the measure of faith that has been dealt to you of God.

2. EVERYONE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE:

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

As we read the Bible we should learn from the failures of others, and learn how God dealt with them. What makes us think He will deal any differently with us?

We either learn from our mistakes or we learn from the mistakes of others.

So as we enter the New Year 2021, this is a good time to look at the past and learn from the past: Our past and the past of others, and through this learning we enter a new year with renewed resolve to serve God.

II. THE SECOND THING WE SHOULD DO AS WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR IS LOOK AT OUR HOPE AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE.

As we enter the New Year, there will be new challenges, and opportunities to serve God.

Which of us do not wish to have a prosperous New Year 2021?

The Bible gives us a formula for being prosperous.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

As we enter the New Year, there will be new challenges and we will have to face new decisions, obstacles, and trials.

Our thinking effects how we make decisions.

What we fill our hearts and minds with will effect our thinking.

Meditating in the word of God will effect our minds and hearts and then we will be more likely to make right decisions, which God can bless.

How does meditating in Word of God effect our minds, and decisions?

We are God's sheep and people, the Bible uses the concept of how sheep Chew their food as an illustration of how we should meditate on the Word of God!

1. *Healthy sheep meditate on what they have been fed.*

The job of the shepherd is to lead God's sheep to green pastures and continually provide for their feeding.

God made sheep with stomachs that can digest food.

Sheep just don't chew and then swallow they actually chew and re chew, having multiple stomachs.

The Word for meditate in Psalm 1:2 is the Hebrew word Hagah. It can either mean to murmur or to ponder, and meditate.

H1897hagah, haw-gaw'; a prim. root comp. 1901; to murmur (in pleasure or anger); by impl. to ponder:-imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, roar,

soar, speak, study, talk, utter.

01901. gygh hagiyg, haw-gheeg'

The word is derived from an unused root akin to hagah; properly, a murmur, i.e. complaint:--meditation, musing.

Here is the key to having a blessed new year. You will muse about somethings in the New Year. Either you will muse about things that will make you bitter, or you will meditate and muse on the word of God which will give you a good spirit and mind.

When you muse about hurts and evil you will develop a root of bitterness.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Bitter people will just not let things go. They bring it up over and over again. It is like a cow chewing the cud, except they are chewing on a poisonous cud!

When you meditate on the Word of God your heart and mind will be filled with godly thoughts and you will fill your mind with God's Word. This will produce a mind that is in tune with the will of God. The Bible says,

I John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

So when we meditate in the word of God we will set godly goals, we will pray for godly things, we will pray in the will of God, and we will make godly decisions that God can bless.

Proverbs 23:7 For as (a man) he thinketh in his heart, so is he:

So the promise is that whatever we do will prosper when we fill our hearts and minds with the word of God.

Spurgeon said:

Great thoughts are blessed guests, and should be heartily welcomed, well fed and much sought after. Like rose leaves, they give out a sweet smell if laid up in the jar of memory. -Spurgeon

Keep your mind on the great and splendid things you would like to do and then, as the days go gliding by, you will find yourself unconsciously seizing the opportunities that are required for the fulfillment of your desire. Picture in your mind the able, earnest, useful,

person you desire to be, and the thought you hold is hourly transforming you into that particular individual you so admire. -Hubbard

One person said:

By meditation I can converse with God, solace myself on the bosom of my Savior, bathe in the rivers of divine pleasure, tread the paths of my rest, and view the mansions of eternity. -Anonymous

What we are afraid to do before men, we should be afraid to think before God. -Anonymous

To believe a thing is to see the cool crystal water sparkling in the cup. But to meditate on it is to drink of it. Reading gathers the clusters; contemplation squeezes forth their generous juice. -Spurgeon

Associate reverently, and as much as you can, with your loftiest thoughts. -Thoreau

The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility toward God. -Webster

Press on! For it is godlike to unloose the spirit and forget yourself in thought. -Willis

Conclusion:

So as we enter the new year 2021, let us do two things.

- I. Properly learn from the past.**
- II. Get the mind of God for the future, through Bible meditation.**

MORNING MESSAGE
12-27-2020
SOMETHING NEW FOR NEW YEAR 2021

This Friday will mark a New Year, 2021. All of us like new things. A new car, new furniture, we would rather new appliances. I am not sure all of us are excited about a New Year looking at this past year.

We are only 5 days away from a New Year 2021.

If you are in business, you are going to close out the books for 2020, and set up New books for a new fiscal year: My accountant bugs me to take inventory. I hate taking inventory. The only thing good about inventory this year is I have Tommy who I can pay to do it.

This morning I want to share some things that the Bible says you can make new for the New Year.

I. FIRST OF ALL WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS FOR THE NEW YEAR IS NEW LIFE:

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

This New Year you need New Life:

We often assume that everyone that comes to church is a Christian, but the truth is that there is probably someone in our midst that is not saved.

Jesus predicted that the Church would always have in it some who were not really converted.

How can you know if you have new life?

Answer these questions and you can know:

Can you remember a time in your life when you received New Life in Christ?

Can you think of a time when your heart was changed?

Can you think of time when your life was made new?

Self: I was 21 years old when I received Christ.

All things were new when I received Him.

My desires changed.
My goals changed.
My direction changed.

I no longer desired to impress the people of this world.
Suddenly I wanted to be with Christians.
Suddenly I wanted to read the Bible.
I wanted to know more about the things of God.
THERE WAS A SUPERNATURAL CHANGE.

People who do not have new life.
Have no heart for Word.
No heart for prayer.
No heart for Church.
No heart for hearing the preaching of the word of God.

Jesus gave parables to illustrate this:

Parable Kingdom of God. birds in tree: Mark 4:30-32.
Parable 10 virgins, 5 without oil. Matt. 25:1-12.

THIS NEW YEAR YOU NEED TO RECEIVE NEW LIFE.

Just because you grew up in the church does not mean you have new life.

Someone recently said about a person whose salvation was called into question, they said well he is a grown man he needs to figure that out for himself. I wonder what would have happened to Nicodemus if Jesus had that attitude. Remember Nicodemus was probably in his 80's and Jesus was a young prophet in His 30's when He said to him:

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

John 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

John 3:11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

Do you have new life?

II. WE NEED A NEW SPIRIT FOR THE NEW YEAR 2021:

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

I Samuel 10:6 And the spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

I Samuel 10:9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.
I Samuel 10:10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

I Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

When the Spirit of God came upon the disciples they became different men.

WHAT WE NEED IS A NEWNESS OF THE SPIRIT IN 2021.
WE NEED A RENEWED SPIRIT.

The Bible says we can ask for the renewing of the spirit.

When we are renewed in our spirit we become bolder in our witness.
When we are renewed in the Spirit we are empowered to serve God.
When we are renewed in our Spirit we are stirred up for God.

We need everyone to become new creature.
In 2021 Let's get a renewed Spirit.

III. WHAT WE NEED IN A NEW YEAR IS A NEW UNIFORM OR NEW WALK.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Colossians 3:10 **And have put on the new man,** which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Colossians 3:12 **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things **put on** charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Paul uses the illustration of putting on clothes as an illustration of walking in our new life. Clothes as what people see first, of us. So people need to see that we are Christians. Therefore we need to put on the virtues of Christ so people see we are Christians.

We need a new UNIFORM THAT DICTATES OUR walk.

As believers in Christ the world needs to see that we walk differently.

Not enough to profess Christ.

Not enough to confess Him and be baptized. Join the Church.

We need a New Walk.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off** the old man with his deeds;

Put these off:

Anger, Wrath, Malice, Blasphemy, Filthy Communication, Lying.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Colossians 3:10 And have **put on** the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

The Idea is like putting on clothes or taking them off.

Visiting lady who was angry about something. She was stirred up and angry at me. As she was yelling at me she blurted out " how can you stay so calm...."

EASY, I PUT ON MY CALM CLOTHING.

A soldier feels more like a soldier when he puts on his uniform.

A police officer when he puts on the badge often acts different.

A Christian when he walks like a Christian is putting on CHRIST.

WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO PUT ON CHRIST.

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

People know I am a Pastor. They are watching.
It is important that I walk like Christ.

People know you are a professing Christian.
They are going to be watching you.

When you put on Christ they hopefully will see in you new that you:

1. **Have NEW LIFE.**
2. **Have A NEW SPIRIT.**
3. **Have NEW CLOTHES Showing a NEW WALK.**

FOR 2021 you need:

4. **NEW STRENGTH.**

IV. YOU NEED NEW STRENGTH IN 2021:

II Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Isaiah 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Today we are seeing many of the saints being worn out.

There are certain things that renew your strength.
When you focus on the outward man you will wear out.

Our strength must come from within.

We must be renewed day by day.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

What does it mean to wait on the Lord?

The Hebrew word for wait is:

6960[?]qavah, kaw-vaw'; a prim. root; to bind together (perh. by twisting), i.e. collect; (fig.) to expect:-gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).

Prime root means:

TO BIND TOGETHER. Hence to look to Him not to go before Him, to lag behind, to **tarry and wait and look to Him.**

PSA 25:3 Yea, **let none that wait on thee be ashamed:** let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.

PSA 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; **on thee do I wait all the day.**

PSA 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for **I wait on thee.**

PSA 27:14 **Wait on the LORD:** be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

PSA 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but **those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.**

PSA 37:34 Wait **on the LORD, and keep his way,** and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Biggest reason Christians get burned out is because they don't Yoke up with the Lord.
They don't wait on the Lord.

Where is God in all that they do?
They never learn to pray and trust God and let Him direct.

When you walk in the flesh you get weary.
When you don't take time to pray you get weary.

When you don't take time to let God direct in your activities and schedule, you will make mistakes and grow weary.

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Truth is we have more sin in our lives than we can imagine!

Pasteur, the famous scientist of France who discovered that there were germs and viruses that effected our health, once said that he was in constant prayer with God when he sought to discover new biological discoveries.

"Posterity will one day laugh at the sublime foolishness of the modern materialistic philosophy. The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator. I pray while I am engaged at my work in the laboratory."

I stand amazed at how many people curse while they work. How foolish it is, when things are going wrong in your life to curse. When things are going wrong, I pray! I cringe when others groan and murmur and complain and cuss under their breath. Who are they cussing at? They are alienating the only one that can help them. Their creator.

Romans 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Concerning a wicked man and wicked hearts the Apostle Paul says,

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Romans 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

James 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

James 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

We need to be in constant conversation with God in prayer. The Bible says,

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

You cannot be in prayer while you are cussing under your breath when things are going wrong. When things are going wrong this is a time to cry out to your maker. Satan's prayers are curse words! Satan fills men's hearts with complaining gripping words of bitterness and evil conversation.

When you wait on the Lord you are in a state of prayer.

I tell the story one time how I was working on some equipment in my recording studio. I was working on a patch bay and wanted the patch bay to do a certain thing to reroute signals. I knew that this was a feature that patch bays commonly did. So I looked at the circuit and thought if I reroute the signal cut a solder joint and run a wire another way, that would work. I knew in doing this I would damage the board forever, and basically destroy the piece of equipment for any other use in the future.

As I thought on this, I thought maybe I should pray about this.

So I got on my knees and prayed and while I was praying asking God what to do, the Lord spoke to my heart and the thought came into my mind, "Don't you think the company would have made an easier way to make this piece of equipment do what is so commonly done in a recording studio. Now this was the day before the internet, you couldn't just google the information. So I decided to call the company. I called the company, and I told them what I wanted to do, and they said to me, "We made the patch bay to do that, just unscrew the module and flip it around and it will do what you want it to do. " It was that easy.

Now how many people would have cussed and complained, and murmured. And then destroyed a piece of equipment when just two minutes of prayer would have solved the whole problem.

This is what it means to wait on the Lord. There is only one thing you can do when you wait on the Lord. The only thing you can do is pray! Prayer and writing on the Lord go hand in hand. Prayer is when your heart and mind and spirit yoke up together with God.

The Bible says God's people ought to be a praying people. Less things go wrong when you pray. Did you ever notice when your life is filled with turmoil and anxiety, and conflict and strife, YOU HAVE NO TIME TO PRAY.

Anger and prayer don't go together.
Anxiety and prayer don't go together.

Those who are impetuous, don't pray much.
Those who are short tempered don't pray much.
Those who murmur don't pray much.
Those who curse don't pray.
Those who get frustrated don't pray.
Those who complain don't pray.
Those who fight don't pray.
Those who are bitter don't pray.

Those who wait patiently on the Lord are people of prayer.

The tender hearted pray.
The meek pray.
Those who seek love and peace are people of prayer.
Those who are patient are people who pray.

I see so many people whose lives are a disaster, people whose lives are filled with disaster after disaster. Everything they touch turns to ashes.

Usually such people are ready to brag about how great they are and think more highly of themselves than they should, rarely do such people pray.

Of them God says, He resists them.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

So the short time of prayer is what renews your strength. Without God you can do nothing.

Young people notorious for going before the Lord.

**WE MUST LEARN TO YOKE UP WITH GOD:
HE IS THE LEAD IN THE ENDEAVOR.**

Wait on Him, yoke up with Him it will be a lot easier.

Application:

A person who grows weary is a person who:

Can't wait on God.
Can't take direction from God.
Even young men faint and grow weary.

I see young men, getting burned out in the ministry.
Reason is they are out there doing a work for God all by themselves. You have to ask where is God in all this?

Some of the things that people claim to be doing for God, you have to ask, do they think God is retarded? So many things we do in the name of the Lord are just rebellion and self willed foolishness.

Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire in the name of the Lord and died.
Saul offered forbidden offerings in the name of the Lord, and backslid.

In each case they were impatient and decided to do things on their own.

APPLICATION:

**NEW LIFE CREATURE:
NEW SPIRIT.
NEW UNIFORM AND WALK.
NEW STRENGTH.**

THESE ARE SOME NEW THINGS WE NEED IN 2021:

- I. ARE YOU A NEW CREATURE?**
- II. DO YOU NEED A NEW SPIRIT?**
- III. ARE YOU WEARING THE NEW UNIFORM?**
- IV. DO YOU NEED NEW STRENGTH?**

SUNDAY EVENING MESSAGE 12-27-20
NEW YEAR VIRTUES WE ALL NEED:

V. OBEY THE NEW COMMANDMENT:

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

We need to love like Christ loved. Think about the love He had he loved us with, a love that was the greatest kind of love.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

In fact His love was even greater than this.

ROM 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

ROM 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

ROM 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

I John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

I John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

I John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

How many of us would really lay down our lives for our brethren. There was a fellow I went to college with that almost did that. Let me read the article.

March 21, 1996 By GARY LIBOW; Courant Staff Writer

It was a match made in heaven.

Pastor Daniel Peters returned to the Emmanuel Baptist Church pulpit Sunday, 18 days after donating one of his kidneys to a Pennsylvania clergyman, a longtime friend.

After doctors in Philadelphia spent more than two hours removing one of Peters' kidneys, the life-saving organ was transplanted inside Pastor Randall Kizer. The two once taught together; Peters is former pastor at the South Clinton Baptist Church in Pennsylvania, where Kizer is now a minister.

In December 1993, Kizer's kidneys were seriously damaged by strep throat.

"I went from a healthy guy who was never sick to a person about to die," Kizer said Tuesday.

"He was in dire need of a kidney," said Peters, 43. "It immediately went to work and he's making tremendous progress. . . . It was an amazing event for both of us."

For years, Kizer had a terrible time with dialysis.

During three- to four-hour dialysis treatments, the 49-year-old suffered severe cramping and exhaustion, Peters said, noting Kizer was very weak right before the transplant.

Without a healthy kidney, it was thought he would have only a few months to live, Peters said.

Peters, who moved to town in late 1993, never thought he'd be an organ donor someday. After telling his friend he would do anything to help, Kizer asked him several months ago to consider being his donor. Ordinarily, it can take two to four years on a waiting list for an acceptable donor.

"He said, 'Think about it and pray about it.' "

Lengthy testing followed at Yale-New Haven Hospital to gauge blood and tissue compatibility. Though odds were not in favor of a match, it turned out that way.

Peters credits his faith as a guiding light.

“I really felt it was the Lord's direction to go ahead,” Peters said. “One thing after another, it just sort of fell in place. I was happy to do this, but the Lord gets the praise.”

Kizer, who is feeling well, is thankful for the gift.

“I praise the Lord daily for Brother Dan Peters,” he said. “I'm doing great. Everything looks good. I feel alive again for the first time since I became sick. I consider this the gift of life.”

You know that Paul the Apostle had a love for his people when he said,

ROM 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

ROM 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

ROM 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

ROM 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

I John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

I John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

I John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

I John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

How can we say that we love God whom we have never seen, when we cannot love God who we see.

Do we really have a love for the brethren like we should?

GAL 4: ... for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

The true test, is that we are liars when we say we love God but we hate our brother, this is not possible. Your brother you can see. God you cannot see. How can you hate your brother who you see and say you love God whom ye have not seen.

My question is what can someone do against you that you cannot forgive? Yet I see people holding grudges for such little things it amazes me.

What is hate:

Hate is when you have a abhorrence for someone.

Definition of *hate* (Entry 2 of 2)

[transitive verb](#)

1 : to feel extreme [enmity](#) toward : to regard with active hostility hates his country's enemies

2 : to have a strong [aversion](#) to : find very distasteful *hated* to have to meet strangers hate hypocrisy

[intransitive verb](#)

: to express or feel extreme enmity or active hostility harsh faces and *hating* eyes

Wishing ill will towards someone is hate.

Wishing harm to someone is hate.

Can you think of people in your lives that manifested a godly love:

I can think of a few examples of people who manifest the Love of God: Two men from my past were prime examples.

A fellow by the name of Carl Shanosk was an example of the love of God to me.

Also my friend Bill Finley manifested to me the love of God.

Both men exhibited a sacrificial willingness to give to our needs when we went to Bible college.

VI. SING A NEW SONG.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Psalms 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

The song we sing and the song the world sings need to be two different things:

Joe Zalot. The world sings a different song than we do. Joe had a tape collection of music I did through the years. When I got saved I took him some Christian music I produced and he would not listen to it.

When I decided to just play Christian music, our guitar player Danny DeGinnaro wasn't willing to dedicate his life and music to the Lord and went his way. A few years back he was murdered in a drug deal that went wrong.

V. HAVE A NEW MINDSET:

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We need a New Mind.

We need a transformation, and a new mind.

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Be not conformed to this world.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our thinking should not be in beat with the world, nor should we conform to the world.

THE WORLD IS Filled with:

Lust of the eyes.

Lust of the flesh.

Pride of life.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust of the eyes:

HOW DO WE RENEW OUR MIND?

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We can have a renewed mind as we devote ourselves to reading the Bible, memorizing the Bible.

WAY TO RENEW YOUR MIND AND BE TRANSFORMED:

1. NEED TO BE SYSTEMATICALLY READING THROUGH THE BIBLE.

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

2. NEED TO MAKE A LIST OF VERSES TO MEMORIZE AND MEDITATE ON.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

A renewing of the mind includes:

Loving God.

Loving Neighbor.

Responsibility to your family.

Responsibility to your church.

Responsibility to your employer.

Responsibility in your finances.

Walking in the spirit.

Trusting God's promises.

What do we need for the New Year:

In conclusion these are the virtues we need in the New Year 2021:

I. NEW LIFE Becoming a New Creature in Christ.

II. NEW SPIRIT.

- III. NEW UNIFORM OF NEW WALK.
- IV. NEW STRENGTH.
- V. NEW COMMANDMENT.
- VI. NEW SONG.
- VII. NEW MINDSET.

These are the virtues we need in the New Year 2021.

We can manifest these virtuous during the height of this pandemic.

We can manifest these virtues no matter who we are and in what estate we may be.

None of these virtues depend on the government, the economy, the state of the world. A pandemic cannot hinder us, a global crisis or war cannot hinder us. What can separate us from the goal of achieving these virtues? These godly attributes are things that any Christian can attain and are not dependent on how smart we are, how talented we are, or how well off we are. How much money we have. These virtues we all can aspire to and attain.

2021 is just around the corner, and who would have thought that we would be having a funeral for one of our own, this the latter part of the year just a few days before the close of the year? How frail we are. I remember when we closed out our New Years service 2019 saying it may be that one or some of us may not be here a year from now.

We don't know what lies ahead of us this next year. All I can say is that the people of this country do not care about righteousness. That is evident by who we have elected into office, and what we put up with, what we allow our leaders to do and get away with.

The ungodly laws and decisions they make cannot go without God's judgment. We are seeing the judgment of God on our nation today with this pandemic.

Our nation is in it's last stages of trying to appease the populace like Rome did just before it fell:

“Emperors, in the later stages of the Empire, used both free bread (and other food) and free entertainment to placate the larger number of people who were otherwise poorly served by their government.”

Jose Azel's [definition](#) in “The Politics of Bread and Circuses” provides an easily understood and concise description. “Bread and Circus” are “political strategies calculated to appease a population and divert attention from controversial or failed policies with populist welfare programs...” He further explains, “public support is thus created not through exceptional public service and effective public policy, but through diversion, and patronage.”

The emperors added holidays until, eventually, the Romans spent half their days attending gladiator games, public executions and chariot races.”

Do we not have the government spending funds on baseball and football stadiums? How many governments run lotteries festering the hopes of the masses for a quick path to riches? “All

together, the federal government has subsidized newly constructed or majorly renovated professional sports stadiums to the tune of \$3.2 billion federal taxpayer dollars since 2000,” [according](#) to Brookings. And the Mega-millions website [stated](#) the reasons for changing the rules of the game are “To accommodate public demand for more frequent large jackpots and bigger lower-tier prizes.”

Now what is going on? Stimulus after stimulus which are only band aids for a failing economy and economic policies.

We need to hold onto our hats. I am not sure the next few years are going to produce anything better for our country or the world.