**"HAPPY NEW YEAR!”**

***I. INTRODUCTION***

1. Ex. 12:1, 2. It is good to have left another long weary mile behind. We have past another milestone on our journey to eternity and to God. We are entering upon another new year. Millions are saying with warmth of feeling, “Happy New Year!” This is a beautiful and lovely spirit. 3 Jno. 2. John’s wish.

2. The following is an acrostic. Take each letter of “Happy New Year” as the first letter of a word of exhortation.

***II. “ H A P P Y ”***

1. HOLD FAST TO YOUR FAITH THIS NEW YEAR. MANY WILL LOSE FAITH. Heb. 10:22, 23; 4:14; Lk. 8:13; Heb. 3 :12; 1 Tim. 1:19; 1 Cor. 16 :13.
2. ASSEMBLE WITLI THE SAINTS AS OFTEN AS THEY MEET FOR WORSHIP. Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 14: 23; 16:1, 2; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17-33.
3. PRAY EARNESTLY EVERY DAY OF THE NEW YEAR — ASKING IN FAITH. Matt. 7 :11; 1 Thess. 5 :17, 18 ; Jas. 5 :16 ; 1 Pet. 3 :12.
4. PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR GREAT BLESSINGS FROM GOD DURING THE YEAR. Mai. 3:9, 10; Prov. 3:9, 10. ‘ ‘ Prepare to meet thy God. ’ ’ Amos. 4:12. YIELD NOT TO TEMPATION FOR YIELDING IS SIN — AGAINST SELF AND GOD. Matt. 26:41; 1 Thess. 5:22; Jas. 1:13-15; Matt. 4:3-ll.

***III. “NEW ”***

1. NEGLECT NOT YOUR TALENTS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES THIS NEW YEAR. Matt. 25:14-30; 2 Tim. 1:16; Gal. 6:10; Jas. 4:17; Judg. 5:23.
2. EXAMINE YOURSELF DAILY TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE IN THE FAITH. 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 11:28-30.
3. WORK DILIGENTLY FOR THE LORD FOR YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN. 1 Cor. 15:58; Tit. 3G; Jas. 2 =14-26.

***IV. “ Y E A R ”***

1. YIELD YOUR MEMBERS UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. Rom. 6:11, 16. The same hands which once were used to sin are now to be used in doing good deeds. The same body is now to work for Christ. Gal. 5:24.
2. EXERCISE YOURSELF IN GODLINESS SO AS TO GROW IN GRACE AND TRUTH. 1 Tim. 4:7; Heb. 5: 12-14. Exercise or die. Exercise develops spiritual muscle-power. We ought to be stronger and more godly because of last year’s exercise and experiences.
3. AIM AT SINLESS PERFECTION, YET DON’T BE UNHAPPY IF YOU FAIL IT. Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 3:18. Become more and more like Christ whom you can see in the mirror of His Word. 2 Cor. 3:18. If you err, just try again and again — be faithful, whether perfect or not.
4. REDEEM THE TIME — FOR IT IS THE “STUFF” THAT LIFE IS MADE OF. Eph. 5:16; Jas. 4:12-14; Prov. 27:1; 2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7, 8, 13.

And now will you suffer a further word of exhortation? It is not foolish to exhort one another. We need each other’s help. 1 Thess. 5:14. We want you to have the best New Year that you have ever had, and it is bound to be wonderful if you live it for God.

Make New Year’s resolutions if you wish. There is nothing wrong in making them. We may make resolutions to do better any time of the year, even at the beginning of the New Year. We cannot accidently be made over

— we must plan and purpose to do right, and then do our best to carry out our high resolves of heart. And we should not become impatient and quit when we seem to be slipping. Try again and again.