

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program WWW.FIVEDAYBIBLEREADING.COM

Week One: December 31 - January 6

Day 1: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19; Mark 1
Day 2: Genesis 3-5; Mark 2
Day 3: Genesis 6-8; Psalm 104; Mark 3
Day 4: Genesis 9-11; Mark 4
Day 5: Genesis 12-15; Psalm 148; Mark 5

Week Three: January 14 - 20

Day 1: Genesis 28-29; Mark 11
Day 2: Genesis 30-31; Psalm 11; Mark 12
Day 3: Genesis 32-34; Psalm 145; Mark 13
Day 4: Genesis 35-37; Psalm 12; Mark 14
Day 5: Genesis 38-40; Mark 15

Week Two: January 7 - 13

Day 1: Genesis 16-18; Mark 6
Day 2: Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1; Mark 7
Day 3: Genesis 21-23; Psalm 107; Mark 8
Day 4: Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4; Mark 9
Day 5: Genesis 26-27; Mark 10

Week Four: January 21 - 27

Day 1: Genesis 41-42; Mark 16
Day 2: Genesis 43-44; Psalm 24; Galatians 1
Day 3: Genesis 45-46; Psalm 108; Galatians 2
Day 4: Genesis 47-48; Psalm 25; Galatians 3
Day 5: Genesis 49-50; Galatians 4

"One year closer." That was the thought that came to my mind a few days ago as I considered the new year. As 2024 moves past us we are all one year, one day, closer to seeing our Lord face to face.

Often, the framing of the new year (and our daily living for that matter) is detached from that truth that should be central for us as believers: We will see Him face to face!

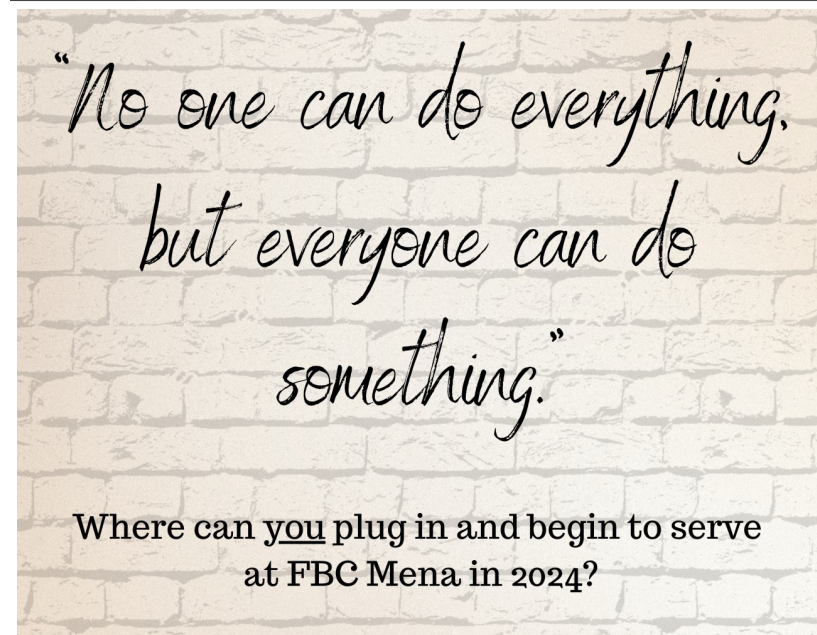
It is interesting to note that when Jesus talked about His second coming, He would use imagery of a master coming suddenly upon his workers. While some have made the application, not entirely unwarranted, that we should be at work for the kingdom lest our Lord return to find us idle in His fields, I would like to encourage us to think about it in a positive light.

When my kids have made something or simply colored a page in their coloring book while I was at work they are often excited to show me when I walk through the door. That is the mindset that we as believers should have as we think about the second coming or our departing from this world.

My prayer for myself as well as for you is that this year would be different. I pray we will have the boldness and courage to make changes and decisions based not on what is easiest or most expedient, but with an eye on that day when we will stand before our Savior and Lord. Oh, that we would be excited for that day and live passionately, giving ourselves in service to our great King!

Friends, Jesus is good. He is a gracious Master and Lord and He is worthy of lives that are cheerfully surrendered to Him. Will you join me in looking to that day with a glimmer in your eye?

Your fellow servant,
Bro. Kevin Williams



THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

Happy New Year!

MAY OUR GOD BLESS YOU RICHLY IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD IN 2024!

New Year – Same God

Happy New Year! Once again, we find ourselves at the start of a new year. Thoughts of the new year always bring hope of new opportunities, new outlooks and the chance to realize our dreams. Many will make resolutions for the new year looking for a new direction in life. We aspire for things to be different with the start of a new year assuming the hardships of the past will be left behind as we look forward to the possibilities of what lies ahead.

We love the thought of new things, and it is nice to receive fresh things in our lives. We revel in the idea of tossing out the old and getting to use the new item often simply because it is new. When we think of new, it is because, perhaps, it does not have the detriment of being worn, corroded, out-of-date, or even broken. New is fun. New is exciting. New is new.

There is, however, One who is never new and that is our God. Scripture describes God as immutable. A term we apply to something that is unchangeable or fixed. In fact, the writer of Hebrews in 13:8 writes that, "Jesus Christ is the

same yesterday and today and forever." We may have hope in a new year, but there is nothing that should give us greater hope than understanding that our God is always the same. He will not be different tomorrow or at any other time in the future. He is constant in a world that isn't. He will never change or adjust; He simply is. For God to change would mean much more than we can ever comprehend. John records His truth in this way, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1:8). James echoes the sentiment when he wrote, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning." (James 1:17). God is forever the same!

There are a number of reasons we can know God is unchangeable beyond even what Scripture tells us. First, God does not change because change is connected to time since changes are based on chronological order and extend from point-to-point in time. God is not bound by time as He exists outside it. Next, for God to change would mean that He was

not perfect and needed some adjustment. This is not possible because He would not be God if He needed to change. Finally, we must understand that God is omniscient and knows everything. For God to change would mean that there was something He didn't know. Again, change is something that only happens to beings who are not God. We should celebrate the invariable nature of our God and praise His holy name!

Throughout the new year, may we focus on the hope we have. This is not a hope we have in new things that will soon be old just like the last new thing. Our hope is in a God who does not change with the latest trend or fashion. He is not a God who is moved by whims or emotion. Our God is faithful and true. He is absolute and unassailable. We don't have to worry that someday He might change His mind about us and the salvation He has provided. We are secure in Him. Our God is an awesome God!

Many blessings in the new year,
Bro. Jim Tenney

Resolved

By Steven Lawson



For the last four years, I have spoken at a conference on the West Coast called "Resolved." The name is drawn from the Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards and is aimed at college students and "twenty-somethings" in the next generation. As an eighteen and nineteen year old, young Edwards wrote seventy resolutions, which became his personal mission statement to guide his life. To launch the first conference, I spoke from Edward's first resolution, what Edwards determined would be the single most important pursuit in his life—the glory of God.

Edwards began his Resolutions with what he desired to be the driving force of his life—an all-absorbing passion to pursue the glory of God.

"Resolved: that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory and to my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now or never so many myriads of ages hence. Resolved: to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved: to do this whatever difficulties I meet with, how ever so many and how ever so great."

With this before his eyes weekly, this first resolution set the tone for his entire life. In every arena, he resolved to honor God supremely. Everything else in his life would be subsidiary to this one driving pursuit.

What is the glory of God? The Bible speaks of it in two ways. First, there is His intrinsic glory, the revelation of all that God is. It is the sum total of all His divine perfections and holy attributes. There is nothing that man can do to add to His intrinsic glory. Second, there is God's ascribed glory, which is the praise and honor due His name. This is the glory that man must give to God.

For Edwards, to be resolved to live for God's glory means to exalt His most

glorious name. It means to live consistently with His holy character. It means to proclaim and promote His supreme greatness. This is the highest purpose for which God created us.

Why did Edwards place this resolution first? He understood that Scripture places the glory of God first in all things. Edwards was gripped with a transcendent, high view of God. As a result, in writing his "resolutions," he knew he must live wholeheartedly for this awesome, sovereign God.

Thus, Edwards intentionally chose to "do whatsoever I think is most to God's glory." Here is the interpretive principle for everything in life.

"Scripture places the glory of God first in all things."

You want to know what God's will is? You want to know whom to marry? You want to know what job to take? You want to know what ministry to pursue? You want to know how to invest your resources? You want to know how to spend your time?

There it is! Everything in life fits under this master theme. Anything out of alignment with this principle pursuit is in dangerous territory. Sometimes our decisions are not between right and wrong. Sometimes they are between good, better, and best. These are sometimes the hardest decisions. Edwards said that he would not live for what is merely good. Nor for what is better. He purposed to live only for what is best. Whatever is most to the glory of God—that is what is best!

Edwards believed that God's glory was inseparably connected with his "own good, profit, and pleasure." Whenever he sought God's glory, he was confident that it would inevitably yield God's greatest good for his life. The glory of God produced his greatest "pleasure." So it is with us. Would

you know unspeakable joy? Abundant peace? True contentment? Then pursue God's glory.

With unwavering determination, young Edwards chose this first resolution to mark "the whole of my duration." As long as he was alive, this was to be the driving thrust of his life. He must always live for God's glory. He would never outgrow this central theme. He must never exchange it for a lesser glory.

Also, Edwards' believed that his commitment to God's glory would bring the greatest "good of mankind." By seeking God's honor, the greatest advantage would accrue to others. Thus, living for the glory of God would lead to the greatest influence of the Gospel upon the world. Souls would be converted. Saints would be edified. Needs would be met.

Would you have maximum impact upon this world? Would you lead others to Christ? Would you live for eternity? There it is! Live for God's glory.

No matter what, Edwards resolved to live for God's glory despite "whatever difficulties I meet with, how ever so many and ever so great." Regardless the cost, despite the pain, he would pursue God's honor. Even if it meant persecution or poverty, his mind was made up, his will resolved. He would pay any price to uphold the glory of God, regardless of the hardship that awaited him.

This is my challenge to the next generation: Would you seek the highest goal? Would you know the deepest joy? Would you realize the greatest good? Would you cast the widest influence? Would you overcome the greatest difficulties?

Then make this first resolution of Jonathan Edwards your chief aim. Be resolved to live for God's glory.

This article was published on August 1st, 2008 on the Ligonier website, Ligonier.org

Music Notes

Another year has passed! – new memories made, new friends, new difficulties, but added grace for added trials. Have you grown in your faith thru it all? Are you more conformed to the image of Christ now than you were at the year's beginning?

Now, we have begun a new year - - new opportunities, new challenges ahead. How will you face them? If you trust in your own wisdom and strength, you may make it thru, but will you achieve what God desires for you or experience the blessings of walking with Him through the good times and the bad.

The experience of the apostle John comes to mind. Exiled on the Isle of Patmos because of his faith in the Lord Jesus during an outbreak of persecution against Christ followers, John heard a voice calling, "Come up here." John was transported in spirit to the throne room of God in heaven. John was then given a panoramic view of earthly events seen from a heaven-side perspective. Through all the earthly turmoil, persecution, hardships and heartaches, John saw the Church, Christian believers, overcoming because of Christ's victory.

Let's keep our focus on the truths we learn from the scriptures. When we love God and are committed to His purposes on earth, He works all things that we encounter and experience into His purpose and plan for our lives, and that is good! Remember that, regardless of what the new year may hold, we, as Christ followers, are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Blessed to serve,
Bro. Vernon

Join our Worship Ministry!

Worship Choir - Practices Sunday evenings

Ensemble - Practices Thursdays @ 6pm

Hanbells - Currently looking for members

Sanctity of Human Life

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Pray

Give

Volunteer

Stand



Fresh Start

Pregnancy Resource Center

