It’s a “no brainer” that everyone wants a blessed New Year.

The New Year is where prosperity preachers thrive…

Sow a $68, $680, or $6800 seed into this ministry, God promises to open the windows of heaven and pour out a 30, 60 or 100 fold blessing into your life this year! That’s paying to be blessed

Or you can have a Charismatic preacher speak or pray a word of blessing into your life for the New Year. Which seems to absolve the individual of any responsibility (which would certainly be highly popular today).

God’s blessings can be bought anywhere, from anyone, for any price.

It’s not even something that the most faithful man or woman of God can make happen in your life through prayer.

What will it take?

Have you been praying the prayer of Moses in Psalm 90 from two weeks ago?

* Teach us where our lives are out of alignment with You Lord.
* Restore us to Your holy & righteous path.
* Satisfy us with Your unfailing love that we may sing for joy.
* Gladden us every day (whether good or bad).
* Favor us as we serve You faithfully above ourselves.

Pray that prayer daily as you read God’s Word, and mean what you pray, then watch and see how the Lord opens your eyes, changes your life and blesses your New Year!!

The key to success and preventing a “lukewarm” belief is to become more “proactive” and less “reactive”.

For the foreseeable future, I believe God wants me to filter my message through the Prayer of Moses, and proactive Christian living in all areas o life… Spiritual, physical, social, and financial.

That may sound like work! Yes, but that’s where the blessings are.

Can’t we just sow a seed or have you pray blessings into our life?

Would you say the Lord, our God and Father in heaven is proactive?

Or do your choices catch Him off guard causing Him to say; “Oh my gosh, look what they’ve done now! I’d bettered do something!

No… God is not like us… Praise Him that He isn’t!

If we are Spiritual children of God, we will resemble Him? That is what sanctified Christian living is all about! Growing and having the image of God restored in us.

This may not be good news to the reactive/procrastinators (pic of Dee), who’s mantra is; “why do today, what we can put off until tomorrow.” Or have someone do it for us…

In the spirit of becoming more proactive, let’s read Psalm 1 together.

It’s important to understand what God isn’t saying in Psalm 1.

He isn’t saying that the way of righteousness or the way to a blessed life is to simply think religious thoughts, sing hymns all day, or try to do gooder in 2020! Believe that God will be impressed with you, and someday let you into His heaven.

That’s not the way it works. It’s really important to know the right way, because it’s what allows the key to be turned and the blessing of Psalm 1 to be unlocked in our lives.

Romans 3:20-22

Paul is clear about the kind of righteousness that comes from a person striving to keep God’s Law and the righteousness that is received as a gift through Christ alone.

The Self-righteous will legalistically adhere themselves to following rules because they are trying to gain favor with God.

But Christ’s righteousness is imputed by faith & belief that we are HIGHLY flavored by God, that is why He sent His only Son to die and take away our sin…

Therefore we now live (proactively) by the Word of God that not only sets us free, but keeps us free.

We don’t just believe in Jesus intellectually, our belief is one of personal trust and devotion to God & His Word producing a faith that can be seen.

People no longer wonder if you are a child of God.

Hopefully we all understand that because it is the foundation for Psalm 1, and the New Year’s Blessing that we seek…

1. Blessed (happy) is the one who does not to walk (behave) in step with (advice/counsel) of the wicked (ungodly), but instead chooses a “Closer walk with Thee” oh God, our rock and redeemer.

I didn’t choose the word wicked, God did.

This is so believers will be clear on the distinct difference between the way of the wicked and the way of the righteous.

Every person reveals they are heading one of those two ways.

People might like to think there is an optional “third way”, but they are mistaken.

There is no driving on the median! The Bible doesn’t allow that. You’re either on the narrow way or the broad way. Matthew 7:13-14

So now you may be thinking; “I’m not sure I’m on the way of the righteous, but I know for darn sure that I’m not on the way of the wicked!”

Living a “reactive” spiritual life (unlike God) will cause those doubts.

You may have to ask someone close to you to get a more honest, reliable answer.

But the “proactive” person, living out a proper belief, shows their decisions & lifestyle, their agenda, are actually different than the way, lifestyle, agenda of the godless/wicked (providing certainty).

That doesn’t mean they don’t fall short from time to time or have godless/wicked friends or that they don’t spend time with people who don’t believe as they believe.

But it does mean that they recognize the difference.

True faith in Christ changes the way we think! What good would it be if it didn’t…?

We don’t walk in the advice/counsel of those heading the other direction. We think differently about the things of life.

1. Blessed (happy) is the one who proactively chooses not to stand (dwell/abide) in the way that sinners take, but instead “Stands on the promises of God.”

When we’re clear about our belief we will be clear about our behavior.

The person standing with God doesn’t dwell/abide in the way of sinners.

They don’t seek intimacy with those who persevere in pursuing ungodly lifestyles or agendas.

In other words they proactively choose their friendships wisely.

They don’t just open up to whoever comes along…

A quote from J.C. Ryle 19th century Anglican Bishop:

“Seek close friendships with people who will benefit your soul and your walk with God,” *not tickle your fancy...*

Why?

* It’s much easier to catch what’s wrong, than what’s right.
* Health… unfortunately is not contagious, but disease is.

So if we’re going to be blessed the way we hope to be in 2020, it’s going to be directly connected to;

* Who we walk with.
* Who we stand with.
* And thirdly… Who we sit with.

1. Blessed is the one who does not sit in the company of mockers/scoffers but, “sits and learns at Jesus feet…, where they are free, yes free indeed.

If you haven’t noticed, it’s very easy to mock/scoff at what we don not understand.

People often “blow off” the Bible as a bunch of non-sense, but when asked if they’ve read it all the way thru or studied the claims of Christ…? The answer is most often no…

“Proactive” children of God see the Bible as the “light” they need to live by, so they read it daily put it down and live it out.

“Reactive” people don’t see it that way. If they turn to it, it’s often as a last resort.

How many of you have blown your New Year’s resolutions already?

Here ya go, here’s a new one for you… read the Bible daily!

Mockers/scoffers also scoff at the accuracy/reliability of the Scriptures.

They say the Bible can’t be trusted because it teaches, in multiple places that the “earth is flat”… they point to Isaiah 11:12

Perhaps they’ve never heard of, or used an Idiom… They used idioms as far back as Genesis… 17:7 “Thy seed” (offspring)

I wonder how these scoffing people would respond if people started telling the world not to believe them, because they’ve been heard using idioms?

* It’s raining cats and dogs outside!

Another tactic of the scoffer is; the Bible was written by man…

it can’t be trusted…

So you mean to tell me that you don’t trust anything written by man? And that what you write can’t even be trusted!

Remember that next time your doctor writes out a RX…

If I had to guess, scoffers have deep seated, narcissistic pride & trust issues…

V2 – God’s Word is a “delight” to the child of God. In fact it is so important, we “hide it (treasure it) in our heart so that we won’t sin against God and hurt the one who died to take our sin away… Psalm 119:11

Children of God “meditate” on God’s Word day and night.

It means “ponder”, “study” & “speak” It.

Meditating on the Word reminds me of when I fly somewhere…

There was a day when you got a half decent sandwich, or salad…

Now all they offer you is a tiny bag… with about 12 peanuts or 6 pretzels…

I choose the peanuts because I get more… I’ve got 3 hours to burn, divided by 12 peanuts means chewing each peanut for 15 minutes.

Are there going to be difficult things for us to understand in the Bible?

Of coarse! It would be God’s Word if there weren’t! But we pray and we ponder, and meditate and the Holy Spirit reveals truth to us that will bless our life as well as the lives around us.

People who mock/scoff at the Bible often do so, not because they don’t understand it, but because they do…

It calls them out on their sin and calls them into judgement. It condemns their lifestyle! And they don’t like that.

If they could sue God, they would probably try…

They choose to brush God’s Word off and in doing so, continue to live a miserable life… blaming others…

And since misery loves company, they will do their best to get you to join them.

But the believing, blessed, happy person says; “I have chosen a different place to walk, stand and sit.”

So, what exactly are the blessings of that choice?

V3a – Imagine on this chilly January morning, being in some tropical place, 78 degrees (or whatever your perfect temp is)… With lush, delicious fruit being produced through your life…

What is the reward of the wicked? V3b-5

* Withered leaf!
* No matter how hard they try they can’t prosper…
* They are like chaff (the husk from wheat). Waisting away, dried up, nothing good there...
* They will not stand at the Bema (judgement seat) of Christ where the believers works will be tested by fire, where we are promised to receive our crowns… and eternal reward. 1 Cor 15:35-58

2 X Superbowl Champion Coach Tom Laundry (who played for the (1940’s) New York Yankees foot ball team as well as the New York Giants once said; His job was to encourage people to do what they didn’t want to do so they could become what they always wanted to be…

V6 – Wh do you want to be?