

## Making the New Year Better Than the Old Sunday PM 01/03/21

### Introduction:

***Psalms 90:12*** So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. Moses reflected on his faith in God, the meaning of life, and the passing of time. We profit by noticing the passage of time.

***Genesis 1:14 NKJV 14*** Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

A closer look at ***Psalm 90, vv. 1-6*** God's eternal nature, man's temporal nature; ***vv. 7-11*** God's anger against sin; ***vv. 12-17*** Prayer for God's favor.

***Psalms 90:1*** A Prayer of Moses the man of God.>> Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ***2*** Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. ***3*** You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men." ***4*** For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night. ***5*** You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: ***6*** In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.

***Psalms 90:7*** For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. ***8*** You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. ***9*** For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. ***10*** The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ***11*** Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

***Psalms 90:12*** So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. ***13*** Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. ***14*** Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days! ***15*** Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which we have seen evil. ***16*** Let Your work appear to

***Your servants, And Your glory to their children. 17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.***

Five things to make the New Year better; Seek cleansing of sin, Determine to learn and Grow, Study God's Word more diligently, Draw nearer to God in prayer, and Strive for a godly home.

**I) Seek Cleansing of Sin**

**A) Urgently seek God's forgiveness without excuses or delay.**

1. Accept responsibility for sin

***Psalms 51:1*** <<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.>> ***Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.***

**B) Starts with the New Birth**

1. A new beginning, a new heart, and a new relationship with God.

***John 3:3*** ***Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.***

2. One goes from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God; from guilt of sin to innocence; from despair and hopelessness to hopefulness.

3. The land of beginning again.

*I wish that there were some wonderful place,  
Called the Land of Beginning Again.  
Where all our mistakes and all of our heartaches  
And all of our poor selfish grief  
Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door  
And never put on again.*

*(Excerpt from Louisa Fletcher, The Land of Beginning Again)*

**C) Keep a tender conscience to correct and resist sin.**

1. Some become hardened to sin, attempt to minimize or justify it.

***Psalms 19:12b*** Cleanse me from secret faults. **13** ***Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.***

**II) Determine to Learn and Grow**

**A) Disciples of Christ are students, learners**

***Matthew 28:19*** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

1. Be a good student of Christ, learn about Him and from Him.
2. Make sure your knowledge at the end of this year is greater than at the beginning.

**B) Bear the Fruit of the Spirit**

***Galatians 5:22*** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1. The first step is the take in the word, and then we must do, exhibit the word and works in our lives.
2. Don't just define the words, be those things.

### III) Study God's Word More Diligently

#### A) Bible Study Essential to Growth

1. As a baby desires milk.

**1 Peter 2:1** *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

#### B) Eagerly searching for truth

**Acts 17:11** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

### IV) Draw Nearer to God in Prayer

#### A) Jesus teaches us how to pray.

1. The model prayer.

**Matthew 6:9** *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread.*

2. Notice the concentration on God "Our Father" "Your Name", "Your kingdom", "Your Will be done".

#### B) Psalms teaches us to pray in all situations.

1. Pray day and night.

**Psalms 42:1** *<<To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah.>> As the deer pants for the water brooks, So*

*pants my soul for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?"*

***Psalms 42:7** Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. 8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me-A prayer to the God of my life.*

***Psalms 42:11** Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.*

V) Strive for a Godly Home

A) Husbands and wives unite in love for each other and God, to cooperate

1. An unselfish love

***Ephesians 5:23** For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

2. Each considering the needs of the other above their own needs.

B) Fathers to provide spiritual leadership in the home

1. Godly living is leadership, sin destroys it.

***Ephesians 6:4** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

2. Spiritual leadership includes private and public worship.

C) Emulate men of faith.

***Genesis 18:19** "For I have known him, in order that he may*

***command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."***

1. Look at faithful Christians, good husbands/wives, good parents, good teachers, good leaders.
2. Emulate them as they emulate Christ.

**Conclusion:**

Make this a better New Year. Obey Christ without delay.