

# What The New Year Brings

Sunday AM 01/02/22

## Introduction:

Here we are at the beginning of another “New Year”. Often people try to predict what will happen in the future. Usually, they are wrong as we don’t know what unforeseen events will occur. But we can be sure each year will be different while also similar. A song often sung at the New Year is “Auld Lang Syne”. Written by a Scottish poet, Robert Burns” in 1788 but not printed until after his death in 1796 it does not actually mention anything about a New Year. It speaks of two old friends who get together and reminisce. In Scottish the first stanza reads like this:

“Auld Lang Syne” are:

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne*

For auld lang syne, my jo,  
For auld lang syne.  
We’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

In English the wording “Auld Lang Syne” means “Old Long Since” or “For Old Times Sake” and reads like this:

*Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And long, long ago.*

And for long, long ago, my dear  
For long, long ago  
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet  
For long, long ago.

In this lesson we want to not look back so much as look forward to what will be the

same but different. Remembering another saying, ‘the more things change, the more they stay the same.’ Which was written in 1849.

## I) Challenges and Trials

### A) Meaning – a contest, or competition, especially a duel.

1. They are something to be overcome or at least dealt with.
2. Israel was literally met with a challenge from Goliath.

***<sup>8</sup> Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, “Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” <sup>10</sup> And the Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.” <sup>11</sup> When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. 1 Samuel 17:8-11***

3. Whoever was going to meet this challenge had to be skilled and have faith in His God.

***<sup>31</sup> Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. <sup>32</sup> Then David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:31-32***

***<sup>37</sup> Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:37***

### B) Challenges to young people

1. What direction in life will you take this year?

- a. Will you walk a selfish walk thinking only of self and the here and now?
- b. Will you take a worldly path and walk in sin.
- c. Will you walk with God?

***<sup>5</sup> But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Joshua 22:5***

2. You choose the direction you will walk and where you end up depends on you.

### **C) Older people**

1. Physical problems emerge- that which used to be easy becomes harder.
2. Seeing friends and peers pass away.
3. Staying faithful in one’s service to God.

***<sup>15</sup> When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint. <sup>16</sup> Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David. <sup>17</sup> But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, “You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.” 2 Samuel 21:15-17***

### **D) Families – keeping priorities right.**

***<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and***

***all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:33-34***

1. Financial challenges – rearing children is expensive. Don't try to give them everything they want. Give them what they need.
2. Requires a lot of energy.
3. Patience with them and yourself. This time will quickly pass.

***<sup>9</sup> By your patience possess your souls. Luke 21:19***

## **II) Opportunities**

### **A) They often come in disguise, such as challenges**

1. Story of man who tried to get a job at Microsoft but couldn't because he did not have email.
  - a. Goes and buys some tomatoes to sell on the street corner.
    - i. An unemployed man was eager to be of assistance to his wife and three children and decided to apply for a job as a Janitor in a big firm. He took an aptitude test, passed it, and got accepted.
    - ii. During a conversation with the human resources manager, the unemployed man was told he would be hired at a minimum wage of \$5.35 per hour. The manager asked for the man's email address to get him into the loop.
    - iii. The poor man was told the company's system would email him the advice and forms on when to start and where to report on his first day of work. Confused, the man explained to the manager that he was poor and did not have an email address.
    - iv. The manager admitted that not having an email

address was similar to not existing. He explained to the father of three that he needed an email address to be employed in a high-tech company.

- v. Surprised, the poor man left. With only \$10 in his pocket, he walked past a market and noticed a stand selling 25 pounds crates of red tomatoes. He purchased one crate and displayed it on a corner of the market.
- vi. Less than two hours later, the man sold all the tomatoes and got a 100% profit. He bought more tomatoes, sold them, and had almost \$100 at the end of the day. The man went home happy with plenty of groceries for his family.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

- vii. At night, he decided to continue with the tomato business the following day. At the end of the week, the man's multiplied profits were evidence of his hard work.
- viii. In the second week, he got a cart to transport a larger quantity of tomatoes. However, before the month ended, the man sold his cart and acquired an old pickup truck, and by the end of the year, he was a proud owner of three old trucks.
- ix. The man had achieved evident success. His two sons left their gangs to help their father with his business, the man's wife was buying tomatoes, and his daughter enrolled in a community college and took night classes.
- x. At the end of the second year, the man's endless

dedication earned him twelve used trucks and fifteen hardworking staff, and at the end of the fifth year, he had made it big.

- xi. He owned a fleet of trucks, a warehouse managed by his wife, and two tomato farms supervised by his sons. The tomato company had successfully given jobless and homeless people employment. The man's daughter revealed that the business had made over a million dollars.
- xii. With the future in view, the husband decided to get some life insurance. He consulted an insurance adviser and picked a good insurance plan suitable for his new life. When the final documents were ready, the adviser asked for the man's email address.
- xiii. His response of not having time for computers and an email address left the adviser surprised. The tomato business owner was asked to imagine where he would have been if he had an email address and a computer five years ago.
- Xiv. The father of three exclaimed. He explained that if he had had an email address five years before that time, he would have been sweeping the floors of Microsoft for \$5.35 per hour.

#### **A) Young people**

1. If you find obstacles in your way, a giant like Goliath, use it!
2. Each test you take and fail, each job interview you don't get, each rejection, opens another door.

***“<sup>6</sup>Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach***

*the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. **Acts 16:6-10***

**B) Older people**

*<sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. **1 John 2:13***

*<sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. **1 John 2:14***

1. Use your knowledge and experience to help others.
2. Many an older preacher has imparted wisdom to younger preachers. Older men to younger men, older women to younger women.

**C) Families**

1. To train your children in the Lord.
2. Instill a desire to please God.

*<sup>5</sup> when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. **2 Timothy 1:5***

**III) Blessings**

**A) Which may also come in disguise**

*<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name*

was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” **Luke 1:26-33**

1. We want blessings without the trials and challenges.

*“<sup>9</sup>And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Corinthians 12:9-10***

2. If someone had said to Paul, “Do you want God’s grace?” What would he had said?

- B) Young people-** new relationships, friends, work, etc. Will not always be easy but worth it if you use them to serve God.
- C) Older people** Each day, each family gathering, becomes a bigger blessing.
- D) Families –** experiences you have will be remembered for years to come.

**Conclusion:**

*“<sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my*

*departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **2***  
**Timothy 4:6-8**