

*A Word*  
*From the Publisher*

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# **Welcome 2019!**

Happy New Year! Geez...it's still hard for me to believe it's 2019! I hope everyone had a great Christmas season and celebrated the New Year fun and safe!

As I reflect on 2018, it was quite a year! We (our family) had some health issues (that we didn't plan) come up and dealt with some ongoing health issues. But through it all, God prevailed! It is so easy to dwell on the down side of the bad things but oh how God pulled us through, opened doors and provided strength every day. There are still some problems and issues but God is helping us through them. As I listened to Matthew Hagee Sunday morning on TV, I was reminded how easy it is to let the bad part of life completely take over. We must turn our lives completely over to God and quit putting ourselves back in the picture. When we allow the Lord to do His work in us, life sure turns out much better.

Sunday morning, we had a guest missionary speak. His entire message was on Psalm 34. What a beautiful chapter in the Bible. And yes, the Bible is full of beautiful chapters and life lessons to live by! The first verse, "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." What? Praise God in ALL situations! How simple is that? It's so easy for us to thank God for good things in our lives, but what about the bad. The speaker reminded me (I felt as if I was

the only one in the sanctuary), I need to think less of myself and submit to God. I need to place my anchor in Jesus. This was a pretty interesting sermon as I think we all could use a good dose of humility in our lives. Putting ourselves in the back seat and let God drive (direct) us around.

I hope you will take some time this week to actually read Psalm 34, the entire chapter. I know sometimes the Bible can be hard to read but this is just a part of God's 'love letter' or directions for our lives in general. It's not hard and it's free for the taking. As we start this New Year, why not reflect on the good things that happened last year and try to make those things even better. God is just waiting on us to open our hearts to His goodness. I'm thankful for a merciful Father who loves me!

I wish to thank all of our readers for the many encouraging comments we have received through the year concerning the paper. And of course, how thankful we are for our many advertisers that support us throughout the years...what a blessing you are! We can only hope we are a small part of helping your business to grow and prosper! Looking forward to a great 2019!

Happy New Year!

*Dawn S. West*