

## THE GATEWAY OF A NEW YEAR

### Psalm 1:1-6

**Introduction:** Someone once said: "...I said to a man who stood at the gate of a new year; give me a light that I might go safely into the unknown," and he said, " Go out into the night and put your hand into the hand of God, that will be to you better than a known path and safer than a light..."

The possibilities of the coming year are good and bad, however if one's mind and hands are with God, nothing can happen that won't turn out good for that person and in turn give glory to God.

Some basic things to remember as a Christian: God has a plan for every life, so consider His knowledge and power. As Christians, life is divided - each person has a certain number of days to serve God, so the length is not that important, for all our days are in God's hands. Then there is eternity to remember, for if we are absent from our bodies, then we, as Christians, are present with the Lord.

- Everyone starts out the same, lost, defeated, living by the Old Sin Nature, sometimes bad, sometimes good. Sometimes lust controls, sometimes it is current trends and fashions, fads, all these things determine how one lives his/her life.

- At the Cross all sin was gathered up and in a sense poured out on Jesus Christ. Jesus didn't die for the good in people, but for their sin.

- Salvation is a non-meritorious way of living - no credit to any of us. The Holy Spirit takes what we learn from God's Word and builds our spiritual life. To learn God's will we must learn God's word.

- In a way, the Church Age is running out for time is rushing toward Armageddon, the end of time. Each generation moves closer. OUR generation moves another year closer and there are uncertainties ahead in this coming new year. Consider these five thoughts:

### I. ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE?

1. It's a fact that Churches lose members each year and there is no guarantee of how many days anybody is going to live. - disease, accidents, old age, etc.  
- There is only ONE way to be prepared and that is to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **2 Corinthians 5:8** - The Christian who dies is absent from his/her body and immediately present with the Lord - **Revelation 21:4** - The Christian will be with the Lord Jesus forever - **1 Peter 1:4-5** - Every Christian has an inheritance in God awaiting his/her arrival in heaven - **John 14:1-4** - Every Christian has a "mansion" awaiting for his/her arrival - **John 11:25** - Every Christian will have a resurrected body like that of Jesus Christ.
3. The way to prepare to die is to look at the cross, accept the Lord Jesus Christ, believe what He has done was for YOU and do so deliberately, sincerely of your own free will/thoughts/decision.  
- Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to be prepared to die.

### II. DO YOU UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN?

1. God's plan is not strange or hard to know:  
- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Holy Trinity) met before man got here, planned man's salvation - with the Son becoming man's savior and carrying out their plan.
2. Understanding God's plan comes from knowing His Word and knowing God's word brings acceptance of God's will, confidence, peace, happiness and keeps one in step with God's plan for his/her life.
3. Now, again, DO YOU UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLAN?

### III. DO YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY TO LOVE AND UNDERSTAND GOD?

1. That is quite a question, however every person has many loves - for friends, husband/wife, children, hobbies, sports, even one's job, profession but how about God?
2. Every person develops CAPACITY in relation to the amount of time given to each person or thing.
  - To have the capacity to love and understand God, one must place love for God FIRST then all others in priority.
  - Capacity to love is gained day by day as one continues to place God first.
  - Only the Word of God can bring satisfaction concerning the THINGS of God.

### IV. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE TROUBLE?

1. No one knows what this next new year holds, but there will be troubles. Some small, insignificant like a gnat, but some big, like an elephant.
  - Do you know enough of God's Word to help when trouble does come your way?
2. There will be sorrows, unexpected troubles, even death for some.
  - Do you know how to meet such troubles and sorrows?
  - Is your spiritual warehouse full or empty?

### V. DO YOU "REBOUND" WHEN NECESSARY?

1. **1 John 1:8-9** - Do you know how to use these verses?
2. When failures, sin, broken promises happen, pulling you away from the Lord, and they will, turn to this passage and do what it says.

### CONCLUSION:

1. So, are you prepared to die if it happens this next year sometime? Only in Jesus Christ can you be adequately prepared.
2. Do you understand God's plan for you? Go to God's Word.
3. Do you have enough room in your life to love God? Remember, it must grow day by day.
4. Do you know how to handle catastrophe and such? It is through God's Word.
5. Do you know how to rebound after you've been knocked down? **1 John 1:9**
6. Remember to "...put your hand in God's hand, it's better than a light..."
7. The next year will be a fruitful year IF you stay in God's plan and learn His Word.
8. Lastly, do your best to get God's message of hope to the world around you.