

Pastor's Pen

A New Year.

"On the other hand, train yourself for the purpose of godliness, for bodily training is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." 1Tim. 4:8

We are about to enter the new year. Most people will make resolutions to improve their lives as they enter a new year. As believers, we should desire to improve our physical and spiritual lives. But, as Timothy noted, taking care of our bodies is only of little profit. What is most important is our growth in godliness.

I have learned over the years that my body is slowly but surely getting older every day. As a 21-year-old rookie police officer, I never lost a foot pursuit. In my early thirties, I could still meet all the physical requirements of being a member of the Chesterfield Police SWAT team. But that was a long time ago. Even though I try to maintain my physical health through daily exercise, I can no longer do some things that were easy for me. I cannot sprint 20 yards or run through my neighborhood like I did in my thirties. My weightlifting has gone from 80-pound dumbbells to 40 pounds.

It doesn't matter how pretty or handsome you are now. One day, if you live long enough, your looks will fade. No matter how healthy you are, one day, your body will breathe its last breath. All of this is a result of sin. But praise God, even though the outward man is deteriorating, the inward man is being renewed daily if you belong to Christ.

As we grow older in the faith, our responsibility is to grow in godliness. We study His Word, love one another, and strive to live holy lives. The great American preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote 70 resolutions to help him live a godly life. He was 20 years old when he wrote them. The following are his first three resolutions.

1. Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriad's of ages hence.

Resolved to do whatever I think to be my duty and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I meet with, how many and how great soever.

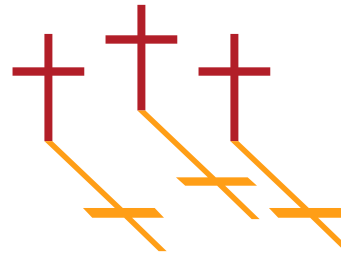
2. Resolved, to be continually endeavoring to find out some new invention and contrivance to promote the aforementioned things.

3. Resolved, if ever I shall fall and grow dull, so as to neglect to keep any part of these Resolutions, to repent of all I can remember, when I come to myself again.

I would encourage you to read his resolutions, study them, and see if these resolutions would benefit your walk in godliness.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"God does not call men to make Jesus Lord (as though they had such power), but to live in absolute submission to the Lord He has made."

— Paul Washer

Grace Gems

George Muller's New Year Words- Spoken at a New Year's Service, 1859

We have, through the goodness of the Lord, been permitted to enter upon another year, and the minds of many among us will no doubt be occupied with plans for the future, and the various fears of our work and service for the Lord. If our lives are spared, we shall be engaged in many things—the welfare of our families, the prosperity of our business, and our work and service for Christ, which may be considered the most important matters to be attended to. But according to my judgement, the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things, see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord. Other things may press upon you, and the Lord's work may even have urgent claims upon your attention, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself!

Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life. This has been my firm and settled condition for the last thirty-five years. For the first four years after my conversion, I knew not its vast importance, but now after much experience, I especially commend this point to the notice of my younger brothers and sisters in Christ: the secret of all true effectual service is joy in God, and having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself.

But in what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? How shall we obtain such an all-sufficient soul-satisfying portion in Him, as shall enable us to let go the things of this world as vain and worthless in comparison? I answer, This happiness is to be obtained through the study of the Holy Scriptures. God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the Scriptures, by the power of the Holy Ghost, He makes Himself known unto our souls. . . . Therefore the very earliest portion of the day we can command should be devoted to the meditation on Scriptures. Our souls should feed upon the Word. . . . This intimate experimental acquaintance with Him will make us truly happy. Nothing else will. In God our Father and the blessed Jesus, our souls have a rich, divine, imperishable, eternal treasure. Let us enter into practical possession of these true riches; yea, let the remaining days of our earthly pilgrimage be spent in an ever-increasing, devoted, earnest consecration of our souls to God.

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 12/22/2023

General Offering 17,320.92
Building Fund 710.00
Uganda Missions 3,670.00

Total.....\$21,700.92

Attendance 214

SOS/Uganda Christmas giving so far \$6,081.00

Build the Body Ministries fd

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org

AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org

Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org

Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org

Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org

Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org

Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org

Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org

Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org

Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org

Communications-communications@ghbcva.org

Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org

Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Dec 29, 2024

Welcome