

YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT

The year 2008 is closed out and the year 2009 has begun. It is traditional for people to gather together on New Year's Eve to have a good time and acknowledge the beginning of the New Year. Some suggest that this is the period of time where we close one chapter of our life and begin in another. I suppose that one can view the Old and New Year in such a manner, but there is something much more important to be considered. At some point in time, you and I will close out our life in this world and begin eternity! When this moment occurs, it will matter greatly whether or not we have faithfully served the Lord year in and year out. Let us make sure that we take the time to evaluate our lives in view of the coming Day of Judgment.

Am I concerned about sacred matters year in and year out? The Lord's church and proper worship is so important that God's inspired Word regulates both. The religion of the Bible is not something that one can successfully trifle with. The cost of Christianity and the Lord's church is indeed high. In order for the redemption of man to be possible, the Father gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16), and the Son willingly gave His life (Matt. 27:20; Rom. 5:8). It is no wonder that Christ said, "*If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments*" (John 14:15). The Savior paid a tremendous price for being the "Lamb of God" (John 1:29) and the "good shepherd" (John 10:11). His precious blood was shed to purchase His church (Acts 20:28).

Never forget that it was not your blood or my blood that purchased the church! Such being the case, all authority belongs to Christ as the head and savior of the body (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23). Those who desire to go to Heaven will respect what God has said regarding the proper worship of the church. We must be concerned about sacred matters year in and year out. The Lord was and is.

Am I committed to worshipping and serving the Lord year in and year out? Some things in this life are hit or miss, on again, off again, or seasonal or periodic. Normally, however, we are more committed to those things that are near and dear to our hearts. Can we truly say that worshipping and serving

the Lord is something that we are determined to do year in and year out?

Spasmodic or half-hearted allegiance is in vain and is detested by the Lord. To the church at Laodicea He said, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16). After one's conversion, he must continue to faithfully walk in the light of God's Word (I John 1:7).

Allegiance to the Lord and His cause is second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year. There are no vacations when one is enrolled in service to the King. May we remember that our sights are set on things above (Col. 3:2) and on a "city which hath the foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10)?

Am I concerned about being the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" year in and year out (Matt. 5:13-16)? Some members of the Lord's church do good for a while, as they seem to be concerned about their influence and being a good example. But then something happens, and perhaps at least part of the credit goes to a most formidable foe, Satan (I Peter 5:8). Members of the body either forget or do not care that their light is not to be hidden or covered up. God would have our light to always shine like a beacon so that all can see, and so that He might be glorified. We do not have the option of lighting our light one moment and then putting it out at the moment we are ridiculed or persecuted. Study carefully Matthew 5:13-16! If the salt ever loses its savor (flavor and preserving power) it is "good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13). Our light must shine brightly — shine forth for the Lord year in and year out!

Am I committed to loving lost souls year in and year out? Man-made denominations are more than confused when it comes to the subject of love. Many advocate love without obedience but such love is not the love that God demands. The writer of Hebrews proves such in saying, "though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9).

One cannot love God who does not keep (obey) His commandments (John 14:15). One cannot be saved without obeying the Gospel (II Thess. 1:8). It is not a gospel or my gospel but the Gospel that saves (Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 1:16). If we are committed to saving lost souls, we will always speak the truth as only the truth can free one from the bondage of sin (John 8:32).

Faithfulness to God is required year in and year out!

Marvin L. Weir *adapted from Seek The Old Paths*

We Are Grateful

This time of year gives us an occasion to express our gratitude for the grace of our Heavenly Father and for the abundant blessings we have enjoyed this past year.

We are especially grateful for the faithful brethren here at Olathe and for the opportunity you have given us to labor together with you and other good works during the past year. We are grateful for your attitude of unity and cooperation. We love you all and look forward to our labors together during this year as we continue to grow spiritually, reach out locally and support the work of the Lord throughout the world.

We are grateful for our faithful brethren and fellow laborers in the Kansas City area. We wish to express our thanks for the opportunities of fellowship with you and to have a part in the work of preaching the Gospel and building up the church in this area.

We are grateful for the opportunity we enjoy to serve in the Online Academy of Biblical Studies with all who labor with us and support this good work: The elders at Phillips Street, who oversee OABS; Brother Tom L. Bright, Sr., our Director; and all of our Instructors and Students who labor in this great work to further the Cause of Christ in various areas of the world.

Finally, we are grateful to those who receive our bulletin, for your many kind remarks and contributions throughout the year. We wish all of you the very best in this New Year!

The Thrashers

BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Brown, 01-07; Lindsey Brown, 01-07;
Janice Carter, 01-08.

ILL

Sunday: Tammy and Jillian Marcum; Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Millie Robertson was involved in a car accident on Monday. She was treated and released with stitches in her forehead and a fractured finger. Louise Dodson is recovering from her foot surgery at home. Tom Tucker is being treated for an eye disorder.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Nemechek's were visiting relatives in Abilene and Hutchinson last weekend. Melissa Cole was away last weekend. Chris Edwards was away last weekend. The Hanson's departed for Florida on December 31 and plan to return in March.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, January 4 following our AM worship.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 11 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 38; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 34.

Those To Serve

January 4, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
PRESIDE.....Steve Brown
ASSIST.....Jared Nelson
ASSIST.....John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher
LORD'S SUPPER.....Steve Brown

WEDNESDAY 7th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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