

LET THIS BE THE YEAR

Text: John 9:4

INTRO: Many of us have a tendency to postpone things that need to be done. We come to the end of a year with numerous things that we intended to do, still left undone. Let us resolve that this year will be different. We know our time is limited. We just don't know how limited. Let this be the year that we redeem the time & do a better job of utilizing our opportunities to serve God.

Let this be the year that...

I. WE MAINTAIN A SCHEDULE OF SINCERE DILIGENT BIBLE STUDY AS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

But grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ... (2 Pet. 3:18).

Tho by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; & you have come to need milk & not solid food. (Heb. 5:12).

II. WE DEVELOP A GENUINE, DAILY, PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO PRAYER. Nothing is needed more. Nothing is more uplifting.

READ JAMES 4:2-3; 5:14-16

III. WE HONESTLY TRY TO CORRECT OUR FAULTS: Impatience, Gossip, Tardiness, Stinginess... Let us make a diligent effort to be more spiritual & less carnal or petty.

1 John 1:7-9

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. (2 John 8).

IV. WE DO MORE TO COMMEND & PERHAPS LESS TO CRITICIZE. Encourage those who have done a good job of something: Bible class teachers, those who lead songs or prayers, those who have made improvements in attendance at assemblies, arriving on time, etc.

Whatever things are true,...noble...just...lovely...of good report, if there is any virtue & if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things. (Phil. 4:8).

V. LET THIS BE THE YEAR THAT WE PUT FORTH THE EFFORT TO BE CHEERFUL & THANKFUL FOR THE GOOD THINGS GOD HAS GIVEN US.

NOTE: The English words "think" and "thank" both come from the same root. He who is unthankful is unthinking.

James 1:17;

Paul Let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether

or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours. And you are Christ's and Christ is God's. (1 Cor. 3:21-23).

VI. WE FERVENTLY TRY TO LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST.

We need to work toward realizing the awfulness and the certainty of hell--and that unconcern for others can jeopardize our own chance of heaven.

...He who wins souls is wise (Prov. 11:30).

I am a debtor both to Greeks & to barbarians, both to wise & to unwise. (Rom. 1:14).

VII. WE BECOME TRULY & DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH OUR BRETHREN WHO HAVE GONE ASTRAY & SEEK TO RECLAIM THEM. James 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1

1. Identify them.
2. Pray for them.
3. Talk to them, study with them.

VIII. WE WORK TO PURGE WORLDLINESS FROM OUR LIVES & HEARTS & AFFECTIONS.

The solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The

Lord knows those who are His," & "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (2 Tim. 2:19).

READ I JOHN 2:15-17.

IX. WE GROW IN LOVE FOR THE TRUTH, & SUPPORT & ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO TEACH & DEFEND IT.

READ 2 THESS. 2:9-12.

CONCLUSION: Let this be the year that we rise above our timidity in teaching and standing for the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ. Let this be the year that we give liberally to support its spread. Let this be the year that we set our hands to the plow with no looking back, set our eyes on the one goal that must be achieved regardless of what has to be cast aside or put away. Let this be the year that we use our influence for the good of the cause of Christ as we have never done it before. Let this be the year, beginning today!

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 29, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 17, 1999

Alief, TX, March 5, 1999 (meeting)