

MY NEW YEAR'S PRAYER FOR YOU

Text 3 John 2

INTRO: I do not know where the custom of greeting cards originated, but these words would be very appropriate. They express my own wish for you as the years go by.

- I. JOHN'S COMMENDATION OF GAIUS.
 - A. Truth in Gaius; Gaius walking in truth, vs. 3
 - B. Faithful to entertain strangers, vs. 4-5
 - C. Faithfulness a matter of public record, 6-8
 - D. Thus John could wish for Gaius all the things specified in our text, knowing Gaius would use these blessings for the furtherance of the gospel.

- II. JOHN'S PRAYER FOR GAIUS; MY PRAYER FOR YOU.
 - A. Prosperity: mental, social, financial...
Luke 2:52, And Jesus increased in wisdom & stature & in favor with God & men.

Acts 2:47, And continuing daily with one accord in the temple & breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness & simplicity of heart, praising God & having favor with all the people & the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

1. In all these realms, prosperity is, to a large degree, up to us. We must work, etc. 2 Thess. 3:10.
2. But there are some factors over which we have no control. Matt. 5:45, rain sunshine, etc.

B. Health.

1. Our responsibility: diet, exercise, rest, cleanliness, etc.
2. God's part.

C. Spiritual health & prosperity.

Prosperity in the other realms is of lasting value only when we prosper spiritually. Many a man has prospered financially but not spiritually, only to "outgrow" his need for God.

1 Peter 2:2, As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

Heb 5:12-14, For tho by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full

age, that is, those who by reason of use
have their senses exercised to discern
both good and evil.

La Porte, TX, January 3, 1982

Exton, PA, December 25, 1986

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 2, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 1, 2006