

**TITLE: HAPPY NEW YEAR NECESSITIES**

**THESIS:** To show what the Bible says it takes to truly have a happy new year

**INTRO:** At exactly 12:00 a.m. on every January 1<sup>st</sup>, everybody yells “Happy New Year!” It is meant as a wish for our family, our friends, and ourselves. How is this wish fulfilled? Isn’t the idea/wish of having a happy new year usually forgotten by January 2<sup>nd</sup>? It seems that usually we *wish* for it, but we don’t do anything about it! We *say* we have new years resolutions, but most realize that these are forgotten quickly. What types of resolutions ought Christians to make?

**1. HOLD FAST** (2 Tim 1:13; Heb 10:23-24)

- a. **2 Tim 1:13** – *Hold fast* (have, possess, keep) *the form* (pattern) *of sound* (healthy) *words*. It is by words (of God) we are saved (**Acts 11:14** –speak words by which you...be saved; **Jam 1:21** –*receive w/meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls*).
- b. **Heb 10:23-24** – *Hold fast* (keep secure - imperative) *the profession* (confession, acknowledgement, statement) *of our hope/faith*

**2. ASSEMBLE** (Heb 10:25)

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (we need each other for strength), but exhorting (like Barnabas) one another. Everywhere I’ve been, it’s always so encouraging to see the brethren, and discouraging when they’re not there.

**3. PRAY** (1 Thess 5:17; Luke 18:1-14)

**1 Thess 5:17** – never stop praying; relationships end when communication ends. **Luke 18 – 1.** Pray persistently. **2.** Pray humbly  
Pray that God will help you to be successful in these areas we’re discussing today.

**4. PREPARE** (Mal 3:8-10)

1. For the world – Before you begin your day, prepare for what you’ll face (think, pray, read)
2. To worship – Think about it in advance; have an earlier bedtime on Sat night; on the way to worship, prepare to focus on God; prepare to give (**Mal 3:8-10** – We rob God when we don’t *prepare* and *present* our best offering!)

**5. YIELD NOT** (Jam 1:13-15; Mt 26:41)

- Mt 18:7 – Temptations (occasions of stumbling) will come
- Jam 1:13-15 – tells us *how* we are tempted – by our own lust
- Mt 26:41 – “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.” (We must prepare!)

**6. NUMBER** (Psa 90:12 – “*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*”

The author (Moses) has contrasted the beginningless, endless nature of God with the timebound existence of humans on earth (**v. 2, 10**). Man therefore should recognize that his existence here is short (not eternal), and spend his time wisely (preparing for eternity).

**7. EXAMINE** (2 Cor 13:5) – *Examine yourself, whether you’re in the faith! Prove your own selves...*

- If you’re unapproved, then you know that Jesus Christ is not in you. But how do you know if you’re unapproved?
- This command implies that there is an objective standard by which we are to test (try, prove) ourselves (God’s word).
- It is to be done individually. Although we are our brothers’ keepers (**Gal 6:1f**), I can’t do this for you and you can’t do it for me. Context: they had been questioning Paul’s apostleship (v. 3-4). He’s saying that if Christ is in them, they should recognize Paul. And since some of them obviously weren’t recognizing him, they then needed to examine their own selves.

**8. WORK** (1 Cor 15:58)

Therefore (because of the victory through Christ’s resurrection – v. 57), be steadfast & unmovable (completely dedicated to this). Always abounding (excess, overflowing) in the work of the Lord (knowing that this work is *not* in vain...because of the resurrection).

**9. YES** (2 Cor 1:20)

The surety of God’s promises: When God makes a promise, it’s a guarantee. He doesn’t change his mind (not fickle –v. 17f). We should strive to have the same “yes” commitment to God’s plan...just like Paul, whose preaching was not yea, nay (not fickle – v. 18). One of our resolutions this year – to have the same **consistent** nature as Paul in living out (and preaching) God’s word.

**10. EXHORT** (Heb 3:13)

Here is our word again (“*parakaleo*” - exhort; encourage, admonish, comfort, console). Like our example of Barnabas, we need to be good exhorters. We need to be aware of our brothers and sisters, the situations we face, the struggles we have, **and help one another!**

**11. AIM** (2 Cor 5:9; 13:11; Mt 5:48)

- **2 Cor 5:9** – “*Aim* (strive, labor) *to be acceptable [well-pleasing] to him*”
- **2 Cor 13:11** – Aim to “*be perfected* (fitted, repaired, completed)
- **Mt 5:48** – Aim to “*be ye perfect* (complete, lacking nothing) *as your heavenly father is perfect.*”

**12. READ** (Eph 5:17-18)

**Eph 5:17-18** – *Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit*  
**2 Tim 2:15** – “*Study to show thyself approved...*”

Every other one of these qualities (new years resolutions) requires that we know God’s word, His will, His desire and purpose for us.

**CONCLUSION:** On Sunday, 1/2/05, I challenged each of you to grow spiritually in 2005. I challenged you to read the Bible in 2005. I told you that Satan would use every tool at his disposal to discourage you. How did you do in 2005? **Will you commit in 2006?**