



THE BEREAN BROADCASTER

Winter 2020

Volume 4, Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR BEREAN!!!

Seek God First.....

"But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."

2 Peter 3:13 NIV

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A NEW YEAR'S PLAN

A poem by Mary Fairchild

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I Am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing—your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything—all that I am. ■

Scriptures that encourage us to make Christmas a lifestyle

At every turn, we see suffering in our communities, turmoil in our government, and hardships in our relationships. It can be extremely loud, constant, and in-your-face. But through life's noise, God still remains. It is like what I once heard a character on a TV program say when speaking to another about how the world can seem so out-of-control, and that even "God controls the chaos". This phrase resonated so deeply, because it shows that God is always in control. Nothing can happen if he does not make it possible. He controls how much stress, grief, sadness, or anxiety you can handle. 2019 has come to an end and we look to the prospect of a healthy and harmonious 2020. The chaos may be loud, but God is louder. You may feel lonely, but he is right there. You may be confused, but when the time is right He will give you insight. You may be tired, but He is strong. However you feel and whatever difficulties you face, remember, God is.

For strength: "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

Isaiah 40:29 NIV

For your inner peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." *John 14:27 NIV*

For your marriage: "I thank my God every time I remember you." *Philippians 1:3 NIV*

For your children: "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Hebrews 12:11 NIV

For your job: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." *Colossians 3:23-24 NIV*

For your home: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." *Proverbs 24:3-4 NIV*

For your finances: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." *Galatians 6:9 NIV*

For your leadership development: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." *Philippians 2:3-4 NIV*

For your family and friend relationships: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." *John 15:12-13 NIV*

For your hope, faith, and patience: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." *Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV*

For your church: "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." *1 Peter 1:22 NIV*

For your health: "Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security." *Jeremiah 33:6 NIV*

COMMIT TO THE RESET

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For many of us “starting over” can feel like we lost the battle. It’s back to ground zero - we made it so far up the mountain, just to fall or slide back down. This could pertain to our home, professional, and faith life. It does not feel good when we have to start over. At the school where I work, we begin the school year (*September*) teaching our scholars certain expectations. This includes: how they need to transition from one class to another; what it should look like as they enter/exit the cafeteria or a classroom; what actions are expected from them during an evacuation drill or soft lockdown; or how they should respond if their teachers call for their attention. For the first three days of school, we somewhat ‘drill’ these expectations in our scholars in hopes that they become second nature for them.

But let’s be real, even at the best schools with the most streamlined systems, things can get sloppy. You begin to see running in the hallways, fighting in the stairwells, and horse-playing during a fire drill. Our scholars know better and are expected to do better. The acceleration of the first half of the school year knocks the wind out of teachers and what started off as strong infrequent enforcement of conduct turns into repeated behavioral reminders that disrupt their teaching. So schools take advantage of long Holiday breaks like Christmas to the New Year to implement what is known as a “reset”.

The purpose of the reset is simply, to get the school in order. Before implementing a reset, we must first reflect on what went wrong, why, and where? What did go well? - what was effective? Still, the most important aspect to resetting a school, is first resetting our attitudes and our mindsets as educators. Nothing works if you do not feel like it can. In order for our scholars to effectively adopt this reset to their conduct, we must believe that they can actually do it and that it will work with just a little more effort on our parts. We must look at the reset as a great opportunity to instill improved practices and provide the best to our scholars.

**“He wants
you with
Him for
eternity.”**

I believe God does the same for us. We are constantly making mistakes - whether or not we think we are. And He is always forgiving us. But God’s forgiveness is not just.....ok, great! You messed up again. I forgive you.....great! You messed up again. I forgive you.... He knows that we will sin because we were born in it, but His purpose is to get us as close to sin-free before we die, so we are ready and prepared for Him. This is where trials enter the picture. Trials are our reset. This is God working in us to correct our sinful natures, making us stronger to resist temptation, and developing our characters, hearts, and minds.

When our scholars return to school after their long Holiday break, they will find that our attitudes as teachers are more stern, similar to what it looked like in September. They may find that they will be corrected faster than they were in December, but it does not mean that ‘Mr. Smith does not like them anymore’ or ‘Ms. Brown is mean now’. Our reset is preparing them for a successful rest-of-the-year ahead. We know that bigger tests and harder work is coming down the pipeline for them, and rather than spending an enormous amount of time correcting behavior, we want them focused on performing excellently, not just for the remaining five months, but for their lifetime.

Often times what feels like rock bottom to us is God simply resetting us or as the kids say ‘getting us all the way together’. God is making you stronger. He is allowing you to go through the fire to refine you. He is testing your faith in Him. He does this because He loves you. He wants you with Him for eternity. Commit to your reset today.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

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A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

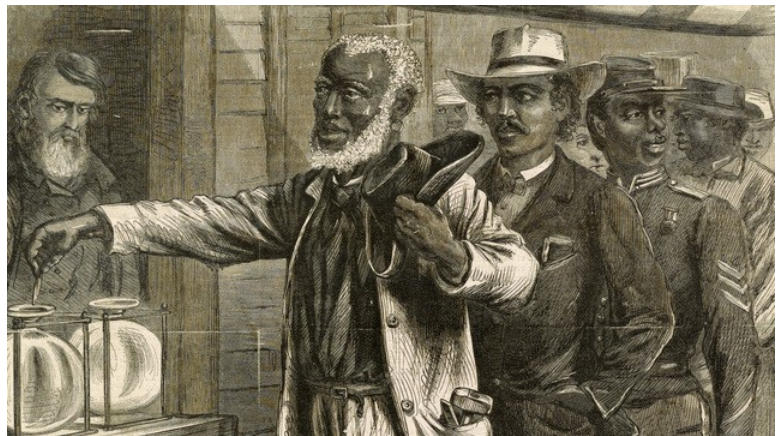
Lord, Thank you.

Thank you for keeping us this year. You brought us through hardships and pain and blessed us with grace and peace. You never left us; you cared for us, and renewed our strength. All that we are is because of you. You made promises that you have always kept and we should remember this especially during the tough times. Dear Lord, please keep us humble and steadfast on you - doing nothing for our own gain, but rather, for your glory. Lord, thank you for all that you will do for us. 2020 will be amazing because you blessed us with life. We can smile, laugh, and even cry because we are still here. We are blessed so richly. Thank you Lord! We pray this in your son Jesus' name, Amen.

NEVER FORGET

FEBRUARY 1870.

On February 3, 1870, the United States Constitution confirmed the 15th Amendment, prohibiting the federal government and the states from denying a citizen the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.



Unfortunately, discriminatory practices were still used to prevent blacks from exercising their right. It was not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, that made it illegal for any state or local government to deny this right.

Our fight for human rights must continue until they are won and secured. When you feel like skipping the polls in November, just imagine what it might have been like - in 1870 - to be told you have the right to vote, but perhaps, not allowed to exercise it.

Editor, Liz Duplessy