

Upcoming Events

McKnight last day here: Today. Best Wishes!

Jack Wright will preach December 22

Bruce Evans (Winnetka Ave) will preach on December 29.

Budget preparations for 2020

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Famous Quotes about Planning

“It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt -

“A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow.”

- George S. Patton -

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail”.

- Benjamin Franklin -

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 27 Sue Tanner 29 Noah McKnight
30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

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A Time for Preparation and Action

By Tim Dooley

Following the death of Moses, the children of Israel, led now by Joshua, made preparation to enter into the Promised Land. The Lord commands Joshua concerning how the new nation would go forward and be successful (Joshua 1:1-18).



We too need to make the necessary preparations for our entrance into the Promised Land of Heaven. As the children of Israel did not merit or deserve the land God gave them, but were led therein by the captain of the Lord of hosts, so we too do not merit or deserve the home Jesus has gone to prepare for us (John 14:1-3). But His leading us into that land demands that we prepare ourselves and faithfully follow Him and fight the good fight in order that we may receive the victory in the end.

Be Strong and Courageous. Joshua and the people are told to be strong and of good courage. They were going into battle, but God was with them. Doing God's will is never easy. No one said it would be! The minute one decides to act on the Lord's commands one's faith will begin to be tested. Satan himself will put seeds of doubt into our mind. Friends and family members may belittle us, try to pursue us, and even forsake us. It's easy to live and act like everyone else, but the worldly are like water and electricity, always taking the path of least resistance. The successful prepare and labor in the face of every obstacle!

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Suggestions for a New Year

By Robert Notgrass

As we think about this New Year, there are things that we need to remember to have a good year. The decisions and choices we make will determine the kind of year we can have. Therefore, let's notice some suggestions that will help us to have a good year.

Apologize when we do wrong. The three words, "I am sorry" are difficult to say for those filled with pride. If you would, think of the relationships, homes and even congregations that have been destroyed because one who has committed sin, will not humble himself to repent (Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15-17; Lk. 17:3-4).

Accept good advice. "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly. . . But his delight is in the law of the Lord*" (Psa. 1:1-2). "*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise*" (Prov. 12:15). Now, certainly we must be able to distinguish between foolish and wise counsel.

Avoid conforming to the world. "*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed . . .*" (Rom. 12:2). We must all come to terms that the world is out to mold and shape us into that which the Lord does not want. Thus, when one begins to "love" the world and "live" like the world, we are unable to have a "good year" spiritually (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

Act only after thinking. Some of the greatest problems we have in this life have been brought upon ourselves because we forgot to stop and think before we acted or spoke. Therefore, we need to "taste" our words and "weigh" the consequences of our actions before we speak and react (Phil. 4:8; Eph. 4:29; Gal. 5:19-21).

Adhere to the Word of God. God has given us, through His Word, that which we need in this life (2 Pet. 1:3). Hence, it is the Scriptures that provide and is profitable for our spiritual well-being (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore, as we apply the Word of God to our lives, we are providing the means by which we can have a "good year" and ultimately a home in Heaven.

Appreciate God. Without God in our lives it is impossible to have a "good year" as He desires and demands. Thus, if we do appreciate and reverence God as we should, then it will be seen in our life (Eccl. 12:13)

Be Obedient. The people are told to "*observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you*" (Joshua 1:7). Many today will tell us that we do not have to do anything, that obedience to the law of Christ is nothing more than "legalism" (a word that is thrown around quite a bit without understanding the true definition of the word). These naysayers are friends of those mentioned above. Jesus said, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments*" (John 14:15). This includes repentance of sins (Acts 17:30), confession (Romans 10:10), and baptism for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21).

Be Faithful. The children of Israel are also told not to turn away from the law, "*to the right hand or to the left*" (Joshua 1:7). There may be no more important word in all of sacred scripture than the word faithful. It is what is required of every steward (1 Corinthians 4:2) and is the word every Christian longs to hear (Matthew 25:23).

Be Meditative. The children of Israel are told that they should meditate on the law "*day and night*" (Joshua 1:8). Preparation for eternity means spending time with the word of God. Daily Bible study and times of regular group study are imperative to knowing, understanding, observing, and remaining faithful to the law of Christ. Remember the noble Bereans (Acts 17:11).

Be Successful. The Lord promises Joshua and the people that if they will do these things, they will make their way "*prosperous*" and then they would have "*good success*" (Joshua 1:8). Without proper spiritual preparation and action there is no spiritual prosperity or success.

The people responded, "*All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you...Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death*" (Joshua 1:16-18). A spiritual modern day parallel applies here too...we either prepare and act or we too shall be put to death (Matthew 25:46). Have we made the necessary preparations? Are we faithfully following the Captain of the army of God? Be faithful!