

Thank you...Alexis Brown  
Speaker for today

## Plans for 2026

*“One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 3:13-14

### ATTENTION

**Business Meeting next Sunday at 2:30 p.m.**

### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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# Indio Informer

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*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”*

Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

### 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 (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17; Luke 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”*(Psalms 1:1-2). *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise”*(Proverbs 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 . . .”* (Romans 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

on begins to “love” the world and “live” like the world, we are unable to have a “good year” spiritually (1 John 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 (Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 4:29; Galatians 5:19-21).

**Adhere to the Word of God.** God has given us, through His Word, that which we need in this life (2 Peter 1:3). Hence, it is the Scriptures that provide and is profitable for our spiritual well-being (2 Timothy 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 (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

## **The End of the Year...A Time for Reflection**

By Dan Jenkins (modified)

Is there any better time for reflection than the end of a year? 2025 is now history. We are one year closer to the time of our death and one year closer to determining where we will spend eternity. Consider the following thoughts which seem so timely as 2025 ends.

**Are we numbering our days?** This question comes from a consideration of Psalm 90. “*The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years . . . so teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*” So many fail to sense the reality of their coming death. It may be hard for someone at 25 to think they have lived a third of their lives or someone at 35 to understand they have lived half of theirs, but as a new year begins, count the days we have left!

**Have we forgotten His grace?** The end of a year provides a time to look backward to where each of us has lived. There are no degrees of being lost. Each of us, in the past, was just as vile and lost as mass murderers or child molesters. It is by His grace we live. Peter described what was happening in the lives of some Christians in his day. They had become Christians but had become barren and unfruitful and were spiritually blind. What had happened? What could cause a man to arrive at such a situation? He had “. . . *forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sin*” (2 Peter 1:8-9). When we glory in our own “goodness” we lose sight of His. Have we forgotten His grace?

**Have we buried the past?** Obviously, one can never forget the past, but far too many live in guilt and have the lowest self-esteem. We must learn to live in the present and let God deal with what has passed. He has forgotten it and so must we. Paul described himself as the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), who had become what he was by God’s grace (1 Corinthians 15:10). Look at this principle by which he lived: “*But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal . . .*” (Philippians 3:13-14). A new year awaits each of us. The old one must be forgotten, for there is a new year before us with greater opportunities and challenges!

We alone will determine what kind of year we will have in 2026. A precious brother once told me when he awoke each day he had a decision to make. “Will I have a good day or a bad one? I may have headaches and pain, but I can have the best headache day I could possibly have.” Apply that to 2026. It will likely have adversity, but our attitude towards problems determines if the year will be a good year or bad one!

Or, as Debbie Pescador always says, “We’re looking and feeling better every day by choice!” ...great attitude with which to begin the new year!