

Accomplishing Your New Year's Resolutions

By Edd Sterchi

What New Year's resolutions have you made? Most will have made ones that were designed to make their lives or the lives around them better. Such resolutions may include losing weight, stopping a bad habit, exercising more, becoming more organized, or having a better attitude. Now, I am not going to be sarcastic like the man who made the New Year's toast, "May your troubles be as short lived as your resolutions!" I sincerely hope you succeed in every resolution you make (that is within the Lord's will, of course).

So how are you going to get your resolutions accomplished? Hebrews 12:1-2 can give us a lot of encouragement and help along that line. Even though the true context of the passage is ridding our lives of sin and striving toward heaven, we can make application to accomplishing worthy earthly goals, as well.

* "since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" - Involve others. There are many in your life who can motivate and encourage you. Look to the example of those who have already completed what you are trying to accomplish.

* "let us lay aside every weight" - Get rid of all the obstacles that are hindering success. There are plenty of ways to fail, and the world will make sure to bring them all out. To succeed, all obstacles must be avoided or overcome.

* "and let us run" - Exercise yourself in a specific plan of action to complete the goal. Accomplishing goals is often a matter of each of us being determined to run - then running.

* "with endurance" - You need to be persistent in accomplishing your resolutions. You cannot give up, even though there may be setbacks. If you stumble, get back on your feet and get running again.

* "looking unto Jesus" - Keep your eyes upon Jesus who overcame earthly obstacles, completed God's plan, persisted, and made it back to heaven. Remember what all He went through and how what you are trying to do is much less demanding and that you can do it.

Henry Ward Beecher once said: "We have passed through one more year. One more long stage in the journey of life, with its ascents and descents and dust and mud and rocks and thorns and burdens that wear the shoulders, is done. The old year is dead. Roll it away. Let it go." May I only add, "let it go, and let's go on to greater things in 2021."



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

January 3, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: *Out With the Old and In With the New*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:35-39

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Today Paul will be teaching from the Psalms.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: January 6th:** Haggai
- **Sojourners: Mike and Nadine Huddleston, Larry and Kay Little and two other couples** hope to be here the last week in June and the first two weeks in July.



NEWS

- **We will have an annual corporation meeting next Sunday, January 10th. We will be electing one and three-year trustees.**
- **Paul's brother Jimmy from the Syracuse area was killed in a tragic accident at work in the early hours of Wednesday morning. The family was just recovering from losing their sister Linda a few weeks ago.**
- **Todd Williams**, who has visited here several times, lost his mother December 17th.
- Our church donated to **Helping Hands International**, a work of the church in Nashville, TN, **in memory of John Chacona**, Ted's brother, and to the **Sunnyview Post Stroke Group** in memory of **Linda Lombardi**, Paul's sister.
- **Arthur and Sandy will be traveling to AL** by way of FL later in January. Arthur will be preaching at the Elmore church of Christ, which helps support our work here in Sayre, on the 24th.
- Join our **daily Bible reading** group! Use the internet or your Bible. Ask Arthur to be invited online or for a printed-out schedule.

Arthur will be preaching this morning.

PRAYERS

- Pray for all the **Christian families who have lost loved ones** the past few weeks: **Arthur's cousin David in England, Ted's brother John, Paul's sister Linda and his brother Jimmy, Doug Kashorek's wife Lori and Jo Pennington's husband G.K.** We pray for peace and comfort that only God can provide.
- **Pat Gutherie** who many of us know from the church in Kittanning, has had lung cancer reoccur in his left lung. Please pray that he can go into remission once more.
- **José Rivera**, Molly's husband, has been laid off work until he can stabilize his blood sugar levels. Please pray that he can do that soon.
- Pray for **spiritual growth** (increased Bible class attendance and greater participation in Bible reading programs) and more people in the area who want to worship with us here in Sayre.
- We are thankful that none of us here at Valley Cities has come down with Covid-19. Several of us have close relatives who were sick with it, but we thank God that all recovered fully.
- We are thankful for the year 2020 coming to an end and a new year beginning! Happy New Year to us all! **God bless us in 2021!**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.

Happy New Year!
2021