’16 New Year’s Message

**SPECIAL, PART 1 (12-27-15)**

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.

~Author Unknown~

Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits. ~Author Unknown~

Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results means you're either insane or you’re making a New Year's resolution.

 A happy New Year! Grant that it

 May bring no tear to any eye

 When this New Year in time shall end

 Let it be said I've played the friend,

 Have lived and loved and labored here,

 And made of it a happy year.

 ~Edgar Guest~

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. ~Bill Vaughan~

Every Christian should be very optimistic about the future because JC has already defeated Satan and He is coming again to kick him out and rule the earth with righteousness and Justice.

But in the meantime, it appears that we are going to be in for a rough time so it would be a good idea to “gird up the loins of our minds” for the coming year.

**Economically**, we are at the edge of an economic cliff. Out of control spending in the government and private sectors. Record breaking numbers getting food stamps and welfare. Millions of people with no job and the ranks of the homeless are swelling.

**Politically,** some say that the rules for politics have changed and will never be the same. I say, “Great!” But the fact that politicians will say anything to get elected and forget it when they take office I am afraid remains the same.

**Socially**, homosexuality is accepted and celebrated today by most people, gay pride parades have become a tradition, same-sex marriage, co-habitation, crude, rude, and course manner has become acceptable.

**Militarily**, weak, open homosexuals are now accepted, women in combat, lack of leadership, moral at its al- time low, nuclear war a real possibility, EMP, terror attacks on the increase.

**Government**, all three branches are out of control, living in a post constitutional age, 2,000 page omnibus bill, executive amnesty, sanctuary cities, open borders, Muslim refugees, unbridled political correctness, stifling regulations, Christian persecution.

It doesn’t matter whether we will face adversity in the coming year personally or nationally. This is what we should be thinking:

***Lamentations 3:21-25 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22) The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24) "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." 25) The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.***

It is our relationship with our God and the application of His Word to our lives and nothing else that will sustain us and give us the security, courage, and peace of mind.

 ’16 NEW YEAR’S SPECIAL, pg. 2

We can be content and stable in our souls no matter how strong the adversity may be if we know how to access the **REST** that God has made available to us.

***Hebrews 3:12-14 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13) But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14) For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, 15) while it is said, "today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me."***

***Hebrews 3:16-19 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? 17) And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19) So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.***

***Hebrews 4:1-2 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. 2) For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.***

***Hebrews 4:9-11*** ***So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. 11) Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience*** [as the Exodus generation]***.***

God’s Happiness (+H) does not depend on circumstances; God’s +H depends on what we think.

When we enter this REST, we stop working and start waiting on the Lord. Our job is complete when we trust the Lord! We call this reliance on Him entering His Rest or “Faith-REST”.

**FAITH-REST** is the first step in entering His REST.

**1. CLAIM A PROMISE**

The troubles and strife of this life can throw us off balance and cause us to panic or sin in other ways. Claiming one or more of the promises of God can stabilize us so that we start concen-trating on a doctrinal rationale or on a specific Bible doctrine we have learned that helps resolve the conflict for us.

***Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.***

***Hebrews 13:5b-6 He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," 6) so that we confidently say, "the LORD is my helper, I will not be afraid; what will man do to me?"***

***Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?***

***Isaiah 41:10 Fear not; for I am with you: be not dismayed*** *[anxiously looking about]****; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.***

***Jeremiah 16:19 O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress…***

**2. CONCENTRATE ON BIBLE DOCTRINE USING RATIONALES like:**

**a. GOD’S CHARACTER and how He cannot let us down.**

 ’16 NEW YEAR’S SPECIAL, pg. 3

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**b. LOGISTICAL GRACE He promised to provide for us.**

Because we are God’s children, He cannot fail to provide everything we need to fulfill His mission and plan for our lives. We call this LOGISTICAL GRACE because it includes necessary provisions to keep us alive such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, etc.

***Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***

***Psalm 37:25 I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.***

***Matthew 6:27-30 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? 28) "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29)yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30)"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31) Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32)"For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33)"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.***

**c. THE PLAN OF GOD RATIONALE**

God created us for a purpose which included a plan and a mission to accomplish while we are on earth. Our perfect God has a perfect plan for every believer. That plan includes eternal salvation but it doesn’t end there. He provides everything necessary for us to fulfill our mission. Our omnipotent God provides the power for post-salvation spiritual dynamics to operate in our lives.

Arrogance and ignorance are the two main reasons that believers fail to execute God’s plan. We execute our mission by learning and then applying B.D. That is how we reach spiritual maturity and that is how we stay spiritually mature. There are tremendous benefits and rewards both in time and eternity for those who fulfill their mission!

**3. APPLY THE RATIONALE to the problem & enjoy the REST !**

 ’16 NEW YEAR’S SPECIAL, pg. 4

When a believer is concentrating on a Doctrinal Rationale, he or she is functioning from a position of strength and maintains his sense of security, courage, and confidence. Of course the confidence is in God, not in self.

Focusing on God’s Attributes [Essence Box], Logistical Grace, and His Plan reduces anxiety so that we can maintain a RMA [Relaxed Mental Attitude]. Then we can recall specific doctrines so that we can apply them to our situation.

**FAITH REST** enables us to truthfully say:

***2 Cor 5:7 We walk by faith*** [Divine Viewpoint] ***and not by sight*** [human viewpoint].

 **Filling of the Holy Spirit**

**+ Faith-Rest by remembering THE BATTLE IS THE LORDS!**

**= No Stress in the Soul**

**SPECIAL, PART 2 (12-27-15)** Brief Review

**REMEMBERING…APPRECIATING…APPLYING**

***Colossians 1:16-17 By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.***

***Hebrews 1:3 He (J.C.) upholds all things by the word of His power.***

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We think about the year ahead of us and like to imagine that we will have control over much that goes on in our life, but that is a complete myth.

***Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.***

***Proverbs 19:21 Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand.***

***Jeremiah 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man’s life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.***

Our job is to live for Him and not ourselves:

***1 Corinthians 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.***

***Luke 12:16-21 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. 17) "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 18) "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19) 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."' 20) "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' 21) "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."***

APPRECIATING

We appreciate our Lord’s sacrifice on the cross for us and the fact that He still controls history.

APPLYING

We apply this knowledge to the coming year and our heart is secure within us and we don’t dread the future.

 ’16 NEW YEAR’S SPECIAL, pg. 5

***Psalm 112:7-8 He [the spiritually mature believer] is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. 8) His heart is steady; he will not be afraid.***

***Proverbs 1:33 …but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.***

Review: ***Hebrews 4:9-11*** ***a***nd the Doctrine of Faith-REST.