

HOW TO START THE NEW YEAR

Colossians 3:1-4

INTRODUCTION: We need to have our hearts and minds focus on Jesus as we begin this New Year. We need to learn to think heavenly. Someone has said, Heavenly thinking is learning to see all and do all with the perspective of eternity.

I. SEEK

A. PERSISTENCE IN OUR SEEKING. "seek"

"Seek" means *to pursue, search for, endeavor to obtain, desire to possess*.

1. Continuous seeking spiritual things.
2. Excitement in seeking spiritual things.

B. PERSON OF OUR SEEKING.

1. Christ's position. "where Christ sitteth"
2. Christian's privilege.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16

C. PRIZE OF OUR SEEKING.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philip. 3:13-14

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

II. SET

The word "affection" means "the mind, the intellect. The word "set" means a continuous, ongoing effort is required. This is a continual process of setting our minds on things eternal.

"You must not only seek heaven, you must also think heaven."

Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:21)

A. HEAVENLY THOUGHTS.

1. Christians are to have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:16)
2. Christians are to love God with all their minds. (Matt. 22:37)
3. Christians are to renew the minds.
4. Christians are to fill their minds with the Word of God.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Philip. 4:8-9

B. HEALTHY THOUGHTS. “not on things on the earth”

1. Protect your mind.

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philip. 3:18-20

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:5-8

III. SECURED

A. PROTECTED IN CHRIST.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.” John 10:27-29

B. PRESENCE WITH CHRIST.

“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints.” (Jude v.14)

:Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. We can enjoy the presence and power of Christ if we stay focus on Jesus.
2. We will not be distracted by the things of earth if we fix our eyes on heaven.
3. We have the resources of heaven to face the New Year.
 - a. We have resurrection power in Christ.
 - b. We have Christ as our High Priest in Heaven.
 - c. We have Christ who is our life.
 - d. We shall be with Christ in all His glory.