

THE NEW LIFE FOR THE NEW YEAR

TEXT:

Psalms 51:7-10:

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

You only will decide what kind of a New Year this will be. Will it be the turning over of a new leaf or the imparting of a new life? Will it be reformation or salvation? Or will it be damnation by the devil's power, or regeneration by God's power?



The determining factor of whether the Lord or the devil will have us depends entirely upon us. If we yield to sin, the devil is our master. If we sow to the Spirit and live for the Lord, we shall have Him as our Master and shall have eternal life through His grace.

There is only one right way to begin this New Year. Begin it with a clear conscience, a clean heart, and a consecrated life of service to the Lord.

The churches in particular, and America as a whole, live constantly under the bondage of condemnation and guilt, because sins are neither confessed nor repented. Psychiatrists are having a field day with a steady stream of patients. Every honest one of them will tell you the main cause of their increased business lies in the secret grudges, resentment, sins not confessed, guilty consciences, and self-justifying excuses which have brought no relief.



peace. He cried out:

Even the Psalmist, David, found that the sacrifices offered in the Temple for cleansing from sin needed something added to bring

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What will be the story of your life this coming year? Many of you never meant to discredit those who raised you and shared the family name with you. You never intended to go wrong, but you have. Why? What enticed you? Was it the pleasures of this world, or was it just living to please yourself? Was it the wealth of the ungodly, or was it the brilliant mind of the scorner of the Bible?



The Bible says that everyone shall give an account of himself to God.

Has it left your heart sad and aching? Are you happy over the record of your life for the last year? Do you wish it were a closed book — a forgotten record? The Bible says that everyone shall give an account of himself to God.

Can moral corruptions and the mocking of the righteous fill your emptiness? No! Oh, no.

Depravity and living immorally is not the answer to our quest for happiness. If it were, skid row would be our eventual heaven.

For some of you, last year's record book had very little good and a lot of evil in it. Just to say "*I don't drink, cuss, fuss or muss with sinful pleasures, I don't gamble or let down the standard of righteousness before my children, and I don't open my shop or work on Sunday*" — just to say that isn't much better than a reformed sinner. This is a good description of a corpse. All you have claimed could be claimed by that corpse in the cemetery. It doesn't do anything either but just lay still.

There are just two kinds of people in this world: the righteous and the unrighteous; those who are redeemed and those who are ungodly. All one has to do to earn the title of ungodly is simply to leave God out of his life. That means a life may be most moral, and yet ungodly. A man may become religiously active at some lodge or charitable organization and still be ungodly. He's just the opposite of the righteous and the godly.

The godly man has trusting faith in the Lord to save, keep, satisfy, and lead him in the right direction to Heaven.

You can't head toward Heaven and Hell at the same time. There are certain traits and characteristics that the Heaven-bound person has that are very unlike those headed toward the broad way to destruction.

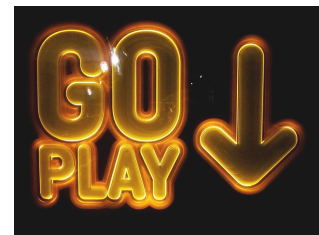


The joy and influence of the righteous man lasts. The influence of the sinner destroys much good, said Solomon. The man who leaves God out of his life lives a life of worthlessness. It is misspent and shall not stand free from condemnation at the Judgment day.

It's always easiest to take the way of the least resistance, for the crowd is going that way. It is a broad way that leads to eternal destruction. The germs of spiritual and moral disaster are highly contagious on the broad way. The ungodly are free with their advice for you to entice you to become infested with filthy habits. You are told that the successful man uses such a brand; popular women are seen in so and so's place; a girl who wants popularity must make this compromise. On and on the counsel of the ungodly goes to help you move into the bondage of sin, and to help you end this life a lost soul. The advice is from the devil who lives inside them.

Thousands of the devil's songs seduce you with their lustful suggestions and themes. Immoral, cheap, and even rotten pictures on TV, billboards, and magazine stands allure to persuade you. Hands seem to reach out for you from everywhere to attract your attention and captivate your mind.

Everyone seems to say *"Enjoy yourself don't let the gaiety of life pass you by. Come this way. There's lots of fun for you. Don't be so sober minded. Shake off your worries on the dance floor."*



If you drawback on grounds of religious conviction, you're told there's no harm in these things. Or you are asked how you know there's any life beyond the grave. Or, if there is a God, then He is too loving and good to punish. Or it can't be bad if it's a natural urge. Yes, we have all heard the devil's children with their subtle sweet talk.

Hell's evangelists are slick and cunning. The innocent, the ignorant, and the lean in soul are their victims.

It seems but yesterday we have known this child and another praying at their mother's knee. Today they are calloused worldlings, passing through their

third and fourth marriage and divorce court.



Also teenage boys are so high-minded that they think it's for the weak minded to assemble in the House of the Lord. Many have fallen in these evil days, and they pass their time in a House of Correction. They try filling that mind now with schemes as to how they can beat the latest rap.

It doesn't take long for the devil to change your course. Once you've given ear to the advice of the wicked, you are done for. The evil crowd will bring your every noble intention to a standstill. Once you started downward and have left the Church, you go downward fast. You find it ever so hard to go back again. You finally realize you're a sinner. It's an awful shock to the soul to realize for the first time you are now an out and out sinner. That means you're an enemy of God. You stand accused and condemned by the Bible as a fugitive from Christ's love.

No one of any generation or station in life can say with pride, "*I am a sinner.*" I have never met the man who intended to be one. I've never met the man who intended to die one!

First, sin blinds you, then binds you.

First, sin blinds you, then binds you. That first lie — that first bit of hatred — that first trinket stolen — made you as much a sinner as a thousand more sins will ever make you.

The road to Hell is so broad that there is always room for one more sinner. It is a wide, broad road and — if you've not known it — it is a one-way street. There's no turning back.

Many of you have lost your reverence for the Bible and for the Lord's Name. Once you fixed boundaries beyond which you would not go, but now you live and go contrary to your convictions, breaking God's Commandments without fear.



Yes, you've traveled a long way downward since those earlier years. You now believe there's no one right, and nothing right. You think every man and every woman has their price. Your language is worldly, vulgar — and that mind that once you thought was pure, now has no time to think of the Bible or to obey it. You say, "*Religion is a cloak — everything about it is pretense*". The only thing that counts to you is a quick dollar. "*What does it get for a man to try to be honest.*"

Things have changed since mother's day."



I've heard many such remarks from backsliders who now think it's not what a man knows, but who he knows that counts. Once their faces were smiles but now they are hard and full of sneers. *"I have made my bed preacher and I'll lie in it. No man can help me now. No force can redeem my soul. Save your breath for I don't have any more feelings*

towards the Lord."

Yes, you are a lost soul. Your heart is full of the sludge of sin. You have yielded to temptation. Your attitude is: dog eat dog, and get yours without asking questions. *"I live my life the way I please — I'll have my fun — die — and forget it all."*

There's only one thing wrong with that kind of thinking. It is foolish, because it's not true.

After death comes the Judgment Day. There is but one step left for you to take, and it is a long one. If you choose to live this life without God and without going by the roadmap called the Bible, you will wind up in a black eternity as a lost soul.

**After death
comes the
Judgment
Day.**

A life spent without God is driven by passion, lust, and selfishness, taking many chances, with no sense of direction. The Bible says,

Isaiah 53:6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.

Jesus said:

Matthew 18:11: For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Has God allowed you to stay with me in this message until now?

Can you honestly say, *"Yes. All you have said is true? My life is only an empty shell of what it could've been had I walked with God"*.

Friend, there is a different way to live. Death does end all hopes of getting

right with God — but you're not dead yet! Thank God for that! You can begin again — have a new slate, a new heart, a clear



conscience. It starts with a wholehearted decision. You must say: *“I will repent of all my sins. I will turn to God, through Christ, for mercy. I will live for Him the rest of my life, the Lord being my helper.”*

This can be a big moment — the biggest moment — in your life. The call of God is to you to turn to Him now. Will you do it?

The Lord Jesus will give you deliverance and freedom from your sins, and also the power to become an overcoming Christian. By your faith in receiving Jesus as your personal Savior, you too can become a member of the family of God, a saved soul. What have you got to lose, except your sins and heartaches?

This world will lie to you. It will say that the Christian life is dull and tasteless with no variety. Look at God's creation! He made plenty of everything, and the Bible says He gives us all things freely to enjoy. You can have a new life in Christ that is worthwhile, instead of your own strength and life being thrown into the garbage can and going to the devil. And folks can say they're glad you passed their way and showed by your new life that Christ and salvation are real and that the Bible is true because it works! I'd like to have it said at my burial that my life had been a blessing to others and not a stumbling block and a waste.

Are you sick and tired of living for self and the devil? Have the scars of sin left you empty, disgusted, and feeling like ending it all?

Are you sick and tired of living for self and the devil?

Have you said, *“I can't live the Christian Life? 10,000 wonder if there is one ounce of ability left in me . . . I would fail before week went by!”* God knows that, my friend, and that is why He has sent a stream of spiritual help your way through His Son Jesus, His Word, His Church, His Spirit baptism, and His consecrated Saints.

There's more to being saved than knowing a catechism, being baptized, signing a card, or taking out a membership. Don't sell Christianity short. It is more than sentiments. It is salvation and deliverance from sin by the coming into your heart of the Spirit of Christ Jesus Himself, our wonderful Lord. The Bible says Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Trust Him, rely on Him, and place your utmost confidence in His finished work on the Cross for you, and He will save you here now.

Satan has helped you put it off until you are at the point where you are now about to miss Hell by the skin of your teeth. We cannot escape the fact that we must reckon with God at the Judgment. There will be a giving of an account of all evil deeds done in our body and all the good deeds. Each one of us must stand before God with his sins forgiven and blotted out by the Blood of Jesus, or be seen uncovered before all, and hear the Judge of all the world say *“Depart from Me, ye workers of iniquity, into everlasting punishment where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth”*.

Matthew 7:23:

And then will I [Jesus] profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

Luke 13:27-28a:

27 But He [Jesus] shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity.

28a There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth,

God commands everyone of us to repent of our sins, but He has appointed a day in which He will judge all men by Jesus Christ Whom He has sent. Receive this message as a flash warning to your soul through the love of God to awaken you to prepare to meet thy God.

The thing to do now is to kneel where you are and cry out to God to save you.



The first voluntary step towards God is your initial step to a new life. The others will come freely and easily.

Receiving pardon by your receiving Christ as your personal Savior will release the transforming power of the Holy Spirit of God into your life which is called the New Birth by Jesus. That is our loving Lord's provision for you for the Judgment and to make Heaven!

I'm glad God called me to bring this message of life and hope your way. Believe it, and receive Him as your Savior. Then, let me know what the Lord has done in your life that we may rejoice in the Lord with you. Better still, come to the church and give your testimony of the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

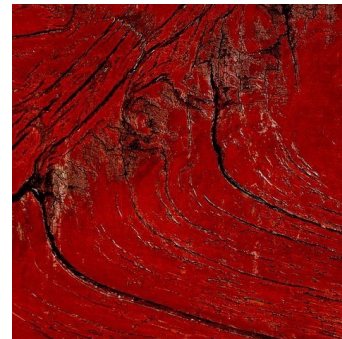
To this end my life has been dedicated to the Lord, that by sharing the Gospel — the Good News — I may help you find the Lord Who is precious to your soul, as others have.

Many years ago, some dear people brought this glorious Gospel of Good News to my ears, for which I shall be eternally grateful. I feel like debtors to all mankind that they might have the same opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes

Romans 1:16: I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Remember, though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow.

Isaiah 1:18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.



1 John 1:7-9:

7 But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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