

### What is Your Focus?

A New Year is before us. What your heart is focused on is eternally important. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). Are you passionate to have a heart like Jesus, and to focus on what He was focused on? A heart like Jesus is a pure heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). Purity of heart requires patience, decency, and discretion. A heart like Jesus is meek and humble. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29). Christians must take heart or take courage (John 16:33). Life has difficulties and where your heart is will determine your reaction. A strong spiritual heart will get you through life and prepare you to be with God eternally. Is your heart right with God and loving toward man?

- Charles Box, Walnut Street church of Christ, Greenville, AL (*Bulletin Digest*) -

### The Greatest Treasure

The famous newspaper publisher, William Randolph Hearst, invested a literal fortune collecting art treasures from around the world. One day Mr. Hearst found a description of a painting that he was interested in. So he sent an agent to trace the history of the painting and contact its current owner so that he could purchase it. After months of searching, the agent reported that he had finally found the treasured painting. It was in Mr. Hearst's warehouse. Hearst had been searching frantically for a treasure he already owned! Had he read the catalog of his treasures, he would have saved himself a great deal of money and trouble.

That graphically illustrates many Christians today. Many today seek some supposed "deeper life" or "higher blessing" through many earthly sources. They desire a better life and search bookstores, the Internet, and the advice of others. Like William Randolph Hearst, they are clueless of what they already own - the Word of God, which has all the answers. If people will only search that, they will find all the treasures God has given. According to 2 Pet. 1:3, everything we need for life and godliness is in the Bible.

When Jesus was teaching some hard things for some to accept, some were leaving Him. To that, He turned to His apostles and asked, "Do you also want to go away? Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:67-68).

With a new year on our doorstep, resolve to get more into the treasures you already have - in God's word! The answer is in God's word - for a better life, for salvation, for comfort, for everything!

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

*Our hope is not in the New Year, but in the ONE who makes all things new.*

### News & Notes

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To **Shawn & Nikki Beagle** on the birth of twin boys, Walker & Watson, on **Jan. 1st**. The grandparents are Randy & Susan Beagle, Gerald & Tracy Clutter, and the great grandparents are Stan & Peggy Williams, Yvonne Price (Tracy's mom in Florida). Best wishes to all.

**SYMPATHY:** To the family of John Yuker at his recent passing. To his brother-in-law, **Melvin "Pete" Reed**, and his nieces **Melissa Barr** and **Carrie Wright**. God bless and comfort this family.

**CORRECTION ON OUR 2023 SCHEDULE:** (Inserted in last week's bulletin). Our **Fall Gospel Meeting's speaker** will be **Charles Pugh** instead of Tim Hatfield. Please make the change on your schedule.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Each **Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next **Saturday, Jan. 14th, 8:30 a.m.** at the Columbiana Church of Christ

**HOME VISITS:** Our Elders and Bro. Rico will be making visits **this month** to delinquent members' homes to encourage them to return.

**PANTRY:** Applesauce.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Twila Adamson, Glenn & Mae McMahan.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home:** Susan Beagle, Tim Martin (covid), Jim Hadley, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox, Pepperry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **Weston, WV:** Rick & Sharon Beck, 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

### What a Friend We Have in Jesus

"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a Friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

We all have a Friend. Jesus left heaven to come to earth to live-and die-for you and me. He was tempted just as we are so He would know the trials we would have to face in our sojourn on earth. He knew the pain and burden of rejection that we sometimes experience from those for those for which we deeply care. He watched as a trusted friend betrayed Him-and then listened as many who had witnessed His miraculous works shouted, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him" In the greatest act of love ever, instead of calling for angels to protect Himself, He let sin-plagued men nail Him to the cross. He gave His life to save not only those crucifying Him, but you and me. You see, we also "crucify" Jesus every time we sin willfully (Hebrews 10:26).

We are blessed to know a Friend that understands our every problem. Jesus said, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14). Are you His friend?

- John K. Wills Owingsville, KY (via North End Church of Christ, Parkersburg, WV) -



*Friends are like quilts -  
lives pieced together,  
stitched with smiles,  
colored with memories  
and bound by love.*