

## 5 Things to Forget

The New Year should be a time for forgetting. If we are to accomplish anything worthwhile in the days ahead, we must cultivate the art of forgetting. There are things which must be laid to rest in the past before we are ready for the future. Paul had this in mind when he wrote, "...forgetting those things which are behind ...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14).

What are some of the things we need to forget in order to make a success of the Christian life?

**1. OUR SETBACKS.** We are too prone to brood over our losses—especially financial and material losses. But Jesus taught that the only loss which should truly concern us is the loss of the soul! (Matt. 16:26). Losing friends, or health, or job, or property, or position are minor inconveniences compared to the excellency of gaining Christ. (Phil. 3:8).

**2. OUR SLIGHTS.** We must not dwell on past grievances or injuries. Indwelling hatred or resentment poisons a person's whole perspective on life. There is not much room for anything else in a heart filled with bitterness. "...let not the sun go down upon your wrath." (Eph. 4:26).

**3. OUR SUCCESSES.** Many a good man has been ruined by success. Saul of Gibeah was a noble man until he was elected king of Israel and then his life turned to tragedy. "For I say ... to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." (Rom. 12:3). Let us remember without the mercy of God we could do nothing, have nothing, be nothing.

**4. OUR SORROWS.** We must not allow our sorrows to imprison us in the past. As one old preacher used to say, "We must look for life's pearls!" "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:18).

**5. OUR SINS.** We must not allow our sins to defeat us. With God's help, we can put them behind us. Sin can be cleaned from our lives. The blood of Christ is more powerful than sin! Let us, therefore, "...lay aside...the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1).

God grant us both the wisdom to know what needs to be forgotten and the will to do it in the coming year.

- Bobby Dockery, *Bulletin Digest* -

### *The Daily Cross*

Charge not yourself with the weight of a year,  
Child of the Master, faithful and dear;  
Choose not the cross for the coming week,  
For that is more than He bids you seek.  
Bend not your arms for tomorrow's load;  
You may leave that to your gracious God.  
"Daily" only He says to thee,  
"Take up your cross and follow Me."

- Author Unknown -

### IN THE NEW YEAR ... THINGS WE CAN DO AS CHRISTIANS

**Put God First** - Matthew 6:33

**Love One Another** - 1 Peter 1:22

**Do Good Works** - Matthew 5:16

**Study God's Word** - 2 Timothy 2:15



For the New Year: *May you be poor in misfortunes and rich in blessings.* Irish Proverb

## News & Notes

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Austin Haught on achieving, in his first quarter, a 4.0 grade average and being on the Dean's List in Industrial Maintenance at the New Castle School of Trades in East Liverpool.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE: Congregational fellowship breakfast** (prepared and served by the men) **next Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m.** at the Fellowship Building **followed at 10:00 a.m.** by a Bible question & answer period (this will be in lieu of our regular Wednesday evening Bible study).

**MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Jan. 4th, 8:00 a.m.** at EJ's Restaurant in Chester.

**NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, Jan. 4th, 2:30 p.m.** at Fox.

**PIZZA PARTY:** An after Christmas/New Year's pizza party will be held **next Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** at the Fellowship Building. All are invited. **R.S.V.P. Dean & Sandy Spencer TODAY, Dec. 29th.** Money donations accepted to help defray the cost.

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER & EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE: Next Sunday, Jan. 5th, about noon** at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

**EVENTS SUSPENDED: The following are temporarily suspended until further notice** during our building renovations:

- **Ladies Bible Class** (Room 206).
- **Up Front Bible drills** (Sunday evenings) suspended until February.
- **Care and Share Bears** (Tuesday mornings).
- **Men's Enrichment Bible Class** (Tuesday evenings).
- **Membership Directory** (pictures and updates).

**PANTRY:** Noodles and crackers.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Lucas Barnhart (2 year old great grandson of Carolyn Pallard). Lucas has multiple health issues and will undergo testing.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: CITY HOSPITAL:** Ruth Hartzell. **WEIRTON MEDICAL:** Rich Robinson. **ENCOMPASS REHAB:** Carol Stillwell 351 Camp Meeting Rd., Room 115, Sewickley, PA 15143. **AT HOME:** Docie Moore, Mary Jane Bowers, Emma Rine, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

### MOVING ON

Some people are not able to enjoy the present or prepare for tomorrow because they are still living in the past. Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe has put it like this: "Do not say, 'Why were the former days better than these? You do not move ahead by constantly looking in the rear view mirror. The past is a rudder to guide you, not an anchor to drag you down. We must learn from the past but not live in the past.' Or as Thomas Holdcroft once put it, 'The past is a guide post, not a hitching post.'"

- *The Encourager*, Southside Church of Christ, Killeen, TX -