

2017

I do not know, I cannot see
 what God's hand prepares for me.
 Nor can my glance pierce through the haze
 which covers all my future ways.
 But yet I know that o'er it all
 rules He who notes the sparrow's fall.
 Farewell, Old Year, with goodness crowned,
 a Hand Divine hath set my bound.
 Welcome the New Year, which shall bring
 fresh blessings from my God and King.
 - Author Unknown -

2018

What NOT To Take Into The New Year

- ♦ **Self-help Books** - Trust in God first; don't turn to Him as a last resort. (See Prov. 3:5-6).
- ♦ **Tape Measure** - Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14).
- ♦ **Rearview Mirror** - Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Phil. 3:12-14).
- ♦ **Gavel** - Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38).
- ♦ **Life Vest** - Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matt. 14:22-33).
- ♦ **Garage-door Opener** - We think we're networked, but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Heb. 10:23-25).
- ♦ **Handcuffs** - Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through - and despite - us. Just follow Him with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44).

- Gregg McCaslin -
The Encourager,
 Southside Church of Christ, Killeen, TX

*Not yesterday's load we are called on to bear,
 Nor the morrow's uncertain and shadowy care;
 Why should we look forward or back with dismay?
 Our needs, as our mercies, are but for the day.*
 - Anne Johnson Flint - ©

SEVEN RESOLUTIONS

The following is a list of resolutions by Walter Schoedel. He calls them '7-UPS for the New Year.' No, this has nothing to do with the soft drink. These 7-UPS fall under the heading of attitudes and actions.

The first is **WAKE-UP**. Begin the day with the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.

The second is **DRESS-UP**. Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude.

The third is **SHUT-UP**. Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Say nice things. Learn to listen.

The fourth is **STAND-UP**. Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good.

Five, **LOOK-UP**. Open your eyes to the Lord. After all, He is your only Savior.

Six, **REACH-UP**. Spend time in prayer with your adorations, confessions, thanksgivings and supplications to the Lord.

And finally, **LIFT-UP**. Be available to help those in need - serving, supporting, and sharing.

Why do we bother to make New Year's resolutions in the first place? Why do we feel this need each January 1 to set new goals? Maybe it is because resolutions help us to identify our priorities. They answer the Question: how do I want to invest my time, energy, money, and talents in this New Year? The New Year reminds us that time is passing. It is up to each of us to maximize the potential of every moment.

- Walter Schoedel - [adapted]
The Encourager,
 Southside Church of Christ, Killeen, TX

To enjoy your walk with God, keep in step with His Word.

News & Notes

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: For **Steve Higginbotham**. Steve had surgery Friday, Dec. 29th at UT Medical Center to remove a melanoma from his foot. He will be incapacitated for approximately one month. His address is: 3318 October Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

1st ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY BREAKFAST: Tomorrow, Jan. 1st, 9:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Bldg. **FREE** for all the congregation. Breakfast will be prepared and served by the men. Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer for food planning purposes. Make this a success by planning to join in this time of fellowship.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited and urged to help in this good work.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: Resumes Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Jan. 6th, 8:00 a.m. at Connie's Corner in Chester.

MAILING PARTY: Next Saturday, Jan. 6th, 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Bldg. This is a one piece card mailer promoting the Virginia Avenue & St. Clair Avenue Churches of Christ. Cards are to be sorted and bundled for Post Office routes.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

COVERED DISH DINNER & EARLY P.M. SERVICE: Next Sunday, Jan. 7th at about Noon at Fellowship Bldg. This will be followed by an early worship service at 2:00 p.m. (instead of 5:30 pm.) at the church building. This early service time will apply only once a month following our covered dish dinners.

PANTRY: Toilet paper & soap.

SICK & SHUT-IN: CLEVELAND CLINIC: David Stefl. **WEIRTON MEDICAL CENTER:** Tim Adkins. **CARRIAGE INN, WINTERSVILLE:** Mary Jane Bowers. **At Home:** Russell Martin, Mary Helen Riley, Linda Wiersbicki, Fred Larrimore, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

*Life is a book in volumes three,
 The past, the present, the yet-to-be.*

*The past is written and laid away;
 The present we're writing day by day.*

*The last and best of volumes three
 Is locked from sight; God keeps the key.*

- Author Unknown -

With God's Help

With steadfast heart and true
 Go forward on your way;
 God gives us strength to do
 The duties of each day.
 So daily may this thought
 Your heart with courage fill:
 "I can, because I ought,
 And, with God's help, I will!"
 - Author Unknown -