

A NEW YEAR BEGINS

Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 65:11-12** – God crowns the year with His goodness – good to remember each new year
- 2) All good and perfect gifts come down from God (Jas. 1:17)
- 3) A new year has just begun on our calendar
 - a) Profitable to reflect on blessings we received, successes we enjoyed, and failures we endured
 - b) Natural to look forward in anticipation of what may come in the days ahead
- 4) As each new year begins, the Christian is reminded of spiritual truths that are of great importance

THE START OF A NEW YEAR REMINDS US...

I) OF OUR CREATOR

- A) We are reminded that “the Lord, He is God” (Psa. 100:3)
- B) Measuring time in periods known as “years” originated not with man, but with God (Gen. 1:14)
- C) Each new year reminds us that God, who is above all, created the world and time

II) THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD

- A) Jesus came into the world to save sinners (Lk. 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:15; Gal. 4:4-5)
- B) Our Gregorian calendar is based on the coming of Christ into the world
 - 1) AD = *Anno Domini* – Latin for “year of our Lord”
- C) No one has had the impact upon the world that Jesus has had

III) OF GOD’S MERCY

- A) God will judge the world by His Son, Jesus (Acts 17:31)
 - 1) This will happen on the “last day” (John 12:48)
- B) Each new year reminds us that the last day has not yet come
 - 1) This is because of God’s continuing grace and longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:9)
 - 2) The Day of Judgment will signal the end of God’s grace toward the unrighteous (2 Thess. 1:6-8)
- C) Each new day and year means God is giving more time for sinners to repent and be saved

IV) THAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES LIE AHEAD

- A) People view a new year as a fresh start – make new year’s resolutions
- B) There are opportunities of a spiritual nature
 - 1) Opportunities to grow and learn (2 Pet. 3:18)
 - 2) Help those in need (Gal. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:14)
 - 3) Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17)
 - 4) Spread the gospel to others (Mk. 16:15)

Conclusion

The Lord does not promise anyone another year, or even another day, but He has granted us the beginning of this new year. Determine to put God first this year. Every day is an opportunity to prepare yourself and others for eternity (2 Cor. 6:2).