

AT THE OPENING GATES OF A NEW YEAR
Hebrews 12:1-3

INTRODUCTION

- A. "Today is the first day of the rest of my life."
 - 1. Joshua 3:4
 - 2. James 4:13-15
 - a. Psalm 90:2
 - 3. Psalm 90:12, "...so *we may present...*"
 - 4. Ephesians 5:16, "...*making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*"

I. THE TIME OF YEAR TO TAKE STOCK.

- A. Year in Review.
 - 1. Three births: Ella Rose, Avery Leigh, Jase Brooks.
 - a. Note: 20 grandchildren (or great-grands).
 - 2. We lost loved ones: Louis McGuire, Velma Watkins, Rosalynn Spencer, Aileen Coston.
 - a. Note: 20 family members.
 - 3. Moved out: Sharpes, Melba Dunn
 - 4. Moved in: Lowreys, Shaylin Owens, Evan Stobaugh, Shirlene Jacobs, Pat Davis.
 - 5. United in marriage: Pat & Heather Johnson, Tyler & Sarah Doshier.
 - 6. Baptisms: Ryan Usry, Nick Clark.
 - 7. Three new deacons appointed: Jeff Newton, Josh Pettigrew, Jeremy Wilson.
 - 8. Secretary added to the office staff.

II. LAY ASIDE THE WEIGHT WHICH HOLDS US BACK. Hebrews 12:1

- A. Probably referring to unbelief – which causes other problems.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:1 – Lay aside [KJ], rid yourselves [NIV].
 - 2. Revelation 3:15-16 – lukewarmness.
 - 3. James 4:4 – friendship with the world.

III. RESOLVE:

- A. Good resolutions are necessary for moral and spiritual advancement.
- B. Resolve to improve yourself. 1 Peter 2:2
 - 1. Become more like Christ. 1 Peter 2:21
- C. Resolve to read your Bible daily. 1 Timothy 4:13 (2 Tim. 2:15)
- D. Resolve to pray every day. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- E. Determine to resist the devil. James 4:7-8 (1 Pet. 5:8-9)
- F. Resolve to go forward. Philippians 3:13-14
- G. Resolve to seek the **BEST**. Philippians 1:10; 4:8

CLOSING

- A. Can we do it?
 - 1. If we resolve to give ourselves first to the Lord. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
 - 2. If we want to. Nehemiah 4:6, "...for the people had a mind to work."
 - 3. IF WE BELIEVE!! Matthew 17:20; James 2:26

