

AN OLD YEAR ENDS

Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 65:11-12** – God crowns the year with His goodness
- 2) This truth is good to remember each new year and all year long
- 3) An “old” year is just about to end on our calendar – today is December 31, 2023
 - a) A time to reflect on blessings received, successes enjoyed, and failures endured
 - b) Marking our progress over the past year can help us prepare for the new year 2024
(the sermon preached on January 1, 2023, 364 days ago, is reproduced on the back of this page)
- 4) At the end of an old year, the Christian is reminded of spiritual truths that are of great importance

THE END OF AN OLD 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
- D) Each end of year reminds us that we live within the transitions of time, but the changes of time do not affect the nature of God or His will (2 Pet. 3:8-9; Heb. 13:8)

II) THAT THE RETURN OF JESUS IS CLOSER

- A) Our Gregorian calendar is based on the first coming of Christ into the world
 - 1) AD = *Anno Domini* – Latin for “year of our Lord”
- B) The end of each year reminds us that time is passing away, and we are all moving closer to the last day when Jesus will return to judge the world (Acts 17:30-31; Jn. 12:48; Rom. 13:11)

III) OF GOD’S LONGSUFFERING

- A) The ending of an old year reminds us that the judgment day has not yet come
 - 1) This is because of God’s continuing grace and longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:9)
- B) Each ending of an old year means God still desires that all men be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4)

IV) THAT OPPORTUNITIES COME AND GO

- A) People view a new year as a fresh start – make new year’s resolutions
 - 1) At the end of the year we can reflect on what we have accomplished
 - a) Money made, trips taken, college classes passed, births, deaths, etc.
- B) There are opportunities of a spiritual nature – how many passed us by?
 - 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 we are blessed to have this present time to live for serving God. Determine to put Him first more than you ever have before in the new year. The day of salvation is now (2 Cor. 6:2).

This sermon was preached 364 days ago on January 1, 2023

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).