

Mt Zion Christian Church Newsletter-JANUARY 2019-Happy New Year

(Published in memory of Miss Lillian Sharpe)

A New Year in Christ: 8 New Ways to Live

by Mark Driscoll

Welcome to the holiday hangover. One more helping of optimism served with a dose of regret is the typical prescription . . . otherwise known as New Year's resolutions.

In the world of marketing, this time of year is known as the "new year, new you" phenomenon, and you'll see evidence all over the place. Self-help books show up on the bestseller list, magazine stands tout the latest diet fad, and cardio machines will be hard to come by at the gym. Even in the church we see a surge in attendance every January.

The general consensus is clear: we could all use some work, and this year might finally be the year when everything changes for the better. We try exercise. We try to eat right. We try to kick our bad habits. We try positive thinking. We try religion. We try a new schedule. We all know too well, however, that the "new you" usually doesn't survive beyond the Super Bowl.

I'm not at all opposed to healthy living, getting organized, eating right, and all of that. But the rejuvenated identity we're hoping to gain through self-improvement will eventually disappoint because it never lasts. It may take days or it may take years, but the battle ultimately goes the way of all mortal efforts.

Despite the fact that failure trumps resolve on an annual basis, we continue "striving after wind" in search of that elusive fresh start, new beginning, and better identity (Ecclesiastes 2:11). Today, I have good news: the search is over. The answer isn't anything new, but it does make everything new.

"Therefore," the Bible says, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The reason why life keeps not working is because we need a new life. As Jesus himself described, we need to be "born again" (John 3:3).

Due to the curse of sin, we are all born alive in the physical sense but dead in the spiritual sense. Even for all two of you who actually keep your New Year's resolutions, just try to do everything else right for the rest of your life and it will become painfully obvious that we're all hopelessly enslaved to sin. Resolutions can't rescue us; we need to be reborn entirely.

By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be born again through faith (trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus) and repentance (turning from our sins). Anyone can admire the life of Jesus, but those who are born again experience the life of Jesus and all of its benefits, including:

1. New Lord

If you're born again, your highest authority becomes Jesus rather than yourself. He is a good king who loves his people.

2. New life

If you're born again, you finally get a fresh start. You can't meet Jesus and not change.

3. New identity

If you're born again, you receive an identity rather than trying to achieve it. A fresh start doesn't mean we're perfect from here on out, but it does mean that the thing that defines you is Jesus—his love, his forgiveness, his steadfast presence—rather than your success and failure in life.

4. New power

If you're born again, you get the Holy Spirit. No true change is possible without the work of God's supernatural presence.

5. New mind

If you're born again, you start to think differently. You begin seeing the world in relation to God and his plan and perspective.

6. New community

If you're born again, you get a new family. God adopts you as a Father, Jesus is a saving big brother, and the church is his family.

7. New desires

If you're born again, your deepest desires change. You start doing things you never wanted to do and stop doing things you used to love. For me, I knew something drastic had changed when I started wanting to read my Bible. It was a miracle.

8. New destiny

Finally, if you're born again, you're saved from your sin and reconciled to the sinless God, adopted into his kingdom of peace for all eternity. "Truly, truly," Jesus said, "unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

Don't settle for a new version of the old you when you can have new life forever in Jesus.

On December 5th the Mt Zion Support Group met at Blue Ribbon in Mebane. 5 were present and enjoyed good food and great fellowship. The group will meet again on January 2, 2019 to kick off a new year of fun meetings. Please come and join us at Ruby Tuesday's at 11:30am.

Libby Atkins

*Sing to the Lord a new
song; sing to the Lord, all the
earth. Sing to the Lord, praise
his name; proclaim his salvation
day after day. Declare his
glory among the nations, his
marvelous deeds among all
peoples.*

Psalms 96: 1-3

Happy Birthday

- 1/2 Braxton Wilson
1/3 Sandra G Freshwater
1/4 Kay Cole, Landon Cole, Joey Byrd
1/6 Benton Greer
1/7 Libby Rainey, Janet Lynch Thompson, Ginnie Tate
1/8 Bryant Byrd
1/9 Andrew Chilton
1/10 Libby Atkins, Odis Johnson
1/11 Pete Enroughty
1/12 David Hughes
1/13 James Wellons III, Rachel VanDusen
1/14 Tommy Allen
1/15 John Kinsland
1/17 Myrtle Shelton
1/18 Cedar Glasgow
1/19 Cody Burgess
1/20 Rodney Alvis
1/21 Linda Shue, Jerry Bradsher, Ethan Alvis, Brent Poole
1/22 Troy Glasgow
1/23 Eddie Glasgow
1/24 Lily Powell
1/25 Mirta Rodriguez, Ryan Vaughan, Taylor Wellons
1/26 Lu-Anne Loy, Sam Wilson
1/27 Michelle Patrum, Wesley Flake
1/28 Lisa Gough, Connor Oakley, Charles Tatum
1/29 Amy Davis, Floyd Bradsher, Sarah Capps Courtney Bowman
1/30 Destiny Burgess
1/31 Vivian Wynn, Matthew Yeatts, Aidyn Byrd

Happy Anniversary

- 1/17 Alvin & Peggy Brooks
1/18 Craig & Corrina Carter
1/19 Gary & Teresa Moran, Tommy & Bernice Moore
1/28 Jerry & Paula Mullis, Joey & Mary Byrd

Activities for January 2019

Each Wednesday Night-----Adult Bible Study @ 6:30PM
Choir Practice @ 7:30PM

- 1/1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 2019
1/2 Mt Zion Support-Ruby Tuesday's @ 11:30AM
1/5 Unhanging of the greens @ 9AM
1/6 Flower Fund Collection-Sunday School
1/7 Ladies Circle Meeting @ 6:30PM
1/14 BOCE/Deacons/Deaconesses @7PM
1/26 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7AM

IN THE BEGINNING

T T H O R N S F I G A R D E N
W S R N L E A V E S T N A L P
O I S E E D W A T E R I U H R
M S E V E N T H I S T L E S L
A E R A D E Y E B O S I D I T
N N P E C S R E S T E D V F I
E E E H H I N O I T A E R C U
A G N A E W A N I M A L S F R
R A T D R O W S G N I M A L F
T M A A U G N I N N I G E B E
H I M M B E E G D E L W O N K
A F R A I D E C I O V S M O T
D E T P M E T A E R C I E M D
R E P L E H L I G H T K R A D
N D O O F M O O N Y B I R D S

Adam, Afraid, Animals,
Beginning, Birds, Cherubim,
Create, Creation, Dark,
Disobeyed, Driven, Earth, Enmity,
Evil, Fig, Fish, Flaming sword,
Food, Fruit, Garden, Genesis,
Good, Heaven, Helper, Image,
Knowledge, Leaves, Light, Moon,
Old Testament, Plants, Rested,
Seas, Seed, Serpent, Seventh,
Sun, Tempted, Thistles, Thorns,
Tree, Voice, Water, Wise, Woman

After you have found all the words, put the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.

Last month's answer: **FRANKINCENSE**

Each month we will show an individual's favorite hymn and Bible verse.

Dean Shue: What a Day That Will Be

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

From the Pastor's Desk-----December 2018

Dear Church Family,

We have been Blessed with a Wonderful Advent Season and a Very Merry Christmas at Mount Zion.

To see so many children among us this month has truly Blessed my heart and I know it has yours as well. To watch them come forward at Children's Time and hear the story of the Advent Candles and to learn about Hope, Joy, Peace and Love, and see the Christ Candle lit and know the real reason for Christmas....The greatest gift ever given... Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

We had a wonderful play and the Christmas Party that followed with delicious desserts and a special guest who delivered gifts to all the children.

We truly enjoyed the Christmas Songs sung by our Choir...they filled our hearts with the Joy of the coming of our Savior to this world...Emmanuel...God With Us!

Thank you for everything you have done for Cathy and me this Christmas and for the last 15 years! The Love Offering, the special gifts and delicious candy and desserts. You are so kind and caring.

Cathy and I pray for you daily and we thank God for bringing us all together. And most of all...WE LOVE YOU!

We look forward with great anticipation to the New Year 2019...to see what Our God has in store for all of us!

God Loves you.....and so do we!

pastor rick and cathy