

Mt Zion Christian Church Newsletter-JANUARY 2020

(Published in memory of Miss Lillian Sharpe)

Question: "What sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make?"

Answer: The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself?

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring and/or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow

them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

(From the website gotquestions.org)

Our Support luncheon was at Cracker Barrel on December 4. This closed out our 10th year. We remembered Ophelia at this lunch. She missed very few times. Ophelia enjoyed these luncheons so much and loved everyone who came. There were ten in attendance today enjoying good food and fellowship.

We were so glad to have Pastor Rick with us.

Our next lunch will be on January 1, 2020 at La Fiesta in Mebane at 11:30am.

Please come and help us start off our 11th year.

We miss you Ophelia!!
Libby

Lord, make 2020 a very happy year for all of us at Mount Zion.

Not by shielding us from sorrow & pain but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes.

Not by taking hardship from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet those hardships.

Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright even in the shadows.

Not by making our lives pleasant, but by showing us where others and your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there to help.....

We pray also Lord you will bless us as a local congregation, Not with great numbers of people who come looking for entertaining activities and services...

But with abundant opportunities to teach your word and do your work here in this area in all sincerity and truth Nor do we pray that you will make our name great as a local church, but that through us your great name will be magnified.

Father, make our year a happy one!

In Jesus Name,
Amen

(excerpted from Bulletin Fodder)

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 Janet L Thompson, Libby Rainey,
Gina T Demick
- 1/8 Bryant Byrd
- 1/9 Andrew Chilton
- 1/10 Libby Atkins, Odis Johnson
- 1/11 Pete Enroughty
- 1/12 David Hughes
- 1/13 Rachel Van Dusen
- 1/14 Tommy Allen
- 1/15 John Kinsland
- 1/17 Myrtle Shelton
- 1/18 Cedar Glasgow
- 1/19 Cody Burgess
- 1/21 Linda Shue, Jerry Bradsher, Brent Poole
- 1/22 Troy Glasgow
- 1/23 Eddie Glasgow
- 1/24 Lily Powell
- 1/25 Mirta Rodriguez, Ryan Vaughan
- 1/26 Lu-Anne Loy, Sam Wilson
- 1/27 Michelle Patrum
- 1/28 Lisa Gough, Connor Oakley, Charles Tatum
- 1/29 Amy Davis
- 1/30 Destiny Burgess
- 1/31 Vivian Wynn, Matthew Yeatts,
Aidyn Shane Byrd

Happy Anniversary

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

*“May he give you the desire
of your heart and make
all your plans succeed.”
Psalm 20:4 (NIV)*

THE BEGINNING

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

Abel, Adam, Antelope, Apples, Birds,
Blackberries, Blueberries, Brazen, Cain,
Canaan, Cantaloupe, Cherries, Created,
Darkness, Deer, Earth, Enoch, Enos,
Firmament, Fishes, Gazelle, Giraffe,
Grass, Heaven, Japheth, Jared,
Lamech, Light, Moon, Noah, Plants,
Raspberry, Sabbath, Seth, Solomon,
Stars, Watermelon, Waters, Wickedness

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

Last month's answer: MESSIAH

Activities for January 2020

- Each Wednesday Night-----Youth & Adult Bible Study
@ 6:30PM
- 1/1 Mt Zion Support Group @11:30am La Fiesta
 - 1/4 Ladies Bible Study @ 9am
Unhanging of the Greens @ 10:30am
 - 1/5 Flower Fund---Sunday School
 - 1/6 Ladies Circle Meeting @ 6:30pm
 - 1/13 BOCE/Deacons/Deaconesses Meet @ 7pm
 - 1/25 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7am
 - 1/26 Deacon's Fund Collection

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK----DECEMBER 2019

The year 2019 is almost over and a new decade is upon us.

What a year it has been. We have seen many highs and lows...but we experienced them together as family.

We have Loved Ones who have gone on to Glory before us...but, we are strengthened by our great HOPE, the HOPE we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We know that soon and very soon...we will be reunited with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Paradise! What a Great Hope!

We have been Blessed to see God work miracle after miracle within our church family and our community. Our God is still in the miracle and healing business and He is answering the prayers of His children!

God has truly Blessed us with many different opportunities of Worship, Praise and Fellowship during 2019.

May we support, all our Church Activities in the upcoming year, because we are so Blessed to have members who give of their time and talents, to bring all these wonderful events to Mt. Zion for us.

Let us take time to thank all who serve on our many Committees, our Security Team, our Van Driver, Choir and Musicians, our teachers and helpers, and all who toil and serve without recognition, as they do all they can, to make our Church thrive, for the Glory of God.

May God Bless each of you as we go into this New Year and may we continue to Worship and work together as family...for His Glory and His Honor.

IHS,
pastor rick