



WEEKLY SERMON

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Sunday January 7, 2024
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Message: Character

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Text: See lesson

Your success as a Christian necessitates a fresh, introspective look at regular intervals. Vows must be renewed. Resolve must be repeated, again and again. In order to keep on track during 2024, let me challenge you to consider these worthy commitments.

1. Attend each week - **“Three to Thrive”** - Sunday School, Sunday morning church, Sunday night service and Wednesday night activities.
2. Set aside time each day to **PRAY** and to **READ** your Bible.
3. Give your **TITHES** and **OFFERINGS** through your church, because the Lord commands it.
4. Get involved in one of your church’s ministries in a full scale, excited and enthusiastic manner.
5. Invite friends, family and neighbors regularly to come to church.
6. Live a holy life, dedicated to Christ, separated from the world, unapologetically lined up on the "straight and narrow" way, seven days a week.
7. Love your family, stay true to your commitments to your spouse, be faithful, loyal, peaceable, and loving with energetic attention to making your family a great family unit.
8. Walk with the Lord in a sweet relationship day-by-day with warm responsiveness to the will of God for your life.
9. Love each member in your church. Pray for each one of them; to be loyal to your church; and faithful to its service and ministry.
10. Assist your fellow Christians in the attempt to take the gospel to the whole world through personal witness, through support of the church's mission program, and through support of the church's various outreach efforts locally and beyond.

In I Corinthians 15:57-58 we read, **“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”**

Several concluding thoughts as we begin 2024:

Someone said, **“Tithes can build a church, but only tears can bring it to life.”** With the rising tide of “cerebral Christianity,” which tends to create swelling heads and hard hearts all across the land, we would do well to take heed to Psalm 126:5, **“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”** Another said, **“If your eyes leak, your head won’t swell.”** God always begins reviving His people by making their hearts tender. The ministry of tears is the birthplace of blessings. I hope the Tear Factor will be a channel of grace to your soul in 2024.

You say, but God says...

You say, **“It’s impossible.”** God says in Luke 18:27 **“All things are possible.”**
You say, **“I’m too tired.”** God says in Matthew 11:28-30, **“I will give you rest.”**
You say, **“Nobody really loves me.”** God says in John 3:16, **“I love you.”**

You say, **"I can't go on."** God says in Psalm 91:15, **"My grace is sufficient."**

You say, **"I can't figure things out."** God says in Proverbs 3:5-6, **"I will direct your steps."**

You say, **"I can't do it."** God says in Philippians 4:13, **"You can do all things."**

You say, **"It's not worth it."** God says in Romans 8:28, **"It will be worth it."**

You say, **"I can't forgive others."** God says in Romans 8:1 **"I forgive you."**

In ***His*** Amazing Grace during 2024

Pastor David Miklas

Discovering How To Have A Happy New Year In 2024

Bible Study Objectives:

1. To remind us that happiness comes from faith in believing/obeying God's Word and then waiting for the solution: (Hebrews 11:6)
2. To remind us that God has never failed to deliver on every promise He has ever made to mankind: (Numbers 23:19)
3. To remind us that the Bible explains how happiness can find all of us: (Psalms 1:1-3, 2:12, 33:12, 94:12, Proverbs 8:34)
4. To remind us that we can only successfully implement the behaviors that bring us happiness as we are empowered by Christ: (Philippians 4:13)

Bible Study Happiness Behaviors: Please note that none of these are natural or normal behaviors: (II Timothy 3:4)

1. Do you love one another? (John 13:34)
2. Do you care for one another? (I Corinthians 12:25)
3. Do you show kindness to one another? (Ephesians 4:32)
4. Do you serve one another? (Acts 13:36, Galatians 5:13)
5. Do you edify one another? (I Thessalonians 5:17)
6. Do you admonish one another? (Hebrews 3:13, Acts 20:31)
7. Do you forgive one another? (Matthew 18:21-35)
8. Do you bear one another's burdens? (Galatians 6:2)
9. Do you comfort one another? (I Thessalonians 4:18)
10. Do you pray for one another? (James 5:16, I Samuel 12:23)
11. Do you show compassion for one another? (I Peter 3:8)
12. Do you consider one another? (Hebrews 10:24)
13. Do you forbear one another? (Colossians 3:13)
14. Do you confess your faults to one another? (James 5:16)
15. Do you fellowship with one another? (I John 1:7)
16. Do you greet one another? (Romans 16:3-16)
17. Do you honor one another? (Romans 12:3-10, Philippians 2:3)
18. Do you receive one another? (Romans 14:1-4, Romans 15:7)
19. Do you seek unity in dealing with one another? (Ephesians 4:1-3)
20. Do you show hospitality to one another? (I Peter 4:7-10)
21. Do you submit to one another? (Ephesians 5:21-24)
22. Do you refrain from judging one another? (Romans 14:10-13)

23. Do you refrain from provoking one another? (Galatians 5:26)
24. Do you refrain from hating one another? (Titus 3:3)
25. Do you refrain from lying to one another? (Colossians 3:9)
26. Do you refrain from speaking evil of one another? (James 4:11)
27. Do you refrain from complaining about one another? (James 5:9)
28. Do you refrain from intimidating/bullying one another? (Galatians 5:15)

Bible Study Summary:

Remember this: We will reap what we sow, later than we sow, and more than we sow. In Galatians 6:7-8 we read, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Someone wrote: I've never made a fortune, and it's really too late now, but I don't worry about that much cause I'm happy anyhow. And as I look back over my life, I have reaped better than I sowed. In fact, I'm drinking from by saucer, cause my cup done overflowed. And may I never be too busy to forget to serve and encourage others with their load, for then I can keep drinking from my saucer, for my cup will have overflowed.

Here is an awesome little chorus to sing throughout the year of our Lord in 2024 -"Happiness is the Lord"

Happiness is to know the Savior,
Living a life within His favor,
Having a change in my behavior,
Happiness is the Lord.

Happiness is a new creation,
Jesus and me in close relation,
Having a part in His salvation,
Happiness is the Lord.

Happiness is to be forgiven,
Living a life that's worth the living,
Taking a trip that leads to heaven,
Happiness is the Lord,
Happiness is the Lord,
Happiness is the Lord!

The Above lesson was written by Tommy Dowling
a Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "Discovering How To Have A Happy New Year In 2024 " right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."
Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "I do want to go to Heaven.

I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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