



WEEKLY SERMON

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Sunday January 8, 2023
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Message: New Year - 2023

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May God's blessing be upon you this week as you read and meditate on **The Weekly SERMON**, written by Tom Dowling entitled, "**How to have a Happy New Year in 2023.**"

We live in an evil, uncertain, hard world. Who doesn't face personal uncertainty? You lose a job or retire. Your home needs maintenance. Where's the money going to come from? You face some uncertain physical problems. If you have children or grandchildren as I do, you always carry each of them in your heart. So how do we manage fear of the future? How can we find hope in God?

The author of the hymn "**My Hope is in the Lord**" was Norman Clayton who was born on January 22, 1903 in Brooklyn, New York, the ninth of ten children. Norman was converted at the age of six in the South Brooklyn Gospel Church, where his mother was a founding member. He became church organist by the age of 12 and kept up that role for the rest of his life. Clayton's profession was in the building industry, but he also created his own publishing house, **Gospel Songs**, which was later absorbed into the Rodeheaver Company. In 1942 he was working with Jack Wyrzten's **Word of Life** organization, providing music for both the radio broadcasts and crusade meetings.

**My hope is in the Lord – Who gave Him-self for me
And paid the price – Of all my sin at Calvary.**

**No merit of my own – His anger to suppress
My only hope is found – In Jesus' righteousness.**

**And now for me He stands –Before the Father's throne
He shows His wounded hands – And names me as His own.**

**His grace has planned it all – 'Tis mine but to believe
And recognize His work of love – And Christ receive.**

**CHORUS: For me He died; For me He lives,
And everlasting life – And light He freely gives.**

Yet in God we have some incredible promises to give us hope for the future, both in this life and especially the next. Over the next three cover letters to the **Weekly SERMON** we are going to focus on **TEN** unshakeable reasons for **HOPE**, along with an additional number of verses in scripture on **HOPE**. Here are the first three.

FIRST: Hope In God Because He Has **Good Plans** For You. In Jeremiah 29:11 where we read, "**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**" God has specific and wonderful plans for each of

his children. He has a plan for you, and it is a plan for your good. Plans for your joy. Plans to give you a future and a hope. They are according to His purpose, and nothing in heaven or on earth can stop God's purpose. I don't know how or when God will work out his plans for me, but I have been amazed in the past to see his sovereign will being worked out in amazing ways. His timing IS and WILL BE perfect.

We serve the God of **HOPE**, and your **HOPE** is not in this life alone. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you also have the hope of eternal life. God's good plans for you are for **TODAY, TOMORROW**, and for **ETERNAL** life.

SECOND: Hope In The Lord Because You'll See His **Goodness**. In Psalm 27:13-14 we read, "**I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. (14) Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.**" God promises believers will see his goodness in this life. You certainly will see his goodness in heaven but you'll see it here as well.

You'll see God answer prayers and meet needs. Don't give up! Keep hoping and waiting for the Lord's perfect timing. Be strong and take courage in your heart. Your hope won't be disappointed. You do have hope for the future! Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with joy and peace as you trust God to show His goodness to you. You can hope in God because he has promised He will fulfill.

THIRD: Hope In Jesus Christ Because Of His **Abundant Goodness**. In Psalm 31:19 we read, "**Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!**" God doesn't have just a few spare blessings, but **ABUNDANT GOODNESS STORED-UP** for you, and he wants for his perfect timing to shower it on you.

If you have taken refuge in God, then you can be absolutely sure that God will pour out his abundant goodness upon you. You might not see it at the moment, but it will indeed come. **Hope in God because he has promised to pour out his abundant, rich blessings on you.**

Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Romans 15:13 – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 5:1 – Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Deuteronomy 31:6 – Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Psalm 39:7 – And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

1 Timothy 6:17 – As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

Trust In God's Unfailing Love. Don't give up hope. Keep asking God to pour out his abundant goodness on you. Keep asking him to guide and instruct and show you the way you should go. Keep looking for his goodness. Keep hoping in the living God. I believe you will see God's goodness in this life and a millionfold in heaven. Your hope for the future isn't based on you. It's based on who God is and what he has promised.

In His Amazing Grace
Pastor David Miklas

Discovering How To Have A Happy New Year In 2023

Bible Study Objective:

1. Discover What It Takes To Be A Positive Leader For Your Family At Work – Home - Church: 2. Discover how Nehemiah Finished Well.

2. Bible Study Leadership Qualities of Nehemiah:

1. He knew the will of God and the plan God had for his current life: (Romans 8:29, Nehemiah 2:12)

2. He knew the power of prayer, the book of Nehemiah starts/ends with prayer: (Nehemiah 1:4, 13:31)

3. He knew and others knew his goal of rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem: (Nehemiah 2:18)

**A vision is a lifelong journey, Paul said “I press toward the prize”,
Long-term focus**

**A mission is how the goal - vision is to be accomplished, Nehemiah
had detailed a mission - plan**

4. He knew that he must submit to the civil authorities in his life: (Nehemiah 2:5, Romans 13:1)

5. He knew that he and his team had to be organized in their work: (Nehemiah 4:16)

6. He knew that enemies would attack, discourage and try to hinder the work: (Nehemiah 4:1)

7. He knew that he would have to work hard and get the people to do the same: (Nehemiah 4:21-23)

**8. He knew he would have to live an exemplary life, he must be blameless not
sinless: (I Timothy 3:2)**

**9. He knew that the people must know his ultimate motive was simply to glorify
God: (Nehemiah 6:16)**

**10. He knew that he must have courage if he expected the people to be
courageous: (Joshua 1:5-9)**

**11. He knew that the leader’s job is to constantly attract and develop other
leaders: (Nehemiah 7:1-4)**

**12. He knew that everyone would be tempted to quit so he must model
determination: (Nehemiah 4:4-6)**

**13. He knew that the good can be the enemy of the best, first things must be first:
(Nehemiah 6:2-3)**

14. He knew that marriage outside of the faith was the first step to destruction:
(Nehemiah 13:26)

15. He knew the Word of God is the only glue to hold a family or nation together:
(Nehemiah 8:8-9)

1. Life is joyous when we follow the rules, it is heartbreaking when we disobey them: (Matthew 11:20-30, Proverbs 13:15)

2. Bad choices lead to painful regret and a broken heart: (Exodus 11:10, II Samuel 12:10, II Corinthians 4:4, Romans 12:2)

3. Great choices lead to great happiness, remember, if it is to be, it is up to me: (Joshua 24:15, Deuteronomy 11:26-27)

The Christian Values Statement: How we are to treat each other: Check the ones you need to work on for 2023.

1. WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER: (JOHN 13:34, ROMANS 13:8, I PETER 12:22)

2. WE ARE TO HONOR ONE ANOTHER: (ROMANS 12:3,10, I CORINTHIANS 11:33, PHILIPPIANS 2:3)

3. WE ARE TO EDIFY ONE ANOTHER: (ROMANS 14:19, EPHESIANS 4:11-16, I THESSALONIANS 5:11)

4. WE ARE TO BE LIKEMINDED: (ACTS 2:1, ROMANS 12:16, I CORINTHIANS 1:10, EPHESIANS 4:3, PHILIPPIANS 1:27)

5. WE ARE TO RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER: (ROMANS 14:1-4, ROMANS 15:7)

6. WE ARE TO ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER: (ROMANS 15:14, HEBREWS 3:13)

7. WE ARE TO GREET ONE ANOTHER: (ROMANS 16:3-16, I CORINTHIANS 12:20, I PETER 5:14)

8. WE ARE TO CARE ONE FOR ANOTHER: (I CORINTHIANS 12:25)

9. WE ARE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER: (ACTS 13:36, GALATIANS 5:13)

10. WE ARE TO BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS: (GALATIANS 6:2)

11. WE ARE TO FORBEAR ONE ANOTHER: (EPHESIANS 4:2, COLOSSIANS 3:13)

12. WE ARE TO BE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER: (ROMANS 12:10, EPHESIANS 4:32)

13. WE ARE TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER: (EPHESIANS 4:32, MATTHEW 18:21-35, MARK 11:25-26)

14. WE ARE TO SUBMIT ONE TO ANOTHER: (EPHESIANS 5:21-24, HEBREWS 13:17, I PETER 2:13, 5:5)

15. WE ARE TO COMFORT ONE ANOTHER: (I THESSALONIANS 4:18, 5:11)

16. WE ARE TO CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER: (HEBREWS 10:24)

17. WE ARE TO CONFESS OUR FAULTS ONE TO ANOTHER: (JAMES 5:16)

18. WE ARE TO PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER: (JAMES 5:16, I SAMUEL 12:23)

19. WE ARE TO HAVE COMPASSION ONE FOR ANOTHER: (I PETER 3:8)

20. WE ARE TO USE HOSPITALITY ONE TO ANOTHER: (I PETER. 4:9, ROMANS 12:20, HEBREWS 13:2)

21. WE ARE TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER: (I JOHN 1:7)

The Christian Values Statement: (how we are NOT to treat each other)

1. WE ARE NOT TO JUDGE ONE ANOTHER: (ROMANS 14:13)

2. WE ARE NOT TO BITE AND DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER: (GALATIANS 5:15, I THESSALONIANS. 5:15)

3. **WE ARE NOT TO PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER: (GALATIANS 5:26)**
4. **WE ARE NOT TO ENVY ONE ANOTHER: (GALATIANS 5:26, TITUS 3:3)**
5. **WE ARE NOT TO LIE TO ONE ANOTHER: (COLOSSIANS 3:9)**
6. **WE ARE NOT TO SPEAK EVIL OF ONE ANOTHER: (JAMES 4:11)**
7. **WE ARE NOT TO COMPLAIN AGAINST ONE ANOTHER: (JAMES 5:9)**

Two Challenges for 2023

First: In Matthew 6:33 we read, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Here Jesus said the best choice is always to make God’s Kingdom our priority, our best choice. Everything else will fall into place accordingly.

Second: In I Thessalonians 5:16-18 we read, “Rejoice evermore.(17) Pray without ceasing. (18) In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Make 2023 a year of REJOICING, PRAYING and GIVING THANKS – all the time in everything. Someone said, “Take a saint, and put him in any condition and he knows how to rejoice in the Lord.

The Above lesson except for the several challenges for 2023 was written by Tom Dowling a Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**Discovering Happiness in 2023**" 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**](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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