

# WHAT SHOULD WE WANT IN THE COMING YEAR FOR OUR CHURCH?

## Philippians 3:10-14

**Introduction:** Today we are a few days before the new year comes. Today should be a day of reflection. You should reflect on how good God has been to your church in the past year. You should reflect on the blessings you have seen at this place. It should be a day of reflection.

Today should be a day of rejoicing. If you were saved, this year, then you should rejoice once again that God was merciful to you allowing to be saved this year. You should rejoice that you belong to a Bible believing church. The truths of God's word are explained truthfully. Yes, today should be a day of rejoicing.

Today will be a day of reminding. My task today and every service is to remind you of some timeless truths that will help you, your church and your pastor in the year ahead if we will apply them daily.

Paul gives many principles in this passage. Let me briefly look at them before moving into my message that I felt is meant for you today.

Paul want to know Christ. Knowing Christ intimately should be the daily goal of every believer. But alas we fall short of that lofty goal.

Secondly, Paul did not live in the past. You can never regain the past. But no matter what you do, you cannot live in the past or regain the former glory of the past. The only part of your past can you change is asking the Lord to forgive those sins of the past.

1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

Thirdly Paul live for the moment. He was looking ahead to the future with Christ whatever it brought him.

Philippians 4:11

***"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."***

Paul was single-minded.

Philippians 3:13

***"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before"***

Many churches are full of double-minded people who have no real reason for doing anything for Christ. They go as the wind blows. We should be single-minded.

What should we want the Lord to do for us in the year ahead? Let me give you these three thoughts that I hope will grow in your souls today and bring forth fruit for the Master.

### I. BE SOMEONE THAT IS TEACHABLE.

Psalms 119:12

***"Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes."***

Psalms 119:26

***"I have declared my ways, and thou headrest me: teach me thy statutes."***

Psalms 119:33

***"Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and shall keep it unto the end."***

First of all, you must desire to be taught. In the past twenty-six years of nursing, I have tried to teach new employees some of the tricks that have been successful in nursing. But there are those who think that they know it all.

Secondly, this Bible is the instruction book for all that you need in life to live for the Lord and helping others. Leave out this Bible and you will not doing the work of God without the blessing of the Word of God.

## II. BE SOMEONE THAT IS TURNS.

Psalm 119:37

***"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way."***

- A. We need to turn from some things. We should turn from the ways of the world, the wisdom of the world, the words of the world and the wants of the world.
- B. We need to turn unto some things. First of all we should turn to the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 30:10

***"If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul."***

Secondly we need to turn to holy living.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:16

***"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."***

Holiness means that your life is like the Lord Jesus. I heard that Andrew Murray, the South African pastor said this about passage. "Be ye holy because I who is holy is watching you." As I told you that you must read the Word of God and listen to the Word of God when you are in church. If you are not in church, you can not learn how to live holy.

## III. BE SOMEONE THAT TESTIFIES

Ephesians 4:17

***"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind"***

The word "testify" means to give a word of witness. You can only testify of what you have seen, heard or know. You can testify of His goodness, greatness and grace. You testify how He guide you.

**Conclusion:** There are many other things that we could do in this new year. But these three will help you get started on this new year. You should determine to do your best this year for Jesus so that our church can grow both in number and in the Word.