

THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS NEW YEAR

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Acts 20:24, Exodus 20:24, I Peter 20:24

Welcome to 2024! We will look ahead to the new year and take a look back at what we spoke about on January 1, 2023. First, let's look at how others have spoken about entering a new year:

"Write it in your heart, that everyday is the best day of the year. R. W. Emerson

"Ring out the false and ring in the true." Alford Lord Tennyson

"You know how I always dread the whole year...well this time I am only going to dread it one day at a time." Charlie Brown

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start. Nido Quebin

"You can get excited about the future, the 'past' won't mind." Hilary Diepiano

New Year

January is named for the Roman god Janus. An ancient Roman coin, now in the British Museum, pictures the god as having two heads: one looks back toward yesterday, and the other looks forward to tomorrow.

Resolutions

Resolved: that every man should live to the glory of God.

Resolved second: that whether others do this or not I will. Martin Luther

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Dr. Martin Luther King

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." C.S. Lewis

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." Seneca

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year ends." William Vaughn

"May all your problems last as long as your new year's resolutions." Joey Adams

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come whispering, it will be better." Alford Lord Tennyson

"We rejoice...rejoice is a verb, it means to adopt a specific attitude. Happiness and pleasure are nouns...we can't 'happy' but we can rejoice."

Some thoughts on 2024:

But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God's grace (His unmerited favor, spiritual blessing, and mercy). Acts 20:24 AMPC

- ***This is a year to focus on the Lord and to be faithful to His purposes and my destiny.***

But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24 NASB

- ***Show up! Don't miss what God has for you and us in these days ahead. Show up, thus not separating yourself from Him or from others...and not setting yourself to get 'picked off!'***

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. John 20:24 NASB

"Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." Luke 20:24 NASB

- ***We live in 'two kingdoms'...this is an election year...lots of fervent opinions...remember who your true King is...and be a good citizen!***

And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. Matthew 20:24

- ***John and James are 'jockeying for position' and this creates discord with the other disciples. We must go and grow in the ways of God and not be ruled by soulish constructed mindsets.***

²⁴ An altar of earth you shall make to Me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name and cause it to be remembered I will come to you and bless you. ²⁵ And if you will make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone, for if you lift up a tool upon it you have polluted it. Exodus 20:24-25 AMPC

- ***An altar of 'earth'...not stone...make burnt offerings and peace offerings.***
- ***It is about the worship, not the altar.***

12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 NASB

- ***The burnt offering is a 'sell-out' commitment to the Lord.***
- ***The peace offering is about the wholeness of being right with God.***
- ***Being in right relationship with God and the peace, the wholeness that He places in the heart of man...***
- ***He tells us to make an altar of earth (an everyday altar) so we can have an active everyday connection with God.***

⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him

***who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9
NASB***

- ***2024 – a year to express and experience. (1 Peter 2:9)***