



“Your New Life In The New Year”

Romans 12:1-21

This is the first Sunday in the Year 2010. Pastors, Imans, and Rabbi’s all over the world are praying for the appropriate thoughts and words to share with those whom they are called to serve. Every New Year people stop to re-think, reassess, reevalutate, reconsider, refocus, and redirect the directions of their lives. Each New Year seems to call people into some form of accountability as how they have and/or will conduct their personal and spiritual lives.

The designated spiritual leaders seek to provide an environment in which individuals can find the time to seek Godly counsel and, where needed, prayer for the strength to change. The Bible is filled with persons who have changed for the better and/or the worst. In either case there was always a change within. A change of heart, a change of thoughts, a change of life’s perspectives were always at the center of the renewed life.

Paul writes in Romans 12, the recognition of a new life can only evolve when Jesus Christ, God, becomes an intergrated part of the thought process. I believe there can be no new life in the New Year without God. Paul says, “God is good, so commit your total being to His divine counsel.” Paul continues, “Don’t be like the people of the world or folks all around you—peers Let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to change your life.”

We are all a composite of our thoughts. Who we think we are is who we are. How we think we should behave is how we behave. What we say and how we act comes from the core of our belief system. In Ezekiel 11:19, we find that God says, “I will take away your stubbornness and change your hearts to make you eager to serve me. You will obey me, and I will be your God.” God requires a faithful, obedient servant and then we can ask, “Create pure thoughts in me and make me faithful again.” (Psalm 51:10) Change my life and say, “Let my Words and my thoughts be pleasing to you, Lord.” (Psalm 19:14) When God begins to change your life you will slip back every now and then, because of that “old fleshy nature,” but Paul, in II Corinthians 4:16 tells us, “Never give up.” Our bodies are gradually dying, but we ourselves are being made stronger each day. It becomes clear that “Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. God has done it all.” (II Corinthians 5:17-21)

In 2010, as you ask God to give you a renewed spirit, a clean heart, a pure life, you then you must accept the real knowledge that you have been raised to a New Life with Christ and walk in a new direction. You must set your heart on what is in heaven (i.e. Godly thoughts and actions). Read Colossians 3:1-15. Meditate for a week or longer on the words in verse 10, “You are a new person now.” Then study the expected behavior for your new life in 2010. Don’t stop with these words, but grow deeper in your spiritual/metamorphic life change. Absorb Paul’s words in Philippians 2:1-5 where you strive to think the same way that Christ Jesus thought. That is extremely difficult and challenging, but not impossible with God. (Luke 1:37) With your new life in 2010 you will become a new light in a darkening world. (Philippians 2:13 -16).

While you are developing your new life (How Exciting) turn to Philippians 4:8 and dwell upon that thought to assure your new life will be sustained by God.

Family and friends, change your thoughts and change your life. If something is lacking in your life and you have that hollow, lonely feeling, ask God to come into your life this moment. Accept Jesus as your life changing Savior and start your “New life in the New Year.”

Pastor Gerald L. Durley