

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

January 1, 2006

The New Year

Walter E. Isenhour

The New Year comes, the old year goes, and thus we journey on.
'Tis but a little while we know till we shall all be gone.

How swiftly pass the years along, yet silently and sure;
And none can but a little while the strain of life endure.

How careful then ought we to live and to the spirit sow,
For we shall never pass again this way of life we know!

While many are the sad mistakes we've made in days gone by,
Let's bury now the bitter past and look toward things more
high.

Our Father's ready to forgive and make us great and good,
If we but do His will divine as everywhere we should.

Why not resolve to make this year of all the very best
By doing well our duty here that others may be blest?

We may not gain so much of wealth, but what is better far,
Is just to know our record's clean when we shall cross the bar.



Preacher's point - Here we are in another year. In some ways it seems like just yesterday that we had to remember to write 2005 on everything instead of 2004, and now we have to remember to write 2006. How time flies!

We need to regularly examine and test ourselves to see where we stand "*in the faith*" (**2 Corinthians 13:5**), and the beginning of a new year serves as one good time for such soul-searching. As you look back and reflect on the past year, in what ways have you grown spiritually? Are you closer to or farther away from God and your fellow brethren? How have you changed?

Also, we need to always make sure that we are properly prepared for the new year. What preparations are you making for the year ahead? In what ways do you hope to improve by the end of the new year, and - just as important - what steps are you taking now to achieve those goals? Are you preparing to "*press toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called (us) heavenward in Christ Jesus*" (**Philippians 3:14**)? Now is the time.

Have a blessed new year (**Matthew 5:3-12**)!

A New Year

Everett Hardin

The new year ahead will be like every other year that has ever been. It will repeat cycles that are centuries old. There will be the ageless round of days and seasons. There will be the births and deaths, joy and sorrow. There will be triumphs and defeats, honor and shame. Solomon wisely perceived this truth: *“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun”* (**Eccl 1:9**).

Even so, the new year ahead will be unique, a solitary set of events that have never before taken place and that can never happen again. As long as the world lasts, there will never again be exactly the same combination of circumstances. Never again will we be able to see things from exactly the same viewpoint we enjoy this year. Doors will be open that have been shut and will never be opened again.

Because of the one-time opportunities the next twelve months will bring, the new year will be what we make of it. The Scriptures counsel us to *“redeem the time”* carefully (**Eph 5:16**). We may jest about “New Year’s resolutions,” but without resolve the new year will be less than it should be. We ought to rise early and work late (working at the right things, of course – TN), crafting the year’s moments into worthwhile achievements. The unique value of the coming year will be damaged if we fail to act energetically. This year is ours to do with as we will.

Even so, the true value of the new year consists in what God will make of it and not we. Ultimately, we are able to speak and act for good because of the graciousness of God. Honor for the new year’s accomplishments should be His. *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen”* (**1 Pet 4:10-11**).

A year is not much time, really. Before we are ready, it will be this time next year. When that time shall have come, what will be our memories of the year? Our wish, from our house to yours, is that you may put first things first all throughout this year; and that when it is done you may have grown, with God’s help, toward Him in many ways. May you walk with Him and live for Him!

“Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.” – **Psalm 86:6**

Family News

Bonnie Sue Brown has been sick for the last few weeks. She has been to the doctor but so far has not improved much.

Mary Burnett is scheduled to move back to her old home (182 Rebecca Drive) this Tuesday. She is looking forward to it! FYI: A relative will be living with her.

Sandlyn Fultz had surgery two Wednesdays ago. It went well and everything went well for the first week. However, last Wednesday she was readmitted to the hospital with all the symptoms of meningitis. So far she has responded well to the antibiotic regimen. She is feeling much better. She will probably remain in the hospital for at least all of this week. There is a new report from **Gary Hunt** (NY NY) in the back of the auditorium.

There is a new report from **Bob Nichols** (Japan) in the back of the auditorium.

Cotton & Nancy Read have been sick this past week but are better.

Laura Reed remains about the same.

Georgia Taylor has a new roommate.

Ame White had surgery three weeks ago. It went well, but the recovery has not gone as well and she still has a long recovery ahead.

Robert Wray remains about the same.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **John Hunt** (LA later this week) **Jennifer Nicholson** and children (in AL to take care of sick family)

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).