

You are never too old  
to set another goal or  
to dream a new  
dream.

— C.S. Lewis

# Zion Baptist Church

## Beacon of Light

Newsletter for January, 2021

Welcome To  
Zion Baptist Church

2437 South Propst Street

Gastonia, NC 28056

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Leo Kuykendall, Pastor

John Fuller, Newsletter Editor

Mary Ball, Contributing Editor

Sunday School

10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00AM

Sunday Night Prayer Room

5:45PM

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00PM

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

7:00PM

Thursday Night Visitation

Prayer at 6:00PM

Visitation at 6:30PM

### Watch and Listen To Our Service

Television Broadcast

Wednesday Nights 9-10 PM

Spectrum Cable - Channel 18

Spectrum Cable - Channel 7

Comporium - Channel 124 & HD 1124

Antenna Channel 14 - Hickory

Dish Network & Direct TV-  
Channel 14

Radio Ministry

Tune In Sunday at 1:30 PM

For Pastor Leo Kuykendall

The Truth Ministry

WCRU 9:00AM & 105.7 FM

Dallas, NC

## What Does the Bible Say About New Year's Resolutions?

### Question:

*Every year, I always make a long list of New Year's resolutions, but since I never keep them, I've decided this time to make just a few. Does the Bible say anything about making resolutions?*

### Answer:

Yes, the Bible certainly encourages us to examine our lives and resolve to change them if necessary (although not just at the beginning of a new year). The Psalmist, for example, made a resolution to keep his speech pure: "I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed" (Psalm 17:3).

Why, however, do so many of our resolutions fail? Sometimes it's simply because they aren't realistic. Instead, they're only wishful thinking, with no way to make them actually happen. For example, you might resolve to make a million dollars this year, but if you don't have any way to earn it, it probably isn't going to happen. Other resolutions fail because we aren't willing to make the sacrifices necessary to reach them.

But the real problem is within ourselves—within our own hearts and minds. We'd all like to be better people, but no matter how hard we try, we find ourselves tripped up by our own moral failures and weaknesses. Even the Apostle Paul experienced this: "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out" (Romans 7:18).

What is the solution? The solution is to turn to God, confessing our sins to Him and seeking His help to live the way we should. Begin the New Year by turning to Jesus Christ and inviting Him into your life. Then ask Him to help you become the person He wants you to be. This is what Paul did, and that's why he could say, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

*Begin the New Year with Christ.*



~Billygraham.org



## *Do You Have a Long-Term Assurance Policy?*

"Sure, I do," you most likely will answer. "I would not be caught dead without it. Let's see now, I have life insurance on myself, and on my spouse and family, also hospitalization on myself and the whole family. Liability and collision on my car, truck, and boat. Then there is Fire and Theft insurance on my home and homeowner's insurance on my property. My place at the beach, jewelry, and rental houses are insured. I possibly could have more insurance that I can't remember just now."

"Great! Then one could say that you are a very responsible, sensible person who looks ahead for the future to ensure your comfort and to know that should catastrophe come your way; you can rest assured that everything will be taken care of."

"Of course," you retort, "I want to know that I have security, something to fall back on at all times. I can't be caught without assurance that I am taken care of, in case of accidents or whatever else might happen."

Has it ever occurred to you that most of us fit into this category? We all want assurance that all will be well in our future.

Doesn't it make sense that any level headed, sensible, responsible person then would give some serious consideration to the hereafter, to the security of his soul, and himself after this life ends? Surely the most of us will not say that we believe death is the absolute end of us, that there is no more, that death is total termination. Sure, we know that our bodies go back to dust, and will never return to this present life as we know it. But think for a moment... concentrate on an individual that you can see, touch and talk to right now. He is an individual, one of a kind, living, breathing human being. There is no one else exactly like him. You are you. No one else has the same characteristics, looks, idiosyncrasies, thoughts, feelings, fingerprints, etc. Being made of soul, mind and body, who can explain where **you** are, where your soul is, when your body dies? Your body can be seen but **you** are not there. Where are **you**? **You** have to be somewhere... That "somewhere" is in one of two places, Heaven or Hell! The moment your body gives up "you" and dies, your soul departs to one or the other.

Now, if we as mature, level headed adults look out for our future in this life, why do we not "take out insurance" or secure "assurance" that we will be taken care of after we leave this body, this life? Where will "you" go? Surely there is insurance, or assurance that you can secure to make sure you will go to a much better place. {Heaven} "But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him, 1 Corinthians: 2: 9" "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, Matthew: 8:12." Hell will be eternal torment, pain, crying. Gnashing of teeth, burning in an unquenchable fire, agony, and total separation from God! "The son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity: and shall cast them into a lake of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth, Matthew: 13:41, 42." "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned, John: 15:5."

What sensible person would choose to ignore the chance to "insure" his hope of going to Heaven when he dies or when Jesus comes back?

Guess what! This insurance {assurance} is free! "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of god is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Romans 6:23" It costs nothing; it is already paid for! "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life John; 2:25"

What have you got to lose? We lose everything here. We take none of our earthly possessions with us {regardless of where we go} but if we get our free assurance of heaven we also lose:

Our sins, Our worries, Our guilt, Eternal torment in the lake of fire, Eternal pain, Eternal agony, Eternal separation from God, Uncertainty of the future, Eternal sorrow' The old man {sinner}.

What do you have to gain? A "policy" that "insures" your name in The Book of Life! Forgiveness Forever, Freedom from Satan, New glorified body, a new "you!" White Robe, Instant peace, Eternal Life, Eternal happiness and joy, Streets of gold, River of Life, Marriage Supper, Assurance that you will see Jesus face to face, the one who sacrificed himself on the cross to pay for your salvation, all of the above, and even more, {1 Corinthians, 2:9} Plus A Free Mansion and Crown for your labor and faithfulness! A Special Rider: Uniting with loved ones!

Do you have this insurance? Will you accept this gift free of charge? Will you ask forgiveness now and be saved? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life John 3:16"

## Today Was Different

Today, I prayed for healing... again. God always answers and I see results quickly. But today was different. My healing was taking a little more time. It was not happening right away.

Why was God having me to wait? Why had He not answered me right away as usual?

Was He trying to tell me something?

Maybe, I needed to change my way of thinking/praying. Maybe I shouldn't just pray for what I need, I thought. Maybe I should forget about ME and focus on HIM. How do I feel when someone just comes to me for what they need me to do for them?

So, I decided to try a different approach to my God, my Savior, the all knowing, all seeing, all powerful, almighty Creator of not only me, but of all this vast universe and everything in it!

Today was different.

Number 1. I praised Him for who He is instead of what He is capable of doing FOR ME.

Number 2. I prayed over my antibiotic, asking God to make it effective and get the job done.

Number 3. I realized - again, that God's timing is not our timing. I realized I had to, as His word says: "Be still and know that I am God!" Psalm 46:10

Then, my answer came. All pain was forgotten. I was healed...again!

©Mary Ball

Each year's regret  
are envelopes  
in which messages  
of hope are found  
for the new year.

JOHN R. DALLAS JR.

## The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born  
I give it to Thy hand.  
Content to walk by faith what paths  
I cannot understand.  
Whatever coming day may bring  
Or bitter loss, or gain,  
Or every crown of happiness;  
Should sorrow come, or pain,  
Or, Lord, if all unknown to me  
Thine angel hovers near  
To bear me to that farther shore  
Before another year.  
It matters not—my hand in Thine,  
Thy light upon my face,  
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,  
They love and saving grace!  
I only ask, loose not my hand,  
Grip fast my soul, and be  
My guiding light upon the path  
Till, blind no more, I see!

~Martha Snell Nicholson  
Cathedral Press, Inc.

## RENEWAL

*Renewal is rooted in faith, not in resolutions!  
They are made for New Year's and forgotten  
on an average of thirteen days later, say the  
surveys. Faith is the result of a decision about  
Christ. I cannot make a new me or a new you,  
but Christ can make you new and me new, as  
well, if we decide for Him.*

~Frank Hamington



**Zion Baptist Church**  
*Serving The Lord Since 1960*

**We're On The Web!**  
[www.zionbc.com](http://www.zionbc.com)

If you would like to receive our  
 "Beacon of Light" newsletter,  
 please send us your name, mail-  
 ing address, phone number and  
 email address to:

Zion Baptist Church  
 2437 South Probst St.  
 Gastonia, NC 28056

### *Sincere Apology*

I sincerely apologize to Michelle and Katherine White for failing to announce at the Christmas Program the fact that they found and adopted a video for my original song, His Name, which was presented at the program Sunday night.

I absentmindedly forgot and did not have my notes because I had planned to omit the song. I did not know until I arrived at church that it would be done, that Denise would take care of the work. Thank you also, Denise.

Thank you, again, Michelle and Katherine, for the great work you did for me.

Many prayers and much love for all of you,



*Doubt* sees the obstacles -

*Faith* see the way!

*Doubt* see the darkest night -

*Faith* sees the day!

*Doubt* dreads to take a step -

*Faith* soars on high.

*Doubt* questions, "Who believes?"

*Faith* answers "I."

### *"Thou hast made summer and winter."*

**Psalm 74:17**



My soul begin this wintry month with thy God. The cold snows and the piercing winds all remind thee that he keeps his covenant with day and night, and tend to assure thee that he will also keep that glorious covenant which he has made with thee in the person of Christ Jesus. He who is true to his Word in the revolutions of the seasons of this poor sin-polluted world, will not prove unfaithful in his dealings with his own well-beloved Son.

Winter in the soul is by no means a comfortable season, and if it be upon thee just now it will be very painful to thee: but there is this comfort, namely, that the Lord makes it. He sends the sharp blasts of adversity to nip the buds of expectation: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes over the once verdant meadows of our joy: he casteth forth his ice like morsels freezing the streams of our delight. He does it all, he is the great Winter King, and rules in the realms of frost, and therefore thou canst not murmur. Losses, crosses, heaviness, sickness, poverty, and a thousand other ills, are of the Lord's sending, and come to us with wise design. Frosts kill noxious insects, and put a bound to raging diseases; they break up the clods, and sweeten the soil. O that such good results would always follow our winters of affliction!

How we prize the fire just now! how pleasant is its cheerful glow! Let us in the same manner prize our Lord, who is the constant source of warmth and comfort in every time of trouble. Let us draw nigh to him, and in him find joy and peace in believing. Let us wrap ourselves in the warm garments of his promises, and go forth to labours which befit the season, for it were ill to be as the sluggard who will not plough by reason of the cold;

- C. H. Spurgeon

Time is like a flowing river,  
 no water passes beneath  
 your feet twice, much like  
 the river, moments never  
 pass you by again, so  
 cherish every moment  
 that life gives you and

**Have a Blessed New  
 Year!**



*"For We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight"*

*By Faith, not by sight;*

*God never wants us to look at our feelings.*

*God wants us to look at the facts.*

*God gives feelings only when He sees that*

*We trust Him apart from all feelings,*

*Resting on His Word and on His*

*Faithfulness to His promises.*

—Author Unknown