

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

A Blessed
New Year!

2017



Berean Bible Church

Service of
Worship & Communion

Sunday, 1 January, 2017

Sunday School 9:30am
Morning Worship - 10:40am | Evening Service - 6:00pm
Midweek Service (Wednesday) - 7:30pm
Hothersal Turning, St. Michael | Rev. Ronald Trotman - Pastor
Tel: 426-4707 | 571-4259
pastor@bereanbarbados.org | www.bereanbarbados.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Happy New Year?

Honestly, we need happiness this year. The global picture is so gloomy. I foresee increasing conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, Russia, Europe and Asia. I want to be optimistic, but the global tension is too great to be ignored. And on the domestic front I foresee increasing racial and political tribalism.

However, amidst the gloom, we must make room for a Happy New Year. In 2017, we expect thousands of students to graduate from a wide variety of institutions. We expect thousands to own homes and thousands more to make positive career changes. We also expect thousands to experience life changing spiritual conversions. In essence, 2017 will be a year of hope for many.

Let us build on this hope - it is much more than wishful thinking. Saya Hillman, a Martin Luther King scholarship recipient, was correct when he said, *"We could not survive if we could not dream, for it is our ability to dream that sustains us in the most wretched times."* According to Hal Lindsay, *"Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only for one second without hope."* The New Year brings new hopes and aspirations. It is a declaration that the old has gone and the new has come.

For me, 2017 will provide new adventures to enjoy, new memories to create and new relationships to establish. I will not wait to see if these will come my way - I intend to pursue opportunities that are different, bringing freshness and renewal. A number of studies have found that this approach to life brings significant benefits, including improved physical health and better coping strategies. People who take time to reflect-on and celebrate their successes are generally more optimistic, take better care of themselves and tend to be less stressed. Celebrations increase people's sense of well-being, regardless of socioeconomic factors, education, age or gender - this year there will be birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and a wide variety of achievements.

For 2017 I intend to use every means possible to live as a victor and not as a victim. My wife and I will use our dining table to encourage, to embolden and to bring cheer to as many as possible. We have a plan to reach out to others who may find it difficult to come to us. We will continue to use the phone, electronic mail and every device possible to announce that 2017 must be lived as a happy New Year.

This reflection on New Year reminds me of what Jesus said to some Pharisees who challenged Him: *“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins” (Luke 5:37-38)*. When Jesus spoke, there was no such thing as a bottle, as we know it. Bottles were made of animal skins. When new, these skins had a certain amount of elasticity. As they grew old, they became hard and unyielding. The new wine to which Jesus referred, was still fermenting – it gave off gases. These gases caused pressure, and if the skin was new it would yield to the pressure. But if the skin was old and hard and dry, the wine will explode and everything would be lost.

In essence, Jesus was pleading for a certain amount of elasticity in our thinking. He was giving to the Pharisees a newness that could not be contained in their old ways of thinking. By using the illustration of the bottle, Jesus was acknowledging that, while there had been a period of usefulness, that mindset needed to be changed to accommodate a new way of thinking.

In 2017, Jesus would be saying to us, whereas earlier decades may have been great, a new year requires a new way of thinking – do not be afraid of new adventures. The challenges will be diverse and will require more intentional efforts to be different. Like religious scholar Huston Smith, Jesus would most likely say that in 2017, “the human spirit is being suffocated by a dominant materialistic worldview.” In this age of science, the knowledge that faith is absolutely necessary is a worldview for anyone anticipating a meaningfully Happy New Year.

Dr. David Corbin (adapted)

PRAY FOR HIM

This year American Pastor Andrew Brunson spent Christmas in prison. After quietly and faithfully pastoring churches and serving the people of Turkey for 23 years, he now sits in a prison there, while his family was forced to spend the holidays without him. When he was arrested, his Bible was taken from him.

Pastor Andrew has been falsely charged with “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” He is in grave danger and we have been exhorted to ***“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” (Heb.13:3)***

Order of Service

Ministry of Music – Choir

Invocation

Hymn 93

Hymn 94

Hymn 121

1st Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25-40

Hymn 96

Prayer

Notices – Offering

Ministry of Music – Choir

Hymn 108

Sermon – Rev. Ronald Trotman

Hymn 286

Distribution of Elements

Special Offering

2nd Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14

Ministry of Music

Benediction – Choir & Congregation



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- God's continued favour, guidance and protection
- Complete obedience to His will
- Our Outreach Ministries
- Our Youth Department
- The Sick and Shut-ins
- The work of the Gideons, CEF, ISCF and The Bible Society
- The Persecuted Church
- A Blessed 2017

Join US next Sunday at 6pm for an engaging Bible Study



Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11 NIV

January Birthdays

4th – Harold Lucas

5th – Bertram Hoyte

6th – Christopher Boyce

8th – Patrick Skeete

9th – Joy Banfield

10th – Joyce Wells

11th – Judane Mitchell

15th – Hilton Piggott

19th – Gary Lloyd

21st – Marion Manning

23rd – Gwendolyn Goodridge

– Truneal Kwang

28th – Bradford Jackson

30th – Gregory Douglas

31st – Joan Shepherd

February

1st – Tony Montague

2nd – Rupert Sealy

Anniversaries

25th – Tyrone & Julia Lowe