

Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

James Tanksley is at home recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Xenna Gooch is feeling some better but is still being closely monitored to attempt to ascertain the cause of her blood pressure fluctuations.

Otis Dodd, brother of Xenna Gooch who had surgery on an aneurism a while back, is in serious condition.

Pat Wallace, Betty Copley's sister-in-law, is at home recovering from a serious bacterial infection.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness, including **Brownie Spicer, Jean Barte (Teresa's stepfather), Burton Brown (Betty's brother).**

News & Notes:

--**Group 3** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Want a Happy New Year?

To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road;
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

--*Anonymous*

"Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise." Psalm 48:1

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

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Happy New Year

Another year. How can it be? Time flies. The psalmist was on the mark when he said, *"We spend our days as a tale that is told. . . ."* (Psalm 90:9). "Spend" is the operative word here. To spend is to lay out something for something else. We spend money to buy goods and services; we barter goods and services for money to spend. We spend time, too. We spend our days like a story - paragraphs, pages, chapters - a beginning and an end. When it is finished, it becomes history, the legend or story of one's life.

All of us just spent another year. We spent it in lots of different ways. Some of us spent too much time on hobbies and not enough studying the Bible. All of us would have done well to have spent more time on our knees and less time running after the trivial. It is certain that we too often spend lavishly on that which is of little value.

It was a happy year for some. Some got a degree. Some got a promotion. Some got married. Some had a baby. Some had a great vacation. Some retired to a new life of leisure. Some received good news about their health. Some won.

But it was not a happy year for everybody. Some got the dreaded pink slip. Some got divorced. Some had a wreck. Some got a new baby, only to find it had health problems. Some lost.

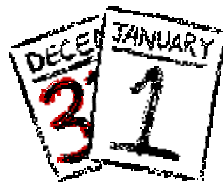
This year will be no different. There will be good and bad things. That's life. But when it's all said and done, it's not whether this year is good or bad, but how we spend it that matters.

Solomon explored life with great exuberance. He sought happiness in every area of life - social, political, financial. He held life in a test tube and looked at it from every angle. *"I withheld not myself from any joy,"* he said. When he was through, he deduced that there is not much to life apart from a little happiness from a few little things and, at the end, a right relationship with God (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

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Preacher's Pen points

Seven Spiritual Resolutions (Psalm 101)



Lots of people make New Year's resolutions each year; but in Psalm 101 David made some important spiritual "resolutions" worth imitating. He resolved to:

- 1) _____ God
I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, To Thee, O Lord, I will _____ praises.
- 2) Follow God's _____
I will give heed to the _____ way.
- 3) Be an example at _____
I will walk within my house in the _____ of my heart.
- 4) Make no _____ for sin
I will set no worthless thing before my _____;
- 5) Overcome _____
I hate the work of those who _____ away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.
- 6) Be pure in _____
A _____ heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.
- 7) Oppose the _____ of God's cause and associate with the _____
Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure. My eyes shall be upon the _____ of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a _____ way is the one who will minister to me. He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me. Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, so as to cut off from the city of the Lord all those who do iniquity.

Now these are resolutions worth striving for. They will make a difference in our lives as well as make us an influence for good wherever we are. And, living by them will assure us that God will dwell with us.

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The wise man never gave a blueprint for instant lasting happiness. In fact, he found that all the things which are generally thought to produce happiness - fame, fortune, reputation, power, pleasure - to be vain and devoid of substance. His advice? *"In the day of prosperity, be joyful, but in the day of adversity, consider"* (Ecclesiastes 7:14). It is a good way to spend life.

In the day of prosperity, be joyful. Few things are more satisfying than happy days - days when our desires bump into reality and bring us just what we want. We long for them. We cherish them when they come. We hate to see them end. Whatever causes us to feel prosperous - a faithful son, a step up the ladder, a great catch, a smile from one who loves us - we should savor the moment and lavish in the bliss of the happening. The man is rich who has a genuinely good day; he should immerse himself in it.

In the day of adversity, consider. To think that all days will be good days is to be naïve to a fault. There are definitely some grey days in life - days when the dog bites and so does the wind. Days when the news is not good and neither is the coffee. Days when spick doesn't match with span, light and fluffy are in a fight and peaches and cream are miles apart.

But bad days are not always bad. Actually, we probably learn more from bad days than from good ones. Certainly we have to use them right or they will bring discouragement, promote depression, cause bitterness to bubble up. Granted, you have to look for it, but you can find a certain benefit in these bad weather kinds of days. They're the kind that can bring you closer to God, closer to the realization of your own mortality, closer to the things that really matter. They're good for reflection, for comparing right with wrong, for deciding to be more compassionate, more understanding. We may not like them much, but we can use them well, if we will.

When days are good this year, I hope they're really good and cause you to rejoice with enthusiasm. And I hope you have them in abundance. But I hope your bad days are good, too - good because they have caused you to reflect on who and what and where you are so that you don't fall over the edge. You see. It's not only the old folks - we all have good days and bad days. Happy New Year, everybody.

--Dee Bowman
Christianity Magazine