

January 1, 2006

Another Down, One More Begins

Fred Nowell

With each passing year, there will be many times of great joy, sorrow, achievements, and failures. If there is anything we all have in common, it would have to be this truth. Though we all may live separate lives, we will each realize many of the same reasons to rejoice as well as reasons for great sorrow. Each year begins much the same way for each of us. We have certain things that we have done for as long as we can remember. Some open their homes and enjoy bringing in the new year with many, while others may watch Dick Clark in Times Square, watch the ball drop, kiss and hug those you love (the singing of “*Auld Lang Syne*” is optional), and then retire to bed shortly thereafter. Though we may bring in the new year much the same way, how will each of us conduct ourselves or live this year differently than last? Will we? Should we?

New year’s resolutions have been around perhaps as long as the calendar has. Some resolutions may be long-lasting, while others are swiftly erased as though they had never been made. Though this writer does not make resolutions, he does consider the past year and seek to resolve, improve, and implement things that may have a more positive impact upon himself and those around him (not always successfully, but always with good intentions).

By your presence here this morning, you have shown that your commitment to God in serving and worshipping Him is more important than sleeping in after a late night watching the new year enter in (Heb 10:25). You are not one who allows the things of the world to interfere with serving God as He has commanded. You understand the need and importance of teaching and admonishing one another (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16). You understand the need for the body of Christ to gather to strengthen and encourage one another (1 Thess 5:11ff). We have been so richly blessed to have some of the greatest servants of our Lord among us here in York. While much of your labors may go unnoticed or undetected by many, our Father sees all of them and will reward all (Mt 6:4,6,18; Mk 9:41; 1 Cor 3:8ff; Rev 22:12ff).

I want to encourage all of you to pick up this week's issue of **Gospel Minutes** in the foyer. Brother David Thurman has written a wonderful article titled "Go to the Ant." I believe this article will help us all to look at our Christian lives and see how we compare to the any in the areas of protection, defense, personal sacrifice, service, example, and steadfastness.

Let us enter into the new year with a renewed spirit and a plan of action for the church of our Lord that meets in York, PA. Each of us can make positive improvements for Christ in our lives, we just have to make up our minds to do so and keep on keeping on!

May this be a GREAT year for each of us as we strive together to be the church of Christ (Rom 16:16).

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Prov 29:18