



What's it going to be this year?

✦ *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. 1Cor 9:24-27*



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✦ Secular New Years Resolutions:

- Get in shape, lose weight.....?
- Work harder on the job.....?
- start saving for retirement.....?

✦ What about us?

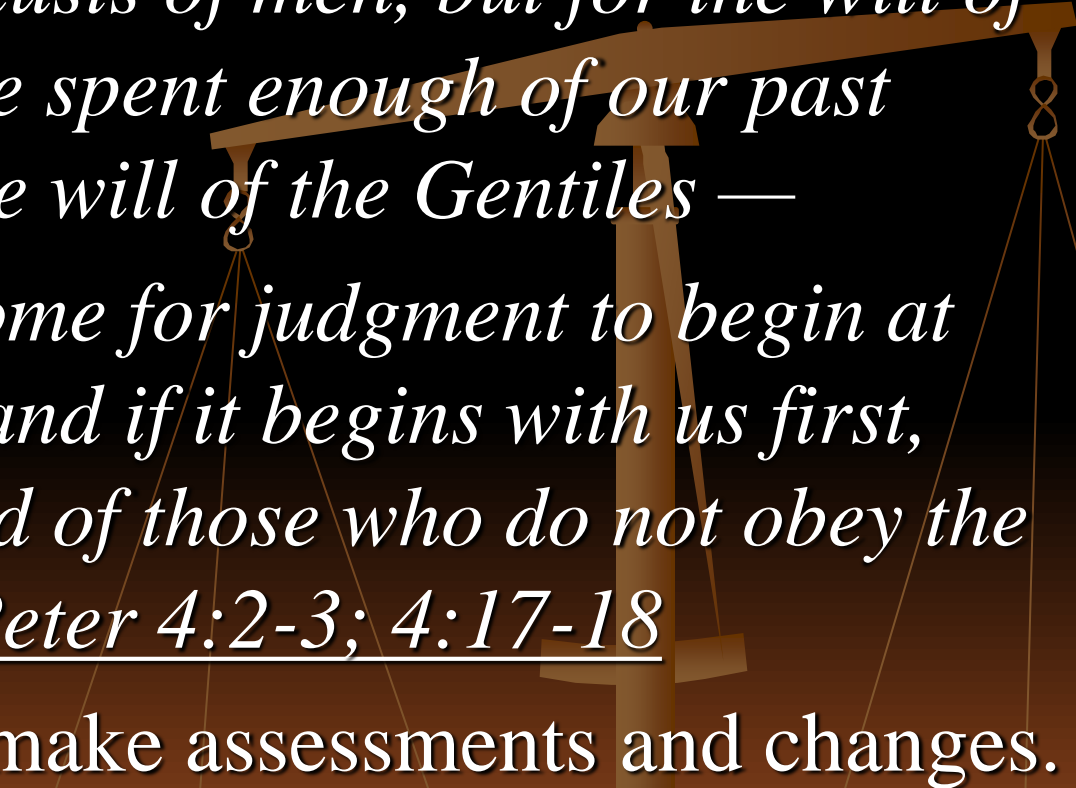
- Do we have any spiritual goals?
- Pray more?
- Read the Entire Bible this year.....?
- What one thing needs buffeting.....?
- Push myself to do something new....?

“Change is Always in the Air”



- I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I **forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, do: 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude;** and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; Phil 3:13-16*

God's Challenges

- *2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles —*
 - *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:2-3; 4:17-18*
 - An urgent need to make assessments and changes.
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Motivation

- ◆ Seek 1st Kingdom Mt 6:33
- ◆ Do it with ALL your Might Ecc 9:11
- ◆ Continue Stedfastly Acts 2:41
- ◆ Choose you this Day Josh 24:14-15
- ◆ Redeem the Time Eph 5:16
- ◆ A Steward must be Faithful 1 Cor 4:2
- ◆ Zealous of good works Titus 2:14; 3:8

Where are we Going?

► Specific Goals:

- Prayer. Lk 18:1, 8;
- Giving Thanks; Eph 5:20
- Scripture Reading II Tim 2:15;
3:14-16; Heb 5:12-14
- Cut it off Mt 18:8-9



Assessment

- **A**bility + **O**pportunity = **R**esponsibility
 - *And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, **to each according to his own ability**; and immediately he went on a journey. Mt 25:15-18*
 - *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17*
- **A Powerful Spiritual Equation:**
- **A + O = R**




We want our Life to end as David's

- *I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will. . . . For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; Acts 13:22; 36*

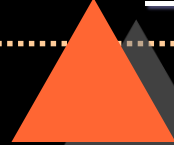


Brethren, Join in Following My Example

- **As A New Convert:**
 - *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ Phil 3:7-9*
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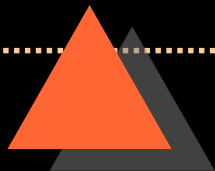
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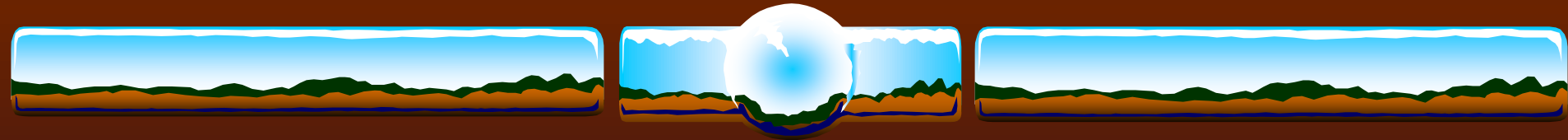
- As a Mature Christian:
 - *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:12-14*
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Brethren, Join in Following My Example

- **The True Mark of Christian Maturity**
- *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.*





Don't Procrastinate like Felix

- *Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." Acts 24:25-26*
- ***IT NEVER CAME!***

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✦ *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Rom 13:11-13*



If NOT this Year WHEN

- Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Pet 3:11-13