

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

2 Corinthians 5: 17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

I wanted to share our 2022 Senior Adult Christmas party pictures with you; we had 25, so short text this month. The verse from 2 Corinthians sums up the new beginning, Christ is born, the old is replaced with new hope, and promise from our loving, merciful God. We pray that you are in Christ and have the redemption He provides. We are changing our luncheons to quarterly in 2023 so mark your calendars for Thursday, March 16th for our first one of the new year.



Donna and I pray that your new year is filled with God's love and blessings. We hope you will be a part of the senior adult ministry in the coming year. While we are only planning 4 luncheons but we may have other outings, so stay tuned!

Happy New Year and God bless you all in the coming year.

Ron and Donna

Senior Adults

NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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New Year. Same God.

WE TRAIN

WRITTEN BY PASTOR MATT NIXON

It has been part of a conversation on multiple fronts lately about the **life and walk of a Christian**. Foremost has been the topic of spiritual disciplines; prayer, Bible intake, meditation, and the like. When we consider these disciplines, it helps to take a biblical approach; after all, we hold 2 Timothy 3:16 to be authoritative. All Scripture is God-breathed and suitable for training. Paul continually referenced the athletic lifestyle as a means of developing spiritual maturity. Why, we might ask, because the spiritual disciplines, like successful athleticism, do not come in our sleep. No. We must train ourselves.

Why train? The same reason that Paul did, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. "So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." No one has ever looked to a violinist to become a better baseball player. This is because the violinist has no ability to train the baseball player in the disciplines of baseball, sure the commitment has been the same, neither has excelled by laziness, but each has trained in their respective fields. The same rings true for the believer and unbeliever's relationship, as the world longs for justice, righteousness, and peace, they need Christians to model the Giver of those things. If the church is not identifiable as the beneficiary of God's gifts, then it is no wonder that the world has deemed her moot.

How do we train? By submitting ourselves to the joyous instruction of the word of God. Again, the formula is stated in the 2 Timothy passage. I will give you an example straight from God's word, with the athletic appeal that Paul had in 2 Corinthians. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." As Christ is our example, we must use his testimony as our outline for our workout regimen. When he was tempted in the wilderness, and Satan offered him all the things we would have purchased wholesale, Christ used the word of God as an offensive weapon to destroy the flaming darts of the evil one. It was Christ's prayer life that assured him of his duty (see Luke 22, John 17), and his grasp of God's word that equipped him for battle. Yet, most of us as Christians do not excel in training ourselves to do either. No wonder the world sees us as weak. (Continued on the next page)

The end of our training is this. We hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant...

Enter the joy of your master." Paul had done this. Therefore, at the end of his days, he boldly proclaims, "...the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day...."

As we approach the turn of the calendar year, I would like to challenge all of you to **set up a training schedule**. Here are some suggestions; get a group to hold you accountable for Bible reading, set a timer (I know it sounds mechanical) for 15 minutes, and pray that long. Find someone to disciple, everyone has someone a step or two behind them; find someone to be disciplined by or at least to discuss theology with, it will prove to be invaluable. As we all make plans (I hope to get in better physical condition, what a cliché) let's get aggressive in 2023 about our spiritual fitness. **God is worth it!** -Pastor Matt

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

As the year of 2022 comes to an end, I begin to think about all that has changed since last year. I think about the uncertainty a new year brings, but then I'm reminded of who my Savior is. There are many times in scripture when someone began to dwell on their current state of crisis... and then remembered who God is. This realization completely changes the perspective of the text (see Lamentations 3 and Psalm 77).

What if we chose to go into the new year with this mindset?

Although we don't know what the next year will bring, we DO know who holds tomorrow. We KNOW God is always good, faithful, loving, patient, kind, and truthful in every circumstance. We can acknowledge the hard when it comes, and still be grateful that our Savior is constant and His promises are true. Let's cling to who our God is as we enter a new year. He is always faithful.

Happy New Year!!!

Abby Allen

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year and we hope you had a great and blessed holiday season. We have a couple of thoughts to share with you about a new year, and doing it a bit different. You look up the verse, and we will give you the **Good News** about it. Here we go – look up:

1 PETER 1:3-15

The Good News: Thanks to Christ's sacrifice, we have the power to always start fresh without the burdens of our past to weigh us down!

So as we have the new year to provide us a fresh start for the coming year, the birth and death of Christ Jesus has given us a chance to start over, and power to eliminate our burden of sin. Next – look up:

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

The Good News: You don't have to fear the uncertainty of the future and what lies ahead. Have faith that God is always with you and will steer you in the right direction.

How powerful is that message! There is no real fear in those in Christ, he is always with you and will lead you the right way. This reminds me of one of my favorite verses; 2 Samuel 22:33 (NIV) – "It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure". As followers of Christ we do have the strength of God to keep us on the path and secure in His love.

We pray you all have a safe and happy 2023 and as always your deacon body is here to serve you in any way possible. Please contact any of us with your needs. God Bless you all.

Ron Stoner

Deacon's Ministry

I hope everyone had a great Christmas! Each January feels like a fresh start. I want to encourage you to take this time to consider your resolutions as people like to make. Considering making an effort to bring your family to church every week, or even more often. Considering making a resolution to model daily prayer and time spent in God's word for our children.

If you want a fun activity for your family for New Years one idea is to make a time capsule to be opened next New Years. You can include things like current prayer requests, and then see God's goodness or have the opportunity to discuss perseverance in prayer next year. You can also have your kids list their current favorites. Some ideas are favorite food, favorite worship song is, favorite snack, favorite scripture, favorite bible story, etc. These things will be really fun to see how they change from year to year.

Jennifer Varner

Children's Ministry