

An Open Door & Challenge

(Revelation 3:8)

- Introduction:
1. Although God has completed his written revelation to man, his interest in and work among his people is still ongoing.
 2. The fact that we will never read about the South Green Street Church of Christ in the Bible doesn't mean that God is not interested in our work and progress.
 3. As a matter of fact, I believe the contrary is true.
 4. If God were to speak to us directly today, or write our biography, what might he say and write?
 5. I believe the following items are challenges that face us in the New Year.

I. We Are Challenged To Acknowledge Our Mortality

- A. Every year we reflect on the lives of brothers and sisters in Christ who have departed from this life.
- B. (James 4:13-17).
- C. (Psalm 90:10,12) *The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*
- D. Would it not be great to live each year, better than the last, because one year, in the not-to-distant-future will be your last year.

II. We Are Challenged To Greater Commitment In Worship, Study, & Fellowship

- A. We have grown, nearly doubling in size, in the last decade and a half.
- B. However, our growth at services besides Sunday A.M. Worship has not increased as it should.
- C. This could be due to a number of factors.
 1. Quality of classes and preaching.
 2. Work.
 3. Age.
 4. Choice.
- D. What does the difference in attendance say?
- E. What would the lack of difference in attendance say?

III. We Are Challenged To Greater Financial Sacrifice

- A. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- B. (2 Corinthians 8-9).
- C. One is neither too poor or too rich to give sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:8-15).
- D. The elders, have challenged us to re-evaluate our giving and to give to a greater extend in this next year.

- Conclusion:
1. There is so much that needs to be done, can be done, and will be done for the cause of Christ.
 2. I want to challenge you to step and live 2004 for Christ.
 3. (Psalm 119:59-60) *I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.*