

Challenges Of The New Year

(Philippians 3:12-14)

- Introduction:
1. Often, when we speak of challenges, we speak in terms of specifics.
 - a. Attendance.
 - b. Giving.
 - c. Bible Study.
 2. However, I want to discuss a few challenges that go deeper than these outward signs.
 3. As you well know, treating symptoms is not a cure, but only brings temporary relief.

I. Be A Disciple of Jesus

- A. A disciple is a “learner” an apprentice.
- B. WWJD - “In His Steps”
- C. (John 12:21).
- E. (Acts 4:13).
- D. (Romans 10:9-10).
- E. Discipleship is more than being saved from past sins, but conforming one’s life into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29).

II. Be A Peacemaker

- A. (Matthew 5:9).
- B. (Matthew 12:25).
- C. (Ephesians 4:1-3).

II. Be A Servant

- A. (Luke 17:7-10).
- B. What not to expect as a servant.
 1. Popularity.
 2. Power.
 3. Respect.
 4. Ego.
 5. Thanks.
- C. What to expect as a servant.
 1. An opportunity to develop personal Christ-likeness.
 2. Leave a heritage for one’s family.
 3. Great reward in Heaven.
 4. Opportunity to save souls and help the development of others.

- Conclusion:
1. If we will step up to these challenges, we will be better people in 2005 and our congregation will be better for it as well.
 2. Lose your life in Jesus, and you will find life in him (Matthew 10:39).