

New Year's Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

January 2019 * McKinney U.M.C.* www.mckinneyumc.net

One of the chief roles of the Levites is invoking God's blessing. God ordains these words for the priestly blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Num. 6:24-26)

God blesses people in countless ways—spiritual, mental, emotional, and material. But the focus here is on blessing people with words. Our good words become the moment of God's grace in the lives of people. "So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them," God promises (Num. 6:27).

The words we use in our places of work have the power either to bless or curse, to build up others or to tear them down. Our choice of words often has more power than we realize. The blessings in Numbers 6:24-26 declare that God will "keep" you, be "gracious" to you and give you "peace." At work our words can "keep" another person—that is, reassure, protect, and support. "If you need help, come to me. I won't hold it against you." Our words can be full of grace, making the situation better than it otherwise would be. We can accept responsibility for a shared error, for example, rather than shifting the blame by minimizing our role. Our words can bring peace by restoring relationships that have been broken. "I realize that things have gone wrong between us, but I want to find a way to have a good relationship again," for example. Of course, there are times we have to object, critique, correct, and perhaps punish others at work. Even so, we can choose whether to criticize the faulty action or whether to damn the whole person. Conversely, when others do well, we can choose to praise instead of keeping silent, despite the slight risk to our reputation or cool reserve.

Featured Articles

**January 2019 Reading Schedule
— God is Bigger Than**

The Centennial Celebration

The Open Table

Remember Your Baptism

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Three New Beginnings

Are You Committed?

The Spirit of Excellence

Created to Worship

All Sin

2019 Laity Worship Calendar



January Calendar Notes from U.M.C. Discipleship Ministries

January 6 Epiphany Sunday/Epiphany
January 13 Baptism of the Lord
January 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
January 20 Human Relations Day
January 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 20 Ecumenical Sunday

Human Trafficking Awareness Day - United Methodist Women stands against the exploitation of those forced to submit to civil injustice as a result of their basic needs or position in society. As many as 30 million people internationally have fallen victim to human trafficking, and the epidemic has become the second largest criminal activity behind the sale of illegal arms. As advocates for social justice, United Methodist Women will continue to work for the rights of those exploited by this cruel trade and end this all-too-prevalent form of modern-day slavery.

Human Relations Day - A special Sunday authorized by the General Conference to be observed with an offering taken throughout the denomination during the season of Epiphany on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Human Relations Day calls upon United Methodists to further the development of improved race relations.

Martin Luther King Day - The prophetic witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for justice and peace embodies the spirit of the Social Creed, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and the inclusiveness of our denomination. His words continue to inspire and guide our commitment to the whole Gospel:

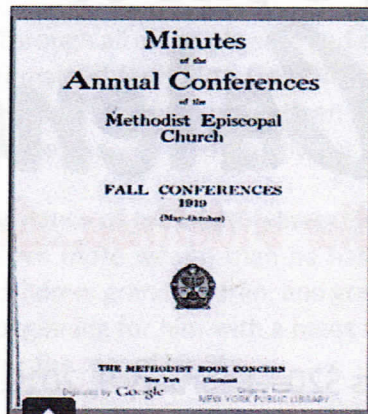
The observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day enriches and strengthens our social witness today. Therefore, be it resolved, that each annual conference observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day with appropriate services of commemoration in recognition of Dr. King; and on that day we strongly recommend that we close the bishops' office, all conference offices, all district offices, all local church offices, and, where feasible, business offices of church-related institutions; and that we support local activities surrounding the celebration of Dr. King's life and ministry; that we encourage local school districts not to hold classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day; and that if local school districts hold classes, we encourage them to use Martin Luther King Jr. Day to celebrate Dr. King's work and address the need for the continuing struggle for justice.

2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity gives Christians an annual opportunity to continue their quest for the unity they already share in Christ. It is also a time to gather in praise of the Triune God and to deepen the understanding of the ecumenical movement. By joining in this annual celebration Christians raise their voices, hands and hearts to God seeking the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus, the Son of God, "that they all may be one."

The Week of Prayer also invites those who participate to use it as an opportunity to examine the effectiveness of the ecumenical movement in seeking to end the divisions among Christians. From the smallest to the largest communities, from all cultures, races and language groups, from all the baptized to all those in ordained ministry, the Week of Prayer is also an opportunity to ask and examine the level of support they have given to this important movement in the life of the Church. An accounting of each Christian's discipleship and faithfulness to the proclamation of the Gospel—the good news of reconciliation—can be taken every year during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

100 Years ago, in 1919

McKinney was founded: aka: Highland Chapel Methodist Church



A reading from the 1919 Conference Journal:

"A new preaching point organized in LaMarque"

Kudos:

Janice Hayes, Delores Cavil, and Ben Cavil—for drafting history segments this month

Donna Warren- Accepting to be Author of Booklet

Gerri Carroll- Leading Communications Team

Incentives----- Calling all former McKinney Members!!!

As you visit with friends and family during the holidays; collect their contact information and turn those sign-up sheets in to Mrs. Carroll or Cynthia Thornton. The individual who turns in the most names and contact information will receive One free Gala ticket!

Please Join the Celebrations by Getting Involved—All are Welcomed!!

Help with the History by donating old artifacts, t-shirts, programs, booklets, etc...

Offer to help by contacting:

Sandra Bell, Cynthia Thoron, Brenda Matthews, Carol Johnson



Mark Your Calendar

Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!

Pastor Roast & Toast—Tickets \$20—February 9, 2019..... Tickets coming Soon

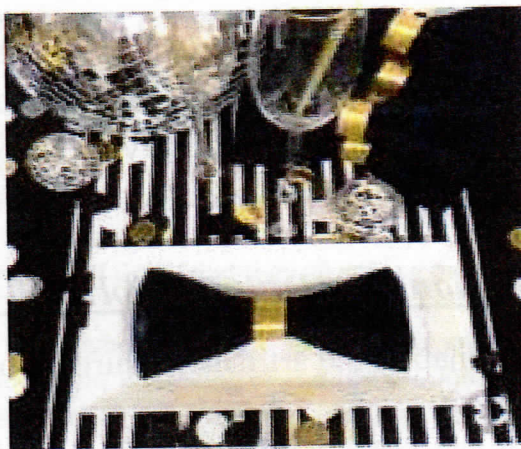
Gala—August 10, 2019...Dress, Music, Dinner, Recognitions

Anniversary Day- September 22, 2019—Bishop Bob Hayes, Historical Marker

Memorial Day- November 2, 2019--- Remembrance of those deceased!!

Roast & Toast Our Pastor: Saturday Feb 9, 2019

Dinner & Fun Entertainment





By Darla Noble

Each New Year brings with it all sorts of good intentions for changing this or that in our lives. We resolve to eat healthier, save more money, exercise, take up a new hobby, get rid of a bad habit... the list goes on and on.

But why? Why do we make these resolutions? Because we want to be better, that's why. We see the beginning of each year as a chance to start fresh. Sadly, though, statistics show that only 8% of people who make New Year's resolutions keep them. The reasons for slacking off vary, but basically it all boils down to a lack of commitment.

If you are part of the 92% who have trouble making good on your resolutions, what would you say if I told you 2019 could be the year to change all of that? It can be if you allow the Word of God to sink in and keep you focused on making this new beginning a genuine start to a new and better you.

We're going to take a brief look at three people (or groups of people) in the Bible who experienced a new beginning. Two of them were successful. One was not. We'll look at what made the difference in the hope it will help you make a new beginning that counts.

1. Job

The Old Testament book of Job tells us that Job was an extremely wealthy, wise, and highly respected man. Yet Satan tried to drag Job away from God, and everything Job owned was ripped away by natural disasters and criminals. Not only that, everyone in Job's family except his wife died.

Job didn't have a clue as to why this was happening to him. And when his body was suddenly covered in boils, blisters, and oozing sores, thanks to further attempts from Satan, he was really confused, and miserable.

Through all of the physical and emotional pain and suffering, however, Job remained faithful to God. He questioned why. He begged for mercy. He even wished he'd never been born. But through it all he never forgot that all he had was God's to give or to take away.

Because of Job's faithfulness God gave Job a new beginning. He gave Job even more wealth than he had before. He gave Job and Mrs. Job more children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Job accepted God's new beginning for him with a heart of thanksgiving, honoring God in all he did for the rest of his life.

Would you be able to do the same?

2. Joseph and his brothers

Joseph was a teenage boy full of vim and vigor, and, quite honestly, it appears he was a bit of a show-off. His older brothers resented Joseph for being their dad's favorite. But this didn't stop Joseph from telling them he would someday rule over them and showing off his fancy coat.

In Genesis we see that Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery—an act that resulted in Joseph essentially being the ruler of all of Egypt. After being a shepherd then a slave, becoming a ruler was definitely a new beginning for Joseph. It was a new beginning in which he honored God in all he did for the remainder of his life.

Joseph's brothers also got a new beginning when they were forced to go to Egypt to buy food. Little did they know they were putting themselves at the mercy of Joseph—the brother they'd sold and lied to their father about. When the truth came out, Joseph's love for his family and his forgiving heart allowed his brothers to have a fresh start at being a family.

God was honored in both situations because their new beginnings were accepted and lived out with gratitude and humility.

Would you be able to do the same?

3. The Israelites

After Joseph and all his brothers died, their descendants, who were the Israelites, continued to increase and prosper. This scared the Pharaohs that came after Joseph, causing them to force the Israelites into slavery.

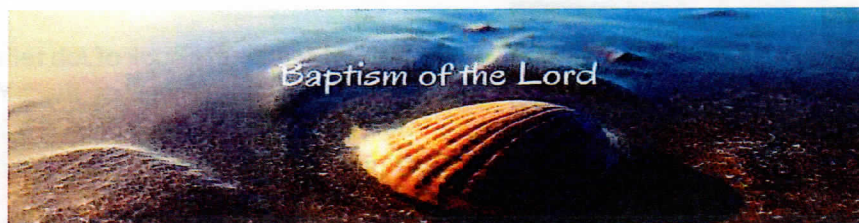
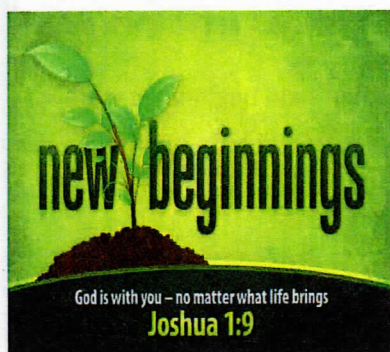
After several hundred years of Israelite slavery, God sent Moses to rescue the Israelites and take them to the Promised Land. Talk about a new beginning! But as we see, time and time and time again throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites didn't make very good use of their new beginning. They even told Moses they had been better off as slaves!

God tried a number of ways to help the Israelites see and understand what a precious gift they had been given. Unfortunately, most were blinded by idolatry, greed, fear, and all sorts of other sinful attitudes. As a result, their new beginning ended up being a beginning of more pain, more suffering, and continued distance from God.

Are you doing the same?

What will you do with your new beginning?

Any day you choose to start over is a day God will grant you a new beginning, but because we are starting a New Year, why not make the start of 2019 the start of an even closer, more intimate relationship with God?



Remember your baptism, reaffirm your vows, recommit your life

By Victoria Rebeck

"Remember your baptism and be thankful."

Christians worldwide will hear this charge on Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Jan. 13, as many services will include a reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

The celebration of Jesus' baptism used to be marked at the beginning of Epiphany on Jan. 6, at the end of the 12-day season of Christmas. The ancient church conducted baptisms on that day, following preparation for the sacrament during Advent, explained the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources for the General Board of Discipleship.

The "remembering" is about recommitment.

"It would be better if our ritual had translated this as 'remember that you are baptized and be thankful,'" Burton-Edwards said. While not everyone can remember the occasion of their baptism, "we can all remember that we are baptized and be thankful for that."

United Methodism teaches that baptism initiates people into the faith community and into a covenant relationship with God and God's people. Reaffirming their vows enables Christians to renew their commitment to discipleship—with the help of the Holy Spirit, Burton-Edwards said.

While people fail in their attempts to live as faithful disciples, "God has done God's work in the covenant," he explained. Thus, The United Methodist Church does not rebaptize. The reaffirmation ritual is appropriate for those who have been baptized and wish to recommit themselves to Christ.

Remembering our baptism means living fully in the life of the Church. It means taking hold of the graces offered as we face our daily crosses. It means claiming that grace for our walk and not despairing because of feelings of inadequacy or sinfulness. In baptism, we are gifted with every grace needed to take hold of the love of God so that we can grow and walk in holiness.

Remembering our baptism means living fully in the life of the Church.

But it is not only up to us to remember our baptism. The beauty is this: our baptism also remembers us. It follows us and marks us and claims us for

Christ. It unrelentingly calls us back again and again to the graces offered there, when water washed away our sins and clothed us in Christ. It calls us and beckons us to return again to the blood and water that flowed from Christ's side. It keeps us and holds us and asks us again to remember and celebrate the gratuitous gift of mercy.

It calls, and we answer.

Healing brokenness

When some of the people of United Methodist Church, reaffirm their baptismal vows on January 13th, they often will receive a reminder of the ways in which Christ heals them.

"There are times in a church's life or with what is going on in the world that restatement of what we believe and of God's love and grace for us needs to be made and there needs to be an action for that," she said. "We reaffirm whose we are and who we are and, because of that, how we are going to live with what is going on around us."

Reaffirmation can be "a bridge to help people who are struggling, needing to know that God remembers them and loves them and they can start over," Walkes said.

The Rev. Victoria Rebeck is a United Methodist deacon and director of communication of the Minnesota Annual Conference.

Epiphany

The liturgical color for Epiphany Day is white.

Epiphany is the 12th day after Christmas, January 6, which is also the day before the Orthodox Church's Christmas Day, January 7th. That means Epiphany is also Orthodox Christmas Eve. So how and what Epiphany celebrates depends on where you are in the Christian community.



The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphania*, which means divine manifestation, and it references a visit of a god to earth.

In some Christian traditions, Epiphany celebrates the day Jesus is baptized: His divinity and role on earth are revealed as he comes up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descends on him and the Witness in Heaven says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Other Christian traditions include Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana in Galilee in Epiphany celebrations of the revelation of Jesus as the Christ.

In the United Methodist Church and many other Western traditions, Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi from the East who bring worship and gifts of devotion to the Christ Child, revealing his divinity.

Epiphany is a sacramental church. God has given two very precious gifts to the church by which He gives the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of eternal life. These gifts are Baptism and Holy Communion.

Holy Baptism

Baptism is the entry point for all Christians into God's family and Church. We believe Baptism is totally God's work in us, whereby through his promise and simple water, he gives each of us the unconditional assurance that he will never stop desiring to love us and forgive us our whole life long. As the Scriptures teach, we believe Baptism is a means of Grace, meaning through it God creates faith, forgives sins and adopts us into His family not because we deserve it, but simply out of God's love for us.

Holy Communion

Like Baptism, Holy Communion is entirely the work of God whereby Jesus Christ is made physically available to sinners through bread and wine (but of course, remember, this is a mystery received in faith.)

An Epiphany Blessing of Homes and Chalking the Door

from umcdiscipleship.org/resources

In some parts of the world, particularly Great Britain, there is a custom of gathering in places of residence or work (generically called "homes") to

ask God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live, work, and visit there.

What Is a Chalking the Door Service?

This short liturgy is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

What Is the Significance of the Chalk and the Magi?

Chalk, a substance made of common elements of the earth, is used by teachers to instruct students and by children in their games and play. We use chalk in this service as an ordinary substance put to holy use. Further, chalk will not permanently mar the dwelling. As its image fades from view over time, those who participated in its original placement will remember it and the purpose for which it was intended. In doing so, they may rededicate themselves to that purpose. After a year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, they will have the opportunity once again to celebrate the themes of this season and once again to seek God's blessing on their homes and on those who come and go through the home.

Traditionally we remember the names of the Magi as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — although these names are not to be found in Scripture. During the chalking ceremony, the first letters of these three names — C, M, B — are inscribed on the door frame. Some suggest the C M B may also stand for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," meaning "May Christ bless this dwelling."

These letters are inscribed between the numbers of the year of the ceremony. Thus, as people are given the opportunity to participate in the chalking of the door, they will inscribe one or more of the symbols: 20 C M B 11 to 20 C M B 12

The symbols are usually written on the upper horizontal piece of the door frame of the front entrance to a home or hospital room; but if younger children or people in wheelchairs participate, encourage them to place the symbols anywhere on the door frame they can comfortably reach.

A Blessing of the Chalk for Marking the Door

L: Lord Jesus, through your Incarnation and birth in true human form, you have made all the earth holy. We now ask your blessing upon this simple gift of your creation — chalk. We use it as a tool to teach our children, and they use it as a tool in their play and games. Now, with your blessing, may it become a tool for us to mark the doors of our home with the symbols of your wise servants who, so long ago, came to worship and adore you in your first home.

People in turn mark the doorway with one or more of the symbols:
2019 C M B 2019

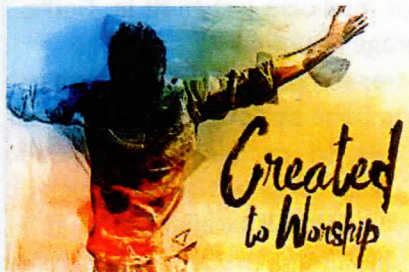
L: May we, in this house, and all who come to visit, to work, and to play, remember these things throughout the coming year. May all who come and go here find peace, comfort, joy, hope, love, and salvation, for Christ has come to dwell in this house and in these hearts.

All: May we be Christ's light in the world. Amen.



United Methodist Beliefs: Open Table: The Rev. Gary Henderson: "When we use the term 'open table,' we're really referring to the Communion table where all are welcome; welcome without regard to difference. It is a table where there are no barriers to community. It is a place where we experience the love of God. 'God so loved the world that God gave.' The image that I have is the image of a banquet where everyone is a VIP, a very important person with a special seat at the table. At this table, I know I am special. I know that I am honored here. I just want to be present and linger a while in the company of others. I sense at this table, that God is present and the real guest of honor. We have some scholars and worship leaders who will state that there are actually some restrictions — they will

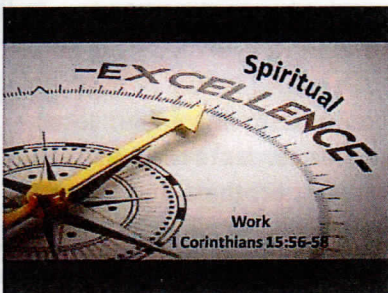
note the liturgy in the Book of Worship and other places include phrases such as “all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.” So, the table is open to all without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, intellect, other things that are visible, but the invitation does ask for some self-examination. John Wesley invited all to the table. The Lord, Jesus Christ invited all to the table. All are welcome at the open table.”



Psalm 66:1-4

1 For the music director; a song, a psalm. Shout out praise to God, all the earth! 2 Sing praises about the majesty of his reputation! Give him the honor he deserves! 3 Say to God: “How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power your enemies cower in fear before you. 4 All the earth worships you and sings praises to you! They sing praises to your name!” (Selah)

The question is: To what extent did those verses describe your life this past week? Don’t answer out loud, but on a scale of 1-10, would you rate a ten? Seven?



Five? Three? Zero? If your score is somewhere in the bottom half of the scale, then you definitely need to hear this message! If it’s a nine or ten, maybe you should be preaching it! I confess that I’ve got a lot of room to improve in keeping the command of verse 2, “Make His praise glorious.”

Biblically speaking, the pursuit of excellence refers to pursuing and doing the best we can with the gifts and abilities God gives, giving our best to the glory of God. But ideally, it is done without the spirit of competition or seeking to excel simply to be better than others. Excellence includes doing common, everyday things, but in very uncommon ways regardless of whether people are watching. The reality is that God sees our work and rewards us accordingly (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58).

Introduction

In keeping with the biblical goal of spiritual growth and greater levels of maturity, we often find in Scripture the call to abound or excel in Christian character, especially in the various ways we can express love to one another. Spiritual maturity is a quest for character for which there will be little progress without the pursuit of excellence. Without pursuing excellence, life will remain bland, very vanilla, lukewarm at best (see Rev. 3:15-16). The quest for excellence fuels our fire and keeps us from just drifting downstream gathering debris. This focus and need becomes quickly evident from the following verses.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

Philippians 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound (i.e., excel) still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (NET)

2 Corinthians 8:7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all eagerness and in the love from us that is in you—make sure that you excel in this act of kindness too. (NET)

1 Thessalonians 3:12 And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound (excel) in love for one another and for all, just as we do for you, 3:13 so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more. (NASB)

1 Thessalonians 4:10 for indeed you do practice it (love) toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more (NASB)

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. (NET)

Daniel 6:3 KJV Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

From these verses, it should be clear that God wants His people to abound or excel in both what they are (inward character) and in what they do (behavior or good deeds). It would seem obvious that there is simply no way one can love God with all his heart (Matt. 22:37) without seeking to do his or her best to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). Since that is so, the pursuit of excellence is both a goal and a mark of spiritual maturity. However, for this to be true, the pursuit of excellence must be motivated by the right values, priorities, and motives. If we go astray here, the pursuit of excellence can quickly become a mark of immaturity and just another result of man's obsession with his own significance, which, as mentioned previously, is a perilous pursuit.

Enemies of Excellence: lazy, mediocre, average, callous, procrastinator, low self-esteem, compromise, low motivation,

poor communicator, prideful, complacent, arrogant, boastful, conceited, inconsistent, mentality of grass is always greener on the other side, excuse-driven, unreliable, unforgiving, fearful, negative, doubtful, slothful, easily offended, faithless, rebellious towards God's Word, ignoring the Holy Spirit, and spirit of religion and tradition.



uninspired, undistinguished, indifferent, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, and run-of-the-mill.

Mediocre or average is being the best of the worst and the worst of the best. Are you happy with being mediocre? Do you believe that this is God's best for you? Don't conform to average or mediocre just to fit in. God's best never intended for you to be just average or ordinary.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

If you have Christ, you have it in you to have a spirit of excellence.

committed to
CHRIST
GIVING OUR BEST TO JESUS
*Through Our Prayers, Presence,
Gifts, Service, and Witness!*

Are You Committed?

Commitment is a popular word in religious circles. But don't forget that commitment is a two-edged sword. When you commit yourself to God, you commit yourself to obey Him -- with commitment comes responsibility.

What is Commitment?

In simplest terms, a commitment is "something pledged."

A parent promises to give a child candy after dinner -- that is a commitment. A girl promises to go on a date with a boy -- that is a commitment. God promises eternal life to the faithful -- that is a commitment.

Our Commitment to Jesus

Although the word commitment does not appear in the Bible, Jesus reveals our commitment as His disciples. "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Lk. 14:26-27).

We must love Jesus above everything and everyone on earth -- we must put Him first. Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matt. 16:24-26)? Jesus' Was Committed Upon Earth

Jesus requires a total, complete, sacrificial commitment from people who desire to be His disciples. But at the same time, Jesus has shown us the way to salvation by living the committed life He requires of us.

Jesus is therefore a sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16), leaving us an example of total commitment to God, "Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in turn; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:22-23).

Thus, Jesus demonstrated commitment. He committed Himself to God by living righteously, and by suffering in order to bear our sins upon the cross -- by His stripes we've been healed (1 Pet. 2:24).

Jesus Committed Himself to God in death with His last words and final breaths, Jesus committed Himself to God -- complete and

endless commitment while suffering on the cross.

Moments before giving up His spirit, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit" (Lk. 23:46). He committed Himself to God, who judges righteously (1 Pet. 2:23).

Jesus Has Shown Us The Way

Jesus has shown us the way to salvation. "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9) -- "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

We're committed to either Jesus or the world.

To whom are you committed? Are you committed to Christ? Have you entrusted yourself to God?

If I'm committed to God

I'll put Him first.

I'll serve Him in everything I do.

I'll entrust myself to Him and His judgment.

I'll busily work in His kingdom, without distraction from the world.

I'll trust Him, rather than worry about things I can't control.

I'll cast my cares upon Him, and trust Him to deal with my problems.

I won't be afraid to die -- God will take care of me, and my loved ones.

I'll live in heaven for eternity.

**The Bible will
keep you from sin,
or sin will keep you
from the Bible.**

- D.L. Moody



ALL SIN -- FIRST AND FOREMOST IS AGAINST THE GOD - Against THEE, THEE only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight"! [Psalm 51:4]. All sin is an affront to God.

When once asked, 'What is the definition of sin?' Billy Graham gave the following answer:

A sin is any thought or action that falls short of God's will. God is perfect, and anything we

do that falls short of His perfection is sin.

The Bible actually uses a number of examples or "word pictures" to illustrate what this means. For example, it tells us that sin is like an archer who misses the target. He draws back his bow and sends the arrow on its way—but instead of hitting the bull's-eye, it veers off course and misses the mark. The arrow may only miss it a little bit or it may miss it a great deal—but the result is the same: The arrow doesn't land where it is supposed to.

The same is true of sin. God's will is like the center of that target—and when we sin, we fall short of His will or miss the mark. And this is something we do every day; as the Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall

short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Even when we aren't aware of it, we commit sin by the things we do (or fail to do), or by the way we think.

This is why we need Christ, for only He can forgive us all our sins, and only He can help us live the way we should. We can't forgive ourselves, nor can we

change our hearts and make ourselves better in God's eyes.

January Trivia

January is considered the coldest month of the year in most of the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month of the year in most of the Southern Hemisphere.

January starts on the same day of the week as October and ends on the same day of the week as February and October in common years. During leap years, January starts on the same day of the week as April and July, and ends on the same day of the week as July.



McKinney Memorial United Methodist Church

Rev. Carlos Phillips, Senior Pastor

Rev. Vickie Keys, Associate Pastor

I command you
Be Strong & Courageous!
Do not be Afraid OR Discouraged
For the Lord your God is with you
Wherever you Go -Joshua 1:9