



bring back the past, we shall meet the deeds of our past in the day of Judgment. See 2 Corinthians.5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." The only way to avoid facing the guilt of our sins in the future, is to repent and find the forgiveness which is in the blood of Jesus. Looking back should make us realize the importance of correcting, to the best of our ability, whatever wrongs we have done. Certainly we should be determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past year.

Looking at the year behind us, let us ask these pertinent questions: Has my moral and spiritual life been all that God wants it to be? Have I keep all my "resolutions" of this time last year? Has my reading and study of the word been regular and consistent so as to have been profitable. Have I made the changes I learned from God's word that I needed to make? Has my prayer life been regular for my own needs and those of others. Has my membership with this congregation (my agreement to work together with other brethren) been an asset or a liability to the group, with respect to my attendance, giving and participation in the worship?

Looking to the future, we cannot know what this year will bring. But we can "contract" in advance to be the right kind of people, if the Lord permits us to live. If we truly understand the sufficiency of Christ and learn to depend more upon Him, keeping ourselves under His authority in all matters, the year 1996 will be a good one - better than the old.

January is the month with two faces: One looking back down the road already traveled; the other looking ahead into the sun with optimism, confidence, and anticipation of the good things awaiting all who love the Lord.

### **The Choice Is Ours**

#### **Colossians 3:1-17**

One summer afternoon I climbed a hill near my home. When I reached the top, I stretched out on the grass to relax.

**Turning my** head to one side, my eyes focused on some blades of grass within inches of my face. This short-range focus not only strained my eyes, but it blurred my view of anything beyond the end of my nose. So I began to adjust my focus, and then the distant city came into view instead. I found I could shift my sights from near to far at will. The choice was mine.

In today's Bible reading, the apostle Paul emphasized that followers of Christ need to keep eternity in view. He wrote, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). We can choose where to put our focus.

We can succumb to selfish, earthbound thoughts, blurring our view of anything beyond the end of our nose. Or we can gaze through this sinful scene and fix our attention on

things above, where Christ is seated at God's right hand—and we with Him! Then, and only then, are we in a position to see what's most important in life.

Only the mind set on things above can say no to sin and yes to holiness. The choice is ours.

We have posted a new sermon.

So please check it out and tell others about our website.

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Have a Bermuadful Day