

Jesus is the ultimate “with” feeler. “This is My commandment, that you love and unselfishly seek the best for another, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to lay down his own life for his friends” (John. 15:12-13). Building takes deliberate effort on the part of us all. Look at how to build up a church: “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

Transformed into the image of Christ from glory to glory. As we are transformed we bring others with us.

Written by: Rickie Jenkins (Campbell Road church of Christ Facebook Page)



New Year’s Resolutions

I’ll start by saying that I myself am not much of a “New Year’s Resolution” man myself. I see the appeal of it for sure. New Year’s Day is perceived as a new beginning, and a chance to make positive changes. However, in my mind, if you need to make a change such as losing weight, learning a new skill, completing a project or some other typical new year resolution, why not just do it when you think about it? Why wait for a certain day on the calendar if you know it needs to be done? Putting it off until January 1st won’t make it more likely to succeed.

And where could that be more applicable than with matters of faith and obedience? If one is not a baptized believer yet knows they need to be, why wait? You should be clearing your calendar to do so as soon as possible! Do you want to become more familiar with the Bible? Why wait to start reading on January 1st? Just pick it up and start reading it as soon as you think about it. Perhaps you’d like to increase your quality with one of the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) or the Christian virtues (2 Peter 1:5-8). Or it may be that you want to become more prayerful. All of these are noble goals and should not be delayed because of a day on the calendar, or for any other reason for that matter. I am reminded of the words of Ananias, from Acts 22:16 “And now why are you waiting?”. This particular verse is speaking of the importance of being baptized *now*, not later, yet the sentiment of handling spiritual concerns *now* applies to many more areas as well. If something needs to be done, it won’t get done by ignoring it.

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

Now let us think about certain examples from the Bible of delaying, and how it led to negative outcomes. Matthew 25 contains two parables that illustrate the danger of delaying. The 5 foolish virgins in the parable from verses 1-13 delayed to get oil for their lamps, and were denied entry to the wedding. The one-talent man from the parable in verses 14-29 was lazy and did nothing with the money his lord entrusted to him. He delayed, and upon his master's return he was found to be unfaithful. Perhaps one of the most grim examples of someone delaying is in Acts 24:24-25. We know that Felix heard from Paul about the faith in Christ, yet Felix said, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." Yet it would seem Felix never got a "convenient time", and thus he missed his chance to fully learn what he needed to do to be saved. This is alluded to in the song "Almost persuaded" in the first verse.

But we need not suffer the same fate as Felix. We have examples of people delaying, and we have examples of people who did not delay, but immediately made the corrections they needed. 3,000 souls gladly received on the Day of Pentecost, with no further delay. The Ethiopian eunuch did not delay. The Philippian jailor did not delay. Saul did not delay, and later he wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:2 "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." This is another verse that is directly alluded to in a song, "Today is the day of Salvation, tomorrow may be too late."

The last time December 31st fell on a Sunday was 2017. The next time it falls on a Sunday will be 2028. On this December 31st, 2023, if there are any changes or improvements you wish to make as regards your spiritual journey, I invite you to consider the words of yet another Hymn, "Why Not Tonight?", specifically the second verse. "Tomorrow's sun may never rise to bless thy long deluded sight; this is the time O then be wise, be saved O tonight".

Written by: Daniel Young

Building Up One Another

Building people to be one takes deliberate effort. Building requires every part making a contribution to the whole (Eph. 4:16). It is not impossible. Growing to be one is a by-product of transformation. As each one seeks to attain a measure of the fullness of Christ the by-product is one heart, soul and mind.

First, find the good in people. We must have eyes that look past the surface and see past the flaws of each other. While we cannot literally see the heart of another, we must strive to see their heart. Pay attention to the growth of one another. Find improvement in each other. Learn where people came from, that is their history, in order to appreciate where they are now. Find good in the times we assemble together. Let those times be times we are refreshed by each other. Everybody has something good we can notice.

Second, complement one another. When we look for the good in each other it is easier to find things we can compliment. Yes, there is much to compliment. Also, when we compliment it makes us feel much better about ourselves. So notice the flow. When we compliment the good in each other the person we complimented is encouraged. As we compliment another we are encouraged by what we did for another (2 Cor. 1:2-4). Instead of making the picture as bad as we can, make it as good as we can. Look for something you like. Now magnify those things. Be as uplifting as we can be. Tell others about the good in one another.

Third, be compassionate with one another. The word compassion is a compound word. It combines "com" or with, and "passion" or suffer. Passion in its purest sense, the willingness to suffer for what we love. Compassion enables us to feel with each other. The emphasis is not on "feel" but "with." Compassion enables us to feel "with." Therefore, we rejoice when another rejoices and we hurt, suffer, when another hurts. Compassion speaks of an intimate relationship with one another. Compassion binds us together. It is a bond not easily broken.

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