

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1506

December 31, 2023

Exodus 23:16, “*And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, [which is] in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.*”

It’s hard to believe, but 2023 ends tonight. Tomorrow is the first day of 2024. Almost even harder to believe is that we are almost 1/4 of the way through the first century of the 2000s.

We have much we want to accomplish or finish by the end of each year. Most people close out their finances for the year and will prepare to do taxes in the next few weeks. Crops are finished and the harvest has been gathered. Attention now focuses on next year’s crop.

As we can see from the above verse, the Israelites gathered their crops at the ending of the year. No doubt many people used the end of the year to do certain things they wanted to accomplish. Regarding Absalom we are told in II Samuel 14:26, “*And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled [it]: because [the hair] was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.*” Absalom

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Sunday 9 & 12 PM; 6 PM (Online) — Wednesday 6 (Online)

cut his hair at the end of each year. He made it an activity at the end of the year.

The beginning of the year for the Israelites was during our March or April. This let them finish up tasks during the cold weather and be ready for spring and the warmth that would soon follow. There is something about the new year that makes us want to finish up major tasks and begin new ones.

Tomorrow is January 1, 2024. I’m sure many will resolve to do things beginning tomorrow that are somewhat of a challenge such as eating better, losing weight, etc. We should first and foremost resolve that we will do more for the LORD this coming year and every year that follows.

Attend every service. There will certainly be times we cannot attend due to sickness, but for the most part, those times are rare. You will only have 52 Sundays this year. If you miss one, you have already missed about two percent of all the LORD’s days this year. When one is missed, it can never be made up. It’s gone forever.

Read the Bible every day. We spend so much time each day with television, social media, music, school, jobs, etc. How much time do we spend with the word of God? Whether you choose to actually read or listen to recordings, spend some time every day with the Bible. There is no better way that you can use your time.

Pray every day. Paul wrote three words in I Thessalonians 5:17, “*Pray without ceasing.*” He certainly does not intend for us to pray every waking moment. We are to pray often and many times throughout the day. We need to “pray without ceasing.” It needs to be constant and multiple times throughout the day. We should always call upon the LORD for all our needs.

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News

—Continue to remember **Alice Vanderstoep, Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Joanna Locke, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Lauren Candela, Rick Gibbs. Jerry**

Reynolds found out he no longer has any signs of colon cancer and is to return in three months for a checkup. **Sandy Duncan** has had much trouble getting around due to a fracture in her hip. Hip replacement surgery is planned for January 12. The sister of Erin Davis, **Christine Barrett**, had breast cancer five years ago. A lump has recently been found. She is requesting prayers regarding this.

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I think many often wait to pray for the “big” things such as recovering from an illness, safety on a long journey, etc. We sometimes don’t want to “burden” the LORD with things we consider small. I Peter 5:7, “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*” All our cares need to be cast upon the LORD. He cares for us and wants to help us with all our cares.

The new year will be the old year very quickly. When we come to the end of 2024, will we be closer to or further from the LORD? The answer to that is totally up to each of us individually. Paul asks in Romans 8:35, “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*” In verse 39 he says, “*Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Paul gives a long list of what cannot separate us from the LORD. The only way that separation can come is if we ourselves do it. This thought should give great comfort in knowing that no one, nor anything, can separate us from the love of God. If we do leave the LORD, it’s we ourselves who do so. Let’s stay close to the LORD all of 2024 and every day of our lives until we go to be with the LORD.

—Marty Edwards❖

Sunday, December 24, 2023		
Classes	15	Luke 3:1-9
Preaching	22	Genesis 13:6; Luke 18:23 (Very Rich)
Contribution	\$910.00	
Afternoon	9	Zechariah 12:1-14

Visitors— Dec 24 (AM) Herbert & Betty Franklin (Edmonton, KY)

Bible Quiz

The LORD stretched forth what and laid the foundations of what?

Last Week’s Answer— Beauty and Bands (Zechariah 11:7)

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Psalm 65:11 “*Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.*”

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)