

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## What Is New About A New Year?

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**A**s we place a new calendar on the wall, take a moment to think about the year. What really is new about this year? Beyond the fact that we have never seen the year 2005 before, what would we consider as being new?

When we wished all a *happy new year* as midnight struck the beginning for January 1, was the wish and statement really that new? Did we not say the same words last year? Did we not make *new year's resolutions* last year? Unless we are a new born infant, this is not the first January we have seen. Most of us could probably say “*Been there, done that*” when we consider the events that usher in a new year.

The new year is new because we have a fresh outlook on our lives this time of year. Snow is not new. But, when we see it on the ground before feet have made their impressions, there is a freshness about that particular snowfall making it a new experience in our minds. While we have seen plenty of January's, the little calendar squares for this January are fresh and clean to chronicle activities for another year.

As we take inventory of our spiritual well-being, what might a fresh spiritual outlook look like? We might take a fresh look in how we size up people. Paul reveals that he no longer looks at people with an emphasis upon their attainments according to the flesh. He says “*we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no more...*” (2 Cor. 5:16). Now, Paul sees people from the spiritual perspective of the new creature in Christ: “*...Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they have become new*” (2 Cor. 5:17). Distinguishing between how the world looks at people and how the fresh outlook of a Christian manifests itself, one writer has well said, “He estimates men by his *rectitude*, not his rank; by his *spirit*, not his station; by his *principles*, not his property” (*Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 45; 2 Corinthians, page 125*).

Letting true “love” focus for us, we might manifest a fresh outlook on people and circumstances in the following ways: Regarding our circumstances, we will hold up against them without giving in, and hold up under them,

without giving up because love “*beareth all things... and endureth all things*” (1 Cor. 13:7). Regarding people, we will approach them putting the best face on their intentions, and when the evidence shows that their motives were not as they should be, we will hope that they will do what is right. Why? Because love “*believeth all things...and hopeth all things*” (1 Corinthians 13:7).

While the promise of Heaven is not new for it was revealed once and for all in the faith of the Gospel (1 Peter 1:3-5, Jude 3), there is a fresh look we can give it each day we live. While focusing on Heaven is to be the Christian's constant focus (Philippians 3:14), there is a fresh way in which we can look at the reward ahead. Paul exhorts the Christian to be alert “*for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed*” (Romans 13:11). Therefore, each day that God allows us life this next year, we can manifest a fresh outlook on Heaven. May the fact that each day of living brings us closer to the crown, keep us from serving the flesh.