

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Most of us will cheerfully utter these three words today and tomorrow. Are we wishing others happiness resulting from the absence of problems, knowing that most of us who hear these words will have to face at least some problem this next year? Are we uttering our well-wishes with physical health in mind, knowing that sometime this year most of us will face some form of sickness? Is there a happiness that we can wish for that faces difficult realities of life, but still joyfully glistens despite reoccurring problems? Let us examine the happiness the Lord wishes for us.

You may be laboring mentally under the guilt of sin. You do not feel self-worth because of the many times you have missed the mark of God's standard of righteousness. We hope you will realize that in Christ we become a "new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17). Paul reminds all, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not reckon sin" (Rom. 4:7-8). Those who have not been baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, we wish

you will deal with your painful guilt with the only remedy of coming to Christ in faith and baptism (Acts 2:38, Mk. 16:16). We wish you a Happy New Year!

There is a happiness the Lord wishes for His disciples that has not entered into the minds many 2007 well-wishers. "Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness sake...Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you" (Matt. 5:10-12). When you stand up for the cause of Christ and continue to follow the Lord's standard of righteousness you will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12). When in 2007 you experience persecution for doing right, we wish you a happy new year!

Much effort is demanded of you this year as you continue reading God's word, digesting the teaching through a hearing ear, and then humbly carry out the commandments of the Lord. Should you be happy as you experience the difficulties associated

with this arduous spiritual exercise? "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things that are written therein..." (Rev. 1:3). During this year of getting up early to read before work, loosing sleep at night for further study, and doing what the Lord demands when it is not convenient, we wish you a Happy New Year!

To Experience a year where no one in our number dies or has no acquaintance or family member to pass from this life is probably not realistic. I do not know of any one year of my life when someone I knew, or a family member did not die. We know "it is appointed unto men once to die," and every year the proof of God's statement that "no man hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power over the day of death" is painfully experienced (Heb. 9:27, Eccl. 8:8). Yet, to die while living in the right relationship with God does not deprive us of happiness: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them" (Rev. 14:3). Dear faithful Christian, despite the reality of death, Happy New Year!