

“New Year-New You”

2 Cor. 5:14-17

Introduction

- I. Everyone has a bad past-sin (Rom. 3:10-12, 23; 2 Cor. 5:14).
- II. Many of us would love to put our pasts behind us.
- III. How?

Discussion

- I. Paul's past is mixed with things of prominence and regret, although he believed he was right in what he did at the time (1 Tim. 1:15).
 - A. Paul had a great reputation amongst the Jews (Acts 22:3; Phil. 3:4-6).
 - B. Paul/Saul was responsible for the imprisonment and death of Christians (Acts 9:1-2, 13-14; 22:4-5).
 - C. If he had stayed in this condition, then he would have been lost spiritually.
- II. The Gospel changed Paul's life for the good (Acts 9:3-16; 22:12-21).
 - A. Once Paul obeyed the Gospel, he no longer cared about his reputation with the Jews (go back to Phil. 3:4-6, then notice Phil. 3:7-11).
 - B. Paul began to defend and promote the very things that he had once persecuted (Gal. 1:13-23).
- III. Obedience to the Gospel can do for you what it did for Paul (Rom. 1:16).
 - A. Your past is not what has to define you-Paul is remembered for his faithfulness and obedience to Christ.
 - B. We can have a “new life”/”born again” (John 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; 2 Cor. 5:14-17).
 1. We can “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:1-6).
 2. We can become “a new man” (Eph. 4:17-32).

Conclusion

- I. With the new year bringing to mind the thought of a “fresh start”, why not do what you can to be a new you.
- II. Do not let the past keep you from living a better future with Christ (Phil. 4:13-15; Heb 12:1-2).