

# “How to End One Year and Begin Another”

## Col. 3:23-24

### Introduction

- I. At the end of each year, and at the beginning of a new one, Christians have the opportunity to do self inventory of their diligence.
- II. We can see the things that worked well in the previous year, while at the same time we can think of different things that we can improve in the year to come.
- III. While it is great to have a plan to read the Bible more, visit the sick more, and pray more often, there are also other things that we can choose to do.

### Discussion

- I. How pure is my life?
  - A. In the previous year, did I become holier or less holy (1 Pet. 1:13-16).
  - B. We can look to examples like Mary Magdalene of those who chose to change (Luke 8:1-3).
  - C. What the woman, who was a sinner (Luke 7:37-50).
  - D. Pure lives must have pure hearts (Matt. 5:8; Acts 15:9).
  - E. We can not be pure while wallowing in sin (Titus 1:15-16).
- II. Have I grown into a spiritual leader of others?
  - A. Not all spiritual leaders are elders.
  - B. Each Christian can help to lead others to Christ.
  - C. To lead others, we need to use God's Word properly (2 Tim. 2:15).
  - D. Are we more interested in leading people to secular things or spiritual things (1 John 2:15-17)?
- III. Are you fighting as good soldier of Jesus Christ?
  - A. Christianity is not a spectator religion!
  - B. Each Christian should be active in the fight (2 Tim. 2:3; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12).
  - C. We should optimistic of the victory (cf. Matt. 25:24-30; 1 John 5:4; Heb. 10:38-39).
- IV. Have shown love and kindness to others?
  - A. Christian should be the kindest and most loving of all people (Eph. 4:32; John 13:34-35).
  - B. Even our enemies should receive our love and kindness (Rom. 12:18-21; Matt. 5:43-48).
  - C. We should remember how love is to be shown (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

### Conclusion

- I. If we find that we have not done these things in this year as we should have, then let us make up our minds that next year truly will be different.
- II. Many “resolutions” fall short after a few weeks, but the Christian must continue through the whole year!