

*January 2005*

Dear Pastor & Friends:

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Another year has passed and here we are facing a brand new one. What will it hold for each of us. We really don't know do we? We sometimes make New Year resolutions; we are going to eat healthy, lose weight, be a better Christian, read our Bibles each day. So many things and they are all good.

I was thinking the other day if we would do what the scripture above says, our lives would be so much better. Mark Twain said a beautiful thing "Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that crushed it." Forgiveness is not easy, but it is necessary. The unforgiving spirit doesn't hurt the other person; it hurts us. To harbor grudges, to cultivate malice toward another person, to refuse to forgive all of these poison the inner man and produce spiritual and emotional sickness that no man made medicine can cure. So lets start the New Year with a forgiving spirit and the year will hold many wonderful things for us.

I have some conferences scheduled for the year and even a revival scheduled for this Fall. I have many Sundays open so please call and fill these for me. If you need someone for a Mission Conference, Revival, while you are on vacation, banquets, or whatever, please call and let me help you.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. You will never know how much I appreciate your standing with us.

Yours for Souls,

Glenn Stockton  
The Pastor's Friend

# ENCOURAGEMENT

JANUARY 2005

## “HAPPY RENEW YEAR”

Lament. 5:21 “Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.”

As we enter into a new year we find that this is indeed an exciting time of the year. Why is it so exciting for us? Because of two reasons:

(1) By nature we always like new things, it is exciting when we get:

- A new car
- A new suit of clothes
- A new home
- A new child or grandchild

But it is also exciting as we anticipate entering a New Year.

WHAT MAKES THE NEW YEAR SO EXCITING??

(2) The old year we have had has brought some difficult times, such as:

- Some have lost loved ones this year
- Some have had to endure great sickness throughout the year
- Some have lost jobs this year
- Some have lost friends through death or betrayal
- Some have had financial setbacks

Those who have had to endure these things look forward to a New Year, and they are more than happy to close out the Old Year and send it to the history books. For many, life seems to be caught between a rock and a hard place. They can not find the key to problems they face. But the solutions to their problems is to turn to the Lord Jesus who can help them.

Notice what Lamentations said, “Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.”

The homes, communities and many of our churches in this country are in a mess. The solution is to RENEW

OUR DAYS AS OF OLD.

**WE NEED TO RENEW OUR MINDS.** Romans 12:1,2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

**WE NEED TO RENEW OUR STRENGTH.** Isaiah 40:28-31

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. [29]

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. [30] Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: [31] But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

**WE NEED TO RENEW OUR STEADFASTNESS.** Col. 2:5

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”

Be Encouraged,  
Glenn Stockton