

## STANDING ON THE BRINK OF NEWNESS

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Our Year in Review:
  - 1. 4 baptisms and 6 “responses.”
  - 2. Jonathan Pettigrew and Beau Bryant born.  
*Note: 5 grands and 4 great-grands.*
  - 3. Lost dear friends: Melba Dunn, Charles Henry, Ruby Jeter, Eurple Joiner and Wayne Cooper.  
*Note: 41 close friends and family.*
  - 4. Sam and Mollie Aldridge moved away.
  - 5. New members: BJ and Kim Gordon family and Whitney Vanderzualm and her family.
  - 6. Marriages: Will and Jesse Naron.  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary – Larry and Shirley Fisackerly.
  - 7. Mike Beard installed as an elder.
  - 8. Chris Bryant installed as a deacon.
  - 9. Sent money to help with the damage from two hurricanes and the fire in Tennessee.
  - 10. Witnessed the solar eclipse.
- B. Challenges for New Year:
  - 1. Bible Bringers! (*May we be as dedicated as our children!*)
  - 2. Perfect Attendance – Bible class and worship.
  - 3. Daily Bible Reading.
  - 4. More time in prayer.
  - 5. More service to God – how?
    - a. Have I stepped out of my comfort zone?
    - b. How do I show my love to others?
    - c. Do I only serve when it fits into my plans?
  - 6. Proclaiming Christ to others.
    - a. Have I told someone about Christ?
    - b. Invited someone to worship or Bible class – small groups?
    - c. Talking with someone about spiritual matters?
    - d. Developing “new” friendships – teaching Christ?
    - e. Talking to family?

### I. ON THE BRINK OF NEWNESS.

- A. Noah and His Family, Genesis 9:1-2.
  - 1. Be fruitful and multiply, 9:1.
  - 2. You are in control (given by God).
  - 3. God’s covenant with Noah – never destroy by water.
- B. The Israelites, Exodus 12 & 14.
  - 1. Leaving Egypt (for the unknown).
    - a. God set you free (Passover) out of Egypt.
    - b. The Red Sea divided and enemies destroyed.
  - 2. Crossing Jordan (into the unknown), Deut.
    - a. Warnings to be obedient to God.

- b. A reminder of God's grace, Deut. 8.
- C. Exiles Returning from Babylon.
  - 1. Once home – stagnated.
    - a. A reminder of their sins – separation from God.
    - b. Return to God's ways – prosper, Nehemiah 8.
  - 2. Encouraged to serve God.
    - a. Ezra and Nehemiah
    - b. Zechariah and Haggai – finish the temple.
    - c. Malachi 4:6 – the promise of the Messiah.

## II. A NOTE OF HOPE.

- A. Hope in Christ.
  - 1. Colossians 1:21-23
  - 2. Romans 5:1-5
- B. The Lord's Second Coming.
  - 1. Matthew 24:42-44
  - 2. 1 Thessalonians, 5:2
  - 3. Luke 12:37, *"Blessed are those slaves whom the master shall find on the alert when he comes; ..."*
  - 4. Luke 18:8, *"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"*
- C. Keep Pressing On.
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13
  - 2. Philippians 1:27
  - 3. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (cf. 2 Tim. 1:13)

## CLOSING

- A. We stand at the brink of a new year.
- B. In what or whom is your hope placed?
- C. Are you ready to serve the Lord completely?
- D. Are you ready for the Lord's return?