



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

January 2018

7 Resolutions You SHOULD HAVE for 2018

Most people think about resolutions at the beginning of a new year whether they write them down or not. By far, I would imagine, some of the top resolutions are to lose weight or get fit. And as important to your health as these are, there are more important resolutions to be made. Here are seven that I think you ought to consider.

1. Worship God every week.

Considering what God has done for us in Jesus Christ to forgive and save us . . . and considering that every good thing we have has been given to us by our gracious Heavenly Father . . . and considering the joy, peace and hope that the Holy Spirit pours into our lives . . . then I ask, what greater priority do we have than to worship, praise and thank our God with our fellow Christians weekly?

2. Be a better spouse, be a better family member and be a better friend.

If we can't love those we are closest to us than how can we love others as Jesus commanded us to do? Resolve to be more tolerant, forgiving, and understanding. Be a better listener and show up when you are needed.

3. Tithe - give 10% of your earnings to the Lord.

The hallmark of a believing Christian is his or her trust in the Lord. In the Bible, our God speaks often about money. The money we are given is actually a test. Will we fall in love with money or elevate it above God, or will we give God His rightful place. God promises to more than take care of our needs and wants. Resolve in 2018 to trust Him completely with your finances.

4. Read the Bible often.

You will find conviction, encouragement, assurance, wisdom and so much more when you read God's Word. You will never regret a single minute of time that you give to reading or listening to His Word. And while you are at it why not commit to going to a Bible study. This will enrich you all the more.



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7 Resolutions

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5. Become an expert in one task.

Everyone is good at something. Now take what you are good at and become great at it. Educate yourself, practice, and stay up to date with whatever it is you intend to master.

6. Volunteer.

Perhaps you can use what you have become an expert at to serve others in some existing ministry. Volunteering is act of love as you work with others to serve people. Pick a ministry or service that you will give some allotted time. As many have discovered, you will gain far more than you give.

7. Develop a prayer routine.

Prayer is an awesome privilege that God has granted us. With confidence we can address the Ruler of the whole universe – the Almighty God. Start your day with prayer and end your day on your knees. Resolve to start this routine and, therefore, make it into a habit.

~ Pastor Rich



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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Special Church Events in January

Parents Day Out

January 10

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

(Wednesdays through May 16)



Adult Inquiry Class

Begins January 16

6:30—8:30 p.m.

(Tuesdays through March 20)



Financial Peace University

Begins January 23

6:30—8:00 p.m.

(Tuesdays through March 20)



Legacy Journey

Begins January 25

6:30—8:00 p.m.

(Thursdays through March 22)



Band of Brothers Men's Gathering

January 29

7:00—8:30 p.m.



For more information and registration on any of these activities, please check your church bulletin or the church website at:

www.visitgrace.org

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

~ Goran Persson

The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

The Gospel of John does not tell us about the birth of Jesus, but part of its first chapter is often read at Christmas, especially verse 14 above.

"Dwelt" comes from a verb that means to pitch a tent. The picture that comes to mind is Jesus became a part of our neighborhood. There is more. During the wilderness wanderings God met His people in the Tabernacle. It was a tent the people set up where God told them. That tent meant God came there to be present with His people. Matthew tells us Jesus is 'Immanuel,' "God with us." These words from John 1 tell us the same thing.

Jesus is called "the Word." In the First Century "the Word" was a well known philosophical concept. In essence it referred to the intelligent presence that made and sustains the universe. The One Who is the Redeemer of sinful humans is also the Creator of all that is. Part of John 1 says, "All things were made through Him. Without Him nothing was made that was made." We sometimes try to reconcile macro evolution with belief in Jesus as Savior by making the origins of all things a relatively unimportant secondary matter. But, John 1 stresses that the Redeemer is also the Creator. If one of those two things is not true, the other cannot be.

The opening words of John 1 echo the story of Creation from Genesis 1. The usual suggestion is that John saw the coming of Jesus as the beginning of a New Creation as significant as Creation at the beginning of time.

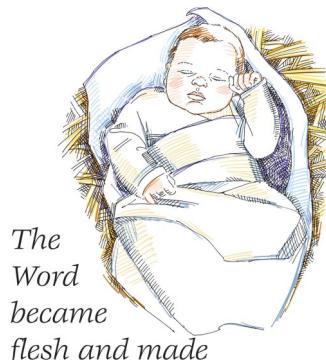
"The Word was God." The Jehovah's Witnesses stress that a definite article (i.e. "the") does not appear with God and say it means only "a god." But, Greek grammar says the definite article is not needed where a "be" verb (am, is, was, etc.) is used. The meaning is definite even though the article is not included.

For the sake of our redemption, Jesus became flesh so He could take our place under the Law to keep it where we failed, and to die on the cross in our place. "Incarnation" is one of those words we hear and may not fully understand. It refers to taking on flesh. Chili properly has only beans. Chili con carne means chili with meat. The Creator became part of the creation.

CS Lewis said the magnitude of the Incarnation could be compared to a gardener becoming a garden slug.

Jesus is the Light of the World Who brings life to people. We read that the darkness in the world did not overcome the light. The word for "overcome" is difficult to translate. Elsewhere it means "comprehend" or "grasp." In chapter 3, verse 19 we read men hid from the Light because their deeds were evil.

"But, to those who believed on Him, He gave the power to become children of God."



*The
Word
became
flesh and made
his dwelling among us.
John 1:14*

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

Three Questions

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid—and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? - "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? - "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? - "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently knowing "whose you are and what your purpose is.

Welcome to Another New Year

As we welcome in a new year, we begin another season of providing materials, both print and non-print, for your entertainment and/or your edification.

New on DVD

Different Drummers: Live Life With Everything You've Got (DVD Fic Dif): Based on a real-life story and centered on the unlikely friendship of two boys growing up in Washington in the 1950's, this story follows a doubtful Lyle who decides to test God's existence by getting his friend David, suffering from muscular dystrophy and wheelchair-bound, to run again.

A Time to Dance by **Karen Kingsbury** (DVD Fic Kin): Fans of Kingsbury's Baxter family can go back to the beginning of the series as the first novel is now available in movie format. As John and Abby secretly plan their divorce, their daughter announces her engagement. As they put their divorce on hold until after the wedding, romance blooms again.

The Littlest Angel (DVD J Lit): Based on the best-selling children's book, this movie tells the story of a misbehaving, homesick cherub who travels back to earth to retrieve a precious gift for the Baby Jesus.

Unstoppable: Where is God in the Midst of Tragedy and Suffering produced by **Kirk Cameron** (DVD 231.8 Cam): To better understand the biggest doubt-raising question of our faith, Cameron takes viewers on a personal, inspiring journey to help comprehend why there is pain and suffering.

Revive Us: A National Family Meeting produced by **Kirk Cameron** (DVD 248.8 Cam): Gathering his most insightful and faithful friends, Cameron asked, "At a time like this, when things seem so dark, what can we do?" Answers of hope and optimism are presented from such leaders as Dr. Ben Carson, Pastor Francis Chan, and Eric Metaxas, among others.

New Fiction

Where We Belong by **Lynn Austin** (Fic Aus): Two spirited sisters living in 1892 Chicago, set out for the Sinai Desert in search of an important biblical manuscript. As they travel with Bedouin guides into the wilderness where Moses and Israelites wandered, they encounter sandstorms, perils and other dangers, including a past love.

The Ladies of Ivy Cottage by **Julie Klassen** (Fic Kla) This is book 2 in **The Tales From Ivy Hill** series. Rachel is a woman determined to earn her own livelihood while boarding at Ivy Cottage. So, she decides to open her own lending library leading her into mystery and romance.

Grace and the Preacher by **Kim Vogel Sawyer** (Fic Saw) Postmistress Grace is tasked with the responsibility of locat-

ing a new pastor for her small Kansas town when her uncle retires. Through their letters, an affection begins to grow between Grace and the Rev. Dille before he heads to her town. But a chance encounter on his journey may change Rev. Dille's and Grace's lives at an enormous price.



Picture Books

5-Minute Inspirational Stories by **Jan & Mike Berenstain** (J Ber): Collection of eleven stories of the Bear family as they live, laugh, and learn. Part of the **Living Lights** series.

Friendship Blessings Collection by **Jan & Mike Berenstain** (J Ber): Also part of the **Living Lights** series, these five stories follow the Bear family in their beloved hollow tree as they come to know what a true friend really is.

Amy Parker teams with illustrator **Breezy Brookshire** to introduce children to I Corinthians 13:13 using animals to explain lasting concepts that will continue to grow within them.

How Big Is Love? (J Par): A determined Little Hedgehog seeks to understand how love works.

How Far Is Faith? (J Par): A little elephant discovers that faith is never far away.

How High Is Hope? (J Par) has little owl learning to fly and discovering that hope in God can help him reach the sky

Indescribable: 100 Devotionals About God and Science by **Louie Giglio** (J 215 Gig) God's glory is displayed in His creation. Giglio provides 100 kid-friendly devotions to help children see God in the world around them. Each includes a Scripture passage, story, practical applications, prayer, and a scientific fact.

Non-Fiction

The Red-Letter Words of Jesus by **Jack Countryman** (232.9 Cou) This title features 100 compelling words of Jesus (red-letter words) with a brief explanation of their significance.

Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God by **Mark Batterson** (248.4 Bat)

Play the Man: Becoming the Man God Created You to Be by **Mark Batterson** (306.87 Bat)

Look for these and other materials new to the library on display throughout the month.

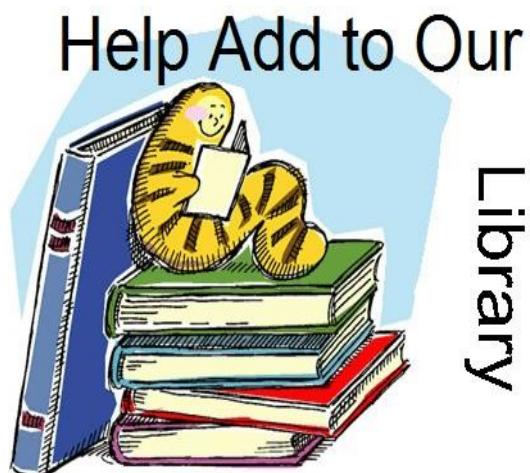
~ Mary Schultz

Library Benefit Program

Free Resources for the Library

You can earn **Library Bucks** for the library when you bring your original **Cedar Springs Christian Store** receipts to your librarian, Mary Schultz (you may put them in her church mailbox). She can redeem the receipts quarterly for library bucks. Library Bucks are based on 10% of the total product sales receipts. For every \$10 spent, the library earns \$1. These bucks can be used to purchase items for the library.

Please save and submit your Cedar Springs receipts to Mary so she can continue to add resources to our wonderful library.



+ Christian Symbols +

This set of letters spells “Christ” in Greek. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (from which the English alphabet descended), but is also often presented in Greek characters, as shown here.

Puzzle!

The 12 Old Testament books known as the Minor Prophets aren't unimportant — just short! Unscramble the names of these books. Then unscramble the circled letters to find a fruit of the Spirit.



Fruit: _____

LEJO _____

IHCAM _____

ABKUKKAH _____

DHAIABO _____

MUNAH _____

OAESH _____

AZAEHINPH _____

NJHAO _____

AGIAGH _____

OASM _____

AHRIZAHCE _____

IHCMALA _____

Malachi; Kindness
Hosea, Zephaniah, Jonah, Haggai, Amos, Zechariah,
Answers: Joel, Micah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum,

XPIΣΤΟΣ



Epiphany

January 6, 2018

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E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:



“Sharing the Love of Christ”