



JANUARY 2022

MATTHEW 28:19

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



Amazing Grace Baptist Church
REACHING OUT
2022

NEW YEAR

PASTOR JONATHAN BARKER

As we come to the close of this year and the beginning of a new one, let's take a few minutes to reflect on the past and look at the future. I'm sure many people set goals at the beginning of 2021. Have you accomplished those goals?

Paul said, in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

If we are going to be successful in 2022, there are some things we will have to do. First of all, we must forget the past. When we think about the past, we may think of past failures and past accomplishments. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves dwelling on these things. Spending too much time living in the glory of our past accomplishments or the defeat of our past failures will hinder us from achieving future success. If our goal in 2022 is to move forward and press toward the mark, we must forget both our past accomplishments and our past failures. You'll never walk into the future looking into the past.

Then, we must focus on the present. The word focus means to direct one's attention or efforts. As we enter this new year, we need to set goals based on what we want to accomplish, and then we must direct our attention and efforts on the steps we need to take to accomplish those goals. So many times we start a new year with excitement and fervency to accomplish new things, but then our attention and efforts shift. We become distracted or discouraged, and by the end of January we've lost our focus. If we are going to achieve success in 2022, we will have to choose, each day, to direct our attention and efforts on present goals.

Finally, we must finish with the prize. It is always rewarding when we accomplish the task we set out to do. But the only way we will do this is by forgetting the past and focusing on the present. Success is getting up one more time than you fall down. In the context of this scripture, the Apostle Paul is dealing with the spiritual goal of pleasing our Lord and Savior. When we think about pleasing the Lord, many times we find ourselves focusing on the times that we have failed him. In this past year it may have seemed that you failed God more than you lived a life pleasing to God. **What we must do in the upcoming year is forget those failures, and, with the help of God, live each day of this new year with a focus on the present goal of pleasing God in everything we do.**

Financial Report



NURSERY WORKERS

- 2- Chelsea Potts, Regina Patel***
- 9- Beth Casstevens, Pam Clement, Madelyn Barker***
- 16- Jamie Ashe, Amy Hawkins, Vickie Ramey***
- 23- Kayla DeHart, Olivia Turner, Hannah Williams***
- 30- Rhonda Norman, Mikayla Bateman, Shera Holder***

***3 year old class**



"I WILL DO A NEW THING"

Mrs. Leslie Barker

In Isaiah 43:18-19, the Lord is speaking through the prophet, Isaiah, reminding His people of some things. Isaiah tells of actual events in the Israelite history when God had delivered them and brought them through obstacles in their lives. He goes on to tell them, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing: now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it: I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." Isaiah instructs the people not to hold onto the former things, but the Lord will do a new thing in their hearts and lives.

So often we are creatures of our past. We lurk in the memories of our minds to former things whether it be victorious or hurt. We are not to be creatures of the past, but the present and trust God for the future. Paul states this clearly in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

We are now in a new year. New beginnings are a fresh start. We don't have to wait until January 1st to experience a new start. We wake up to a new start each day. We are promised only this day given. Isaiah is admonishing this thought to the Israelites, that we should not consider things of old. We should trust in our creator that He will do a new thing. No matter our stage of life or title, God wants to do a new thing in our life. In the latter portion of verse 19, God speaks through Isaiah saying, "I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen." The Lord is telling us that even in the driest of times in our lives, He will make a way. He can do a miracle in our lives as His people. Oh, what soothing, honey-sweet words to our ears to hear we are His people, and He will give us water even in the driest times.

Here we are 2022, not looking back to 2021 in past accomplishments or hurt. We are not looking back to past memories or desires, but we all need to press towards the new thing God wants to do for us this year. Not just what He will do this year, but today. Let's all start in trusting Him today, and allow Him to lead us. You never know what this new thing He will do. Just as the psalmist states, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

TIPS TO SET GOALS FOR A NEW YEAR THAT WILL STICK

- *PLAN—we must have a plan in order to achieve a goal.*
- *Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit*
- *Prioritize time with the Lord*
- *Prioritize church and activities around service for Him.*
- *Daily recognize our need for God.*
- *Identify gifts given to you by God and refine them.*