

A New Day for a New Beginning

A New Year Sermon

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Text: Ephesians 5:8-16 NIV

Introduction

Every New Year brings with it new opportunities, not that we don't have opportunities every day—but there is something about feeling one has a clean slate in the form of a new year ahead of them. Psychologically it gives us a feeling of starting new. We can begin again. So, here we are at the beginning of a new year, with an opportunity for a new beginning.

In light of this our passage from Ephesians 5 suggests us some changes—*resolutions* if you will—to consider for the upcoming year.

I. LIVE AS A CHILD OF LIGHT—FIND OUT WHAT PLEASES GOD (vv.9-10).

A. Consider the fruit your life is bearing.

B. Consider what YOU must do to please God.

II. DON'T LIVE LIKE A DEAD PERSON WHO HAS NOTHING TO LOSE (vv. 11-14).

A. Anything dead doesn't bear fruit or appear to benefit others.

B. Anything dead is essentially useless or purposeless.

III. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY (vv. 15-16).

A. Live your life with wisdom.

Carl Sandburg wrote, "Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."

B. Don't miss those opportunities that may never come again.

James 4:13-14 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. NIV

CONCLUSION

A Lot of Things Different

Part of lyrics....

I wished I'd'a spent more time with my dad when he was alive
Now I don't have the chance
I wish I had told my brother how much I loved him before he went off to war
But I just shook his hand
And I wish I had gone to church on Sunday morning when my grandma begged me
to
But I was afraid of God
And I wish I would've listened when they said Boy, you're gonna wish you hadn't
But I wouldn't

Oh I...I'd done a lot of things different

People say they wouldn't change a thing, even if they could
Oh, but I would

There was this red dress she wanted one time so bad she could taste it
And I should've bought it, but I didn't
She wanted to paint our bedroom yellow and trim it blues and greens
But I wouldn't let her, wouldn't'a hurt nothin'
She loved to be held and kissed ..., but I didn't do it
Not nearly enough
And if I'd'a known that dance was going to be our last dance
I'd'a asked that band to play on and on on and on

Oh I...I'd done a lot of things different

People say they wouldn't change a thing, even if they could
Oh, but I would

Oh...oh, I, I'd done a lot of things different
Oh I, I'd done a lot of things...
I think we'd all do a lot of things different