

# New Beginnings

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

- Introduction:
1. At this time of year, we typically find ourselves making evaluations of ourselves and new commitments.
  2. This is commendable (2 Corinthians 13:5).
  3. But as I typically say at the end of the year, "A right relationship with God is not achieved by the turning of a calendar, but by repentance."
    - a. Resolutions without repentance simply make us nicer sinners.
    - b. Also, don't think that the fact that God hasn't "zapped" you is evidence of your good standing with him, rather it is evidence of God's patience.
  4. This lesson is intended to make us do some self-evaluation.

## I. Take Inventory of Your Spiritual Condition

- A. Are you saved or lost?
- B. (Matthew 16:26).
- C. (Acts 2:36-38; 8:12-24).
- D. (Hebrews 10:26-31; Acts 16:33).

## II. Take Inventory of Your Spiritual Growth

- A. Bible Knowledge (2 Peter 3:18; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- B. Evangelism (Matthew 28:19-20).
- C. Commitment (Galatians 2:20; Matthew 6:33).

## III. Take Inventory of Your Spiritual Goals

- A. Do you have any goals?
- B. We need to set goals that depend on us, not others as to whether we reach them or not.
- C. If we aim at nothing, we'll be sure to hit it.
- D. (Colossians 3:1-2).

- Conclusion:
1. God has been good to you by giving you life in this new year.
  2. But as is the truth every year that I have preached for the past 38 years, some of the people listening to me today will not be here at this time next year.
  3. Please take inventory. Check your priorities. Quite literally, Heaven and Hell hang in the balance.