

## *Theme for 2019*

***‘The God of Another Year, is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace. He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.’***

### **365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!**

*“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”*

***Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)***



***This Week’s Thought – January 6, 2019  
Happy New Year 2019!***

---

*“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:41-41  
(NIV)*

---

I welcome all of you to our first Sunday of 2019 as we have officially entered the New Year. For many, the new year is a time of reflection on the past year and a time to make resolutions for the days, weeks and months ahead. It’s a time to look back at things that worked in your life or perhaps did not work so well, and would like to make it better in 2019. Unfortunately, American culture is plagued by hyperactivity without productivity. We think being busy equals importance or a frantic pace is a path to success. Like a pack mule loaded down with an overabundance of supplies, we pack our calendar to the breaking point. We even play mind games with ourselves that busyness is what’s best for our family, when in fact the real outcomes are: relational emptiness, health challenges and irritable emotions. We even justify being over active for Jesus.

Perhaps a wiser start to the year is a stop doing list. As Jesus instructed Martha, we need to take an inventory of our activities and ask what is really needed. What has served its purpose for a

season, but is now unnecessary, even an obstacle to what’s best? Let go of emotional attachments and embrace some margin for meaningful relationships. Is it time to stop a sports program or activity, cut back on cellphone or computer screen time, or even curtail some volunteer activities? ***Become better with contemplation and strategic availability.***

*“When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake.”*  
(Matthew 8:18)

It takes courage to avoid going where everyone else is going; nowhere fast. A fast track is too fast when it starves our faith. We find ourselves with very little left over time for prayer, Bible study, worship and community. Give what’s important first priority on the calendar. Worry works itself out of a job when we work out our bodies, feed our minds, heal our emotions and rest our souls.

By faith ***stop doing*** something each week or month that has passed its prime time. Be patient not to rush and fill a gap in your calendar already crowded with appointments. Blocks of discretionary time give you availability for spontaneous service. Take a step back from the myopic view of trees bunched together, so you can see the imaginative forest of faith. Anyone can be busy, some can even be productive, but only few walk by faith and watch God do more.

*“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”* (Psalm 27:4)

***As you look back and reflect on your past year and look ahead to the days, weeks and months of this year, may the blessing of peace rest upon you... the blessing of joy abide within you... the blessing of success and favor surround you... the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance in the New Year!!***

***Application:*** What are one or two activities you can stop doing this year to focus on quality relationships... starting with your relationship with God? Ask Him to give you the faith to let go of even some good, so you can enjoy His best.

***Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “I Am Able to do far beyond all that you ask or imagine. Come to Me with positive expectations, knowing that there is no limit to what I can accomplish. Ask My Spirit to control your mind so that you can think great thoughts of Me. Instead of letting difficulties draw into worry or withdrawal, try to view them as setting the scene for My glorious intervention. Keep your eyes and your mind wide open to all that I Am doing in your life.”*** (Ephesians 3:20-21; Romans 8:6; Isaiah 40:30-31; Revelation 5:13)

*“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for*

First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor’s Desk

Page 3

January 6, 2019

*the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)*

Yours in Christ, Pastor King