First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 March 24, 2019

## 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 – March 24, 2019

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—There is a great exchange that takes place when a person places their faith in Jesus Christ. Their old way of living is replaced with living for the Lord. Their old way of thinking is replaced with thinking on the truth of Jesus. Their old way of speaking is replaced with speech that is sprinkled with the grace of God. The old has passed, the new has come.

The life of Christ becomes the life of the follower of Christ. No longer are we led down the deadend road of unrighteousness, but we are set free to journey down the less traveled road of righteousness. We give up what we could not keep—our life on earth, in exchange for what we can keep—eternal life in heaven. To a watching world it seems foolish to give up for God, but what we get from God—forgiveness, love, joy and peace—is true life.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 2 March 24, 2019

Have you surrendered yourself to the Savior Jesus? This great exchange of the temporal for the eternal is what gives you the capacity to grow in grace and to become a person of great faith; however, an effective exchange requires the receiver to have faith in the Giver. God is a generous giver who can be trusted. No one has ever regretted receiving from Almighty God His agenda for their life.

"In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:10-12)

Jesus wants your life in exchange for His life. He wants your troubled heart in exchange for His tender heart. Let loose of your old life of fear and doubt and replace it with your new life of trust and security.

On today, 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 as you 'Encounter the Possibilities' this day will bring!!

**Application:** Surrender your life for the life of Christ to rule and reign. Put off pride and put on humility. Put off anger and put on forgiveness. He wants your fears in exchange for His peace and serenity.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Heavenly Father grow me into a faithful disciple, so I can help grow disciples of Jesus. Lead me on the paths where I can make the biggest difference today, for myself and for others. I pray that I will be guided in my spoken words so that I can uplift, encourage, and heal. I pray that my life will shine forth illuminating Your Spirit, glowing with Your love, wholly dedicated to Your truth and wholly in tune with Your marvelous will. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"

"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 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