

## New Year's Day

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*by Wayne Goff*

With what do you associate New Year's Day? For some it is the day that begins with an annual headache after a hard night's partying to "ring in the new year!" For others, it's a day of "bowl games" in college football. For still others it's the reminder of the need to make "New Year's Resolutions." This is met with a certain amount of dread, realizing that last year's resolutions have been long forgotten -- and broken.

For Christians, New Year's Day should be a time to reflect on the past year, to repent of sins committed, to ask forgiveness for time and opportunities wasted, and for the closing of the past year fully aware that our lives are written down in the "books" of God, Rev. 20:12. No sin is forgotten until it is forgiven by God, Heb. 9:12. No righteous deed is lost, but is commemorated in eternity and credited "to your account," Phil. 4:15-17.

At the end of our lives, we will all stand before the august throne of God to "receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad," 2 Cor. 5:10. Nothing else matters but what God remembers in eternity. The "bad" is not forgotten by time, nor balanced out by more "good" than bad. The bad can only be washed away by the blood of Christ in the waters of baptism, Rom. 6:3-4; and in the continued penitence and prayers of the child of God, 1 Jn. 1:7-9.

Those who do not believe in God, and do not obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ have nothing to look forward to "but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:27). "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31).

The Good News of the Gospel is that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). God now commands all men everywhere to repent because there will be a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31). The Good News is that your "bad" can be forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ -- if you obey now!

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