

Setting Goals for the Year

by Wayne Goff

The Lord has blessed you and me with another new year, and we should spend it wisely, and carefully *one day at a time*. The most foolish thing we can do is live one day at a time with no direction at all. People who have no goal, no plan, no purpose for improving and getting better are no better than those in the grave. Neither one gets anywhere. Someone once said that the only difference between a rut and a grave is that the grave has an end!

Solomon wrote of life under the sun: *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; **for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going**”* (Ecclesiastes 9:10). So there is plenty of time to rest in the grave. Today, whether young or old, you have time, talent, ability, and opportunity — make something of it!

If you think you are too young to serve the Lord, then consider that Solomon said you should remember your Creator while you are young, Ecclesiastes 12:1. Consider that Jesus obeyed His parents (Lk. 2:51), and His heavenly Father every day of His life, beginning in His youth (Lk. 2:52). The apostle Paul instructed Timothy to serve God in his youth, setting an example to everyone in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity (1 Tim. 4:12). Remember: *“as the twig is bent, so grows the tree.”*

If you think you are too old to serve the Lord, then consider that Anna was a widow of 84 years who did not depart from the Temple, but served God with tastings and prayers night and day, Luke 2:37. Our senior citizens in the local church can pray to the Lord for the preacher, the deacons, the elders, and the younger members. Ask for God to give them wisdom, strength, and courage to do what needs to be done at this time. Nobody living is too old to pray!

Then there is Simeon in Jerusalem, a just and devout man, who was told by God that he would not see death until his eyes beheld the Messiah (Lk. 2:25-32). He prophesied of the salvation Jesus Christ would bring to the world of Jews and Gentiles before he died. He was not too old to tell others about the truth.

*“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them”**’”* (Rev. 14:13)

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