

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**December  
30  
2018**

## A GOOD TIME TO EVALUATE.

Jim Stauffer

It is traditional to use the new year as a turning point for the things we believe in. Whether we try to lose weight or just eat healthy, exercise more regularly, drop bad habits, etc.

This should not be a foreign thought process for the child of God. We have seen a turning point in our lives already. It was that point Jesus called for in **John 3:3** when he said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Of course we recognize this as the point of our reconciliation with God (**2 Cor. 5:17-19**), when we put off the old man and put on the new (**Eph. 4:22-24**).

Of course that represents the new direction in our lives but does not seal without the need for constant introspection, perfection in our conduct.

Scripture teaches us the need to continue to grow and progress by use of the instruction God has provided in His word by the Holy Spirit (**2 Pet. 3:18**). We begin as babes and learn fundamental principles of discipleship (**1 Pet. 2:1,2**). We are then expected to become spiritually mature to the point of leading and guiding others. But Scripture again reminds us this does not happen without our effort (**1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12-14**).

Therefore, the new year serves as an excellent opportunity to reevaluate how we are progressing as His servants. Have we grown in the concept of servitude that Jesus both taught and practiced.

Jesus is the perfect example of unselfish thought and conduct we can observe (**Phil. 2:5-8**). He did what He taught His disciples (**Mat. 20:28; John 13:12-16**).

He then insists His disciples understand what unselfishness is and what caring for others looks like in the lessons He presents to us. Look at the rich young ruler for instance who wanted to be righteous until he realized it demanded giving of himself what he had, to help others (**Mat. 19:16-22**).

Now look at the very attributes of unselfishness and care for others Jesus speaks of in His example of the judgment in **Mat. 25:31-46**. He mentions providing such

basic needs as food and drink, hospitality, clothing, visiting those who are sick or in prison. And He makes it clear these things are vital in the judgment of who is righteous and who is not. Jesus uses this list of things disciples either do or do not as being determining factors in righteousness and receiving eternal punishment. He says this about these two groups, *"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* (**Matthew 25:46**)

Compare this with His statement in **John 13:34,35**, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* Now we recognize there is more to discipleship than just attending the worship services. Let us vow to correct our own deficiencies this coming year.

### Why Parents Should Dress Their Young Children Modestly

There are many ways in which Christians show themselves to be different from the world. One of these is in the way we dress. The Bible emphasizes the importance of dressing in *"modest apparel"* (**1 Timothy 2:9, KJV**). Therefore, as we have the obligation to *"speak as the oracles of God"* (**1 Peter 4:11, KJV**), it is important for us to emphasize this as well.

However, when it comes to raising children, we may wonder how early parents need to be concerned with having their children dress modestly. When does it become important for parents to be sure their children are dressed in this way? When they turn eighteen? When they become teenagers? Or should this begin much earlier, perhaps when the children are toddlers? The time to start this may be earlier than many expect. In this article, I want us to consider some reasons why dressing modestly is important for *young* children.

**To Train Them**

The wise man wrote, “*Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it*” (**Proverbs 22:6**). The reason why parents train their children is to prepare them for adulthood. This is not merely about preparing them to be a productive member of society (even though this is important). Children are to be brought up “*in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*” (**Ephesians 6:4**). In other words, children are to be trained to become faithful followers of the Lord.

One of the ways in which we display a proper attitude toward the Lord and follow His instructions is in the way that we dress. The Scriptures instruct us to dress in modest apparel.\* This means that part of training up a child in the way he/she should go involves teaching the child about modesty. Of course, modesty is not limited to clothing; but it certainly includes it. Some assume that this type of training becomes important when children become older (perhaps around their teenage years). However, the training that parents do is so that their children do not depart from it when they *become* older. This implies that training about dressing modestly must be done when the children are younger – *before* they are making their own decisions about the type of clothing they will wear.

#### **To Prevent Lust**

This is probably not a point that most parents consider, especially when it comes to young children. It is not something that should even need to be mentioned. However, given the perverse and wicked world in which we live and the fact that children’s clothing fashions – particularly for girls – often mimic the provocative styles of those who are older, this does become something we need to take into consideration. Of course, if someone has a mind that is so perverse as to lust after a child, what that child is wearing may be mostly irrelevant. It is also true that each person is responsible to keep from lusting after others (**Matthew 5:28-29**), regardless of how others might be dressed. However, we should also be aware of the effect clothing can have on others. We are to dress “*modestly and discreetly*” (**1 Timothy 2:9**). This means that if someone is inclined to lust, our clothing should not draw that person’s attention. When parts of our bodies are exposed, it is a signal to those around us that we are welcoming – or at least tolerating – the attention paid by others to those parts that are uncovered. And as much as we think this reasoning should not apply to our children because our minds cannot comprehend how anyone can have those kinds of thoughts about a child, it is something that ought to be considered.

#### **To Be Different from the World**

Christians are “*not [to] be conformed to this world, but be transformed*” (**Romans 12:2**). In every area of our lives – including how we dress – we must strive to follow the instructions found in the word of God. The reason why many parents tend to allow their children to

dress immodestly is because they are simply buying the current fashions. However, this goes back to the point we considered about training our children. What message are we teaching them when our clothing standards are based upon current fashion more than the word of God? When fashion changes – likely for the worse – how are they going to want to continue to dress? Children need to see that it sometimes takes some effort, time, or expense to conform to God’s standard and be different from the world. They need to see that this is part of our “*reasonable service*” to God (**Romans 12:1, KJV**), not something that is too much of a burden. If children do not learn to be different from the world, then they will follow the morals and standards of the world.

#### **Conclusion**

The Scriptures do not provide a specific age in which parents are to be sure they are dressing their children modestly. However, from the principles considered here, we should recognize that this is not something for parents to ignore. Children need to be trained, protected, and taught the importance of conforming to God’s standard rather than the world’s. In every area – not just in dress – this needs to start at an early age.

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## **BIBLE ELDERS # 2**

“*This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be ...*” (**1 Timothy 3:1-2**). The man who aspires to work among God’s people as a bishop says: I want to work for the Lord on behalf of God’s people. I know the work will not be easy; I am willing though to sacrifice many, many things in my own life in order to put my work and God’s people before whatever other concerns and interests I may have. I will do my best to bring “order to the church.”

Paul paints a picture of Bible elders. He says, this is what Bible elders look like. Here are the qualifications; here are needed attitudes and actions for these men; these things are important. So, take a look at those who are already functioning in these leadership roles. What do you see? Take a close look at those who are being considered for the work of a bishop. Is the picture you see the same one Paul paints?

Elders are not given to wine. Clearly, the Bible teaches that drunkenness is a sin (**1 Corinthians 6:10**). Preoccupations with such indicates something less than a sober mind and life. Can we trust those who are in a position of authority when they are out of control? Elders are not violent, pugnacious men. Trying situations will test one’s patience. If the elder is bad-tempered, irritable, and out of control, can he then



dispense sound judgment? No! Elders must be gentle, kind, and forbearing. We should not be afraid to approach our elders with concerns and problems. Elders are not covetous people. The constant pursuit of this world's goods distracts a person from what is really true and lasting. Could someone aspire to be an elder in order to increase business contacts?

We all must be concerned about our families. When a man demonstrates that he has ruled his family well—when his household is well-ordered and submits to God and His word, and then functions with respect to familial relationships, it is easily seen that this man has taken seriously his responsibilities regarding his family. His children accept his authority. He respects and loves his wife. Now, he can “take care” of God’s family. If he can’t do the former, he is not qualified to do the latter.

An elder cannot be a *“novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (1 Timothy 3:6-7)*. These passages are interesting. An elder cannot be a recent convert; he is not a beginner. Spiritual growth takes time. The word *elder* itself connotes the idea of age and wisdom. It is an honor to serve as an elder. Yet, this honor must not go to one’s head. Pride is always a temptation to guard against. Pride and conceit obscure good judgment. A good reputation is marred by swollen heads and hearts.

Can we see the picture Paul is painting? What do you see? We all need to see, understand, and apply what Paul teaches. This is true of men who now serve as elders and is true of those who desire this office, in the future. As God’s people we can never be ordered in the right way, until, unless, we start doing what God says to do!

***Randy Harshbarger***

## **Precious in the Sight of Jehovah Is the Death of His Saints.**

If you love your pets like we do in our family then you will understand what I am about to write. Last Monday morning I had to make that visit to the vet you know is overdue but never want to make. ‘Chica’, my cat had been living with us for 16 years after my daughter rescued her from a four lane highway on which her mother and several sibs were killed. (I fell in love with her when she bit my wife for trying to pet her.) On the way there I cradled her in my arms and she looked up at me with absolute trust in her eyes and after a lifetime of care and protection I let her leave me. It hurt!

Can we possibly think it hurts God any less when He looks down on his beloved saints who have lived a lifetime of service, who are suffering in this life, sometimes at the hands of those who hate Him? Do we

think that God is somewhere far off and unconcerned about what His saint is going through? No, He is there and going through every step of the way with his beloved. The Lord has promised *“I will in NO WISE fail thee, neither will I IN ANY WISE forsake thee.”*

**(Hebrews 13:5)** There is no step in this life where God will not go with us. The Psalmist said in **Psalm 23:4**, *“Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.”* Surely, *“Precious in the sight of Jehovah Is the death of his saints.” (Ps 116:15)*

***Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.***

Brother A. J. Rollings, an evangelist at Market Street for many years, would recite this poem each year as the old year would be finishing and the new year would be coming in. We appreciate the truths that are told within this poem and commend the thoughts of it to you. May we all do better with the time that is ahead of us.

I came to my teacher with quivering lips,  
My task undone;  
“Teacher hast thou another sheet for me?  
I have spoiled this one,

” She took the old sheet, stained and blotted,  
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,  
And into my glad face smiled,  
“Do better this time, my child.”

I came to the Father with a quivering heart,  
The old year done;  
“Father, hast thou another year for me?  
I have spoiled this one.”

He took the old year, stained and blotted,  
And gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,  
And into my glad heart smiled,  
“Do better this time, my child.”

***Taken from the Market Street Messenger***

## **Where the Battle Rages**

One of the reasons why ungodliness prevails so much is because Christians do not want to get involved. More than 450 years ago, Martin Luther wrote: “If I profess with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and is to be steady on all the battlefield; it is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”

***selected; taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition 10/24/17***

*Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Arao Uchaio, Francisco Vascob in Mozambique.*

## **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

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***Visitors welcome***

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### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK  
(WHO HAS A BROKEN FOOT),  
STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND  
SUZANNE WIMP, ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER, AND GEORGE  
ROOT.

### **BIBLE CLASSES**

SUNDAY MORNING  
FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH  
RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING  
CHRIST IN YOU  
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: THE LAW OF  
LOVE (BY JAMES)



## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10