

Warrington
1/17/63
A.T.T.

" The New Year " 1/1/63

Our first outreach for the New Year should be measured by the length of our outreach may be measured by the length of our outreach. If the outreach is short...

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- Colossians 4: 5. "Walk in wisdom, redeeming the time!"

Introduction:- The New Year brings to us the challenge of a new outreach to do "better". I trust that the old year, which is now gone forever, has been a good year. But now we are challenged to make the year 1963 a better year.

The key word to the epistle to the Hebrews is "better". In this epistle we read of a better hope, a better testament, a better covenant, better promises, better sacrifices, a better country, a better resurrection, better things provided for all of us. We should make this the key word of the New Year. "Better, still better!"

There are opportunities which come and go each year of our lives. Some of these opportunities never return again. Some one has said "The opportunity of a lifetime must be grasped during the lifetime of the opportunity, which is generally brief!"

The year 1963 will be no exception to the other years that are past and gone, in that it will bring us some opportunities that never will return. The apostle had this fact in mind when he spoke of "Redeeming the time". We must grasp the opportunities during their lifetime, and some of these are very short. They pass swiftly by, and are gone forever.

Our first outreach for the New Year should for God. The length of our outreach may be measured by the height of our upreach. If the upreach is shortened, the outreach is shortened. Our first resolution for the New Year should be to seek God first. Seeking him first is the solution to all of our problems. Many people are so busy that they have no time for God. God can very easily be crowded out in the rush and hurry of our present busy age.

Let us start the New Year with God. Our business will do better with God than without him. Our pleasures will be more enduring with God than without him. Our money will mean more with God than without him. Our homes will be happier with God than without him. Our troubles, and we shall have some troubles, will be easier borne with God than without him. We will live more courageously, more daringly, with God than without him.

With God the whole of life is lifted upon a new and a higher plane. He, God, transforms everything to spiritual values. God can turn money, and business, and pleasure, and even life's necessities into the building of a character that will endure the test of time and eternity.

II. There are many things that call for a new and a farther outreach in 1961. Some new plan or venture is about to be undertaken by some. A long journey is about to be undertaken by others. A life vocation is about to be chosen by some who are among you. Some are to be married and establish a home a home during the ~~the~~ year. Whatever the venture,

whatever the enterprise, whatever the the under-
undertaking, put God first.

The outreach of the world for 1961 should be
for God. The international situation at the pres-
ent hour is a perplexing one. We have many move-
ments and countermovements in the world, making
for confusion. We have the left wing and the right
wing in politics and government. Whatever the
venture, whatever the enterprise, whatever the
undertaking, put God first. We have totalitarianism
and democracy, socialism, and communism. We have re-
ligious persecution, racial prejudices, and in-
tolerance. We have wars raging in the earth, and
other wars threatening to be precipitated. We wit-
ness the sad spectacle of the mad race in armamen-
ts among the nations of the world. We have
capitalism and socialism. We have the
New Deal, The Fair Deal, and the Old Deal. We
have crime, insanity, and licentiousness; and they
are on the increase.

The world is sick and needs a physician. The
outreach of the world in all of these phases we
have just mentioned has proven inadequate for
meeting the world's needs.

III.
The world needs God. The only hope of this
bleeding, broken, confused, perplexed, war-torn
and crime-crushed world is God as revealed in
Christ. Without God every ailment of the world
will continue to grow worse and worse, and con-
fusion will thicken into a still blacker night.
The world is in the midst of a great crisis.

Mighty forces are the march. Old standards are being broken down, and new ones are being uplifted. Whole nations are in a state of flux, and civilization itself is being threatened. But the crisis of the world is essentially spiritual. The crisis which the world is experiencing is essentially in nature religious, and unless we realize its religious nature, our analysis of the present situation will be incomplete.

Today we are faced with powers that have no moral scruples. Treaties have become mere scraps of paper with some nations. No reverence is maintained for the traditional conventions of war. Nations begin fighting and invading other countries without a deliberate declaration of war. Increasing pressure is being brought in America to the further breaking down of moral standards. All of the social ills that are perplexing to the world spring fundamentally from the moral and spiritual conditions.

Conclusions—Such is the condition of our world today. It is not the kind of a world we desire to live in. If we had our way we would improve some of the conditions in which we live. We are tired of some of the old fashioned days, dull days, dra days, evil days, grey days. It is up to us to put into the life of the world the spirit of Christ, for he alone has the answer to the sins of mankind. We must tell to all the world that Christ's way is the only way to reach the desired goal.

Let us therefore be alert and aware. Let us be busy redeeming the time. Let us always be ready to say to men, "Seek ye first the kingdom of Christ

and his righteousness." That will give men a standard of choice. It points the way in which lives must be lived. Tell it until it becomes an inner compulsion of the soul.

Invite men to come to Christ as individuals, and seek him and find him. Let the words "put God first" in your lives be the standard of the day.