

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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ABC's for 2016

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As you consider resolutions for the new year, think about these basic areas of personal improvement:

A - Attend Faithfully.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (Heb. 10:25). Faithful attendance is vital to a proper relationship with the Lord! Plan to attend every service in 2016!

B - Be Given to

Hospitality. Hospitality, ‘love of strangers,’ must not be forgotten! (Heb. 13:2). We are taught, “...given to hospitality” (Rom. 12:13).

C - Care One for

Another. In Indianapolis, Indiana, there is a group of cardiologists known as ‘The Care Group.’ Christians ought to be known as such a group. “...have the same care one for another” (1 Cor. 12:25).

D - Do unto Others As

If We Are the Others. How would things be different, if everyone applied, “...all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them...” (Mt. 7:12)?

E - Endure. Living godly isn't always easy (2 Tim. 3:12). We need a good dose of endurance! “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3).

F - Fill Our Role in the

Family. As a husband, father, brother, son, grandson, wife, mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, be what God would have you to be (Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Titus 2:4-5).

G - Grow Spiritually.

Suppose your fifteen-year-old son was still being carried in your arms as an infant on the bottle! The Lord expects us to grow spiritually as well. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).

H - Help Out Around

the Building. In every season, there are things to be done to keep the meeting place in good order, right? How about doing what you can to help with maintenance and upkeep, snow removal, and grass cutting? Can you be depended upon to do your share? (Eph. 4:16).

I - Increase in the Knowledge of God. You've probably heard it said, “If you don't use it, you lose it!” Our knowledge needs to be on the increase as Paul said, “... increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10). This requires lots of study (2 Tim. 2:15).

J - Join Together.

Remember Saul who, “... assayed to join himself to the disciples...” (Acts 9:26)? We are to be “...joined together...” (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:16). Perhaps this is an area you need to work on in the coming year.

K - Keep.

We are to be keepers — keep the Lord's commandments (Jn. 14:15), keep the body in check (1 Cor. 9:27), keep self unspotted from the world (Jas. 1:27). Let's work on this in 2016!

L - Love Not the World.

One of the greatest threats to our spirituality is worldliness! John said, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...” (1 Jn. 2:16). Let's apply ourselves to maintaining the proper relationship with the world in 2016.

M - Magnify the Lord.

As a magnifying glass produces an enlarged image, let us be like Paul who said, "...that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death" (Phil. 1:20).

N - Nourished Up. A lot of emphasis is placed on nourishment. How about working to be "...nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine..." (1 Tim. 4:6)?

O - Obey. Obedience has to be learned. "We ought to obey God..." (Acts 5:29). Those who obey will be saved (Heb. 5:9), while those who do not obey will be "...punished with everlasting destruction..." (2 Th. 1:9).

P - Pray Daily. Worry less and pray more in the new year! "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).

Q - Quietly Work. Some have a problem of being "...a

busybody in other men's matters" (1 Pet. 4:15). 1 Thessalonians 4:11 teaches, "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands..."

R - Reconcile. Should you find yourself at odds with another, how about settling that? "...be ye reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20). "...be reconciled to thy brother..." (Mt. 5:24).

S - Study. There's no substitute for Bible study. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God..." (2 Tim. 2:15). You won't be ashamed when you apply yourself in this area!

T - Teach Others. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers..." (Heb. 5:12). Paul talked about "...faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). How about teaching one of the Bible classes and setting up some home Bible studies in 2016?

U - Uprightly Walk. Among the residents of Heaven is, "He that walketh uprightly..." (Ps. 15:1-2). To

walk uprightly is to live right in the sight of God.

V - Visit. Be like Paul and Barnabas and go visit your brethren and see how they do (Acts 15:36). It may just make a difference in where you spend eternity! (Mt. 25:31-46).

W - Work Willingly. Remember how the virtuous woman worked? "...willingly with her hands" (Prov. 31:13). Abound in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

X - eXpect the Best. Be optimistic! Say with Caleb, "...we are well able..." (Num. 13:30) and with Paul, "I can..." (Phil. 4:13).

Y - Yield Not to Temptation. Just say no! (1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 1:13-15).

Z - Zeal for the Lord. Have a zeal for the Lord that provokes many (2 Cor. 9:2). Be zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).

These ABC's can spell for you a Happy New Year!

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