

Perhaps the best known is Matthew 25, the parable of the talents. The manager gives to his servants, to one five talents, to another three, to another one. Then he goes away. He comes back and there is a reckoning of their labor.

That's the sense of this word until; it's a working word. The master says "Get on, and do what you will with what I've given you until I return."

Until is a working word. We will work till Jesus comes.

3. Until is a Willing Word.

Until is a word which comes out of our hearts with a great sense of longing and desire. Among the last few words in the Bible is the testimony of the Apostle John. His attempt to describe the amazing things he saw and experienced must have been hard for his mind to comprehend. Then in Revelation 21:20 he autobiographically states: "He who testifies about these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.'" And then John adds, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

As death takes our loved ones and we come to a communion service without them this word until then becomes a willing word. It becomes a word that looks forward to that day when Jesus shall come again.

Heaven is a place of reunion. It's a place where there are no more tears. It's a place where there is no more separation. We look forward in faith, to that great reunion of God's people.

When you come to the Lord's Supper with a sense of longing that the Lord might come soon so that you might be reunited with friends, may I remind you that God had a purpose in your being left behind. God has a plan for your begin left behind.

A visiting preacher once stayed in a house of a widow. He'd arrived on the Saturday before he was to preach on the Sunday, and the lady of the house, being that sort of person, had given up her bedroom for the guest. When he got up in the morning he threw back the curtains and looked out on a beautiful scene: hills way in the distance with a beautiful green pasture in the valley. But he was intrigued to notice that in the corner of the window pane a child-like writing was scratched in the glass. He could just make out the words: 'This is the day'. At breakfast he asked his hostess if it had been done by a grandchild who had been playing around with something sharp? "No," she said. "I did it myself, and I did it with the diamond on my engagement ring." And then she explained how, having lost her husband some years previously, there were many times when she would throw open the curtains and not see a beautiful country scene but pouring rain. She would then be plunged into despair and depression, and she would have no wish to go out and face the world. Having lost her life-partner, she felt that her meaning in life had gone.

Then one morning, in a moment of bleak despair, she opened her Bible for her daily reading and saw the words, "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psa. 118:24). And the Holy Spirit reminded her that God had a plan. And now, as every day began, no matter what the weather, she threw back the curtains and (as she explained to the preacher) "I want to look into the day through the promise of God. This is the day and whether the Lord calls me or whether He comes for me, I want to live this day for Him."

4. Until is a Wonderful Word.

When we observe the Lord's Supper we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Paul did not say, "If He comes." Paul did not say, "In case He comes." He says, "Until He comes." There is no doubt about His coming. We may not be sure as to the time, but we are sure about the event.

The Lord's Supper is to assist us in our remembering Him "until He comes." There is a historical purpose in the Lord's Supper, and there is a prophetic purpose in the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the proclamation of what has happened and the promise of what will yet happen.

When we participate and partake of the Lord's Supper, we are not only looking back to the cross, but we are looking forward to His coming again.

Conclusion:

Let us commemorate. Let us celebrate until He comes.

Commemorate and Celebrate!

New Year's: Resolutions or Revelation?

Once again God has allowed us to see another New Year. It's not because we've been so good, but because He is so gracious and kind. When you think about how the Lord has heard and answered your prayers, guided your paths, and blessed you over the past year it should make you feel revived, redeemed, and want to give your neighbor a "high five!"

New Year's is a time when people all over the world are making resolutions to spend more time with their family, halt bad habits they should have stopped years ago, etc. But the end result of many of our resolutions is failure. Time and time again we pledge to ourselves and to those we love to do better, only to fail which leads to us simply giving up. But the reason our resolutions fail is because resolutions are self-imposed, self-willed, and self-propelled ideas that do not include the presence or the power of God. What we really need are not more resolutions but a New Year's *Revelation*. Honestly, the best revelations come from God through the Scriptures that are divinely inspired for us by Him. A revelation contains God's plan and purpose for your life.

In Psalm 1 the psalmist provides us with a spirit-filled revelation that will guide us into 2018. He starts with the idea of blessing. Being blessed in the general sense connotes something that God does for us. But to the psalmist it is also something he knows he must do for himself. He says that the blessed man watches the company he keeps. He mentions three groups of people – the ungodly, the sinner, and the scornful. The ungodly are those who sin knowingly and feel no conviction. The sinners are those who openly sin and don't care who finds out. The scornful are those who sin and encourage others to join them. Look through your contact list on your cell phone or your Facebook friends list. Is there anyone who fits one or more of those three categories? Perhaps it's time to delete them. If you hang around with wolves you will eventually begin to howl. Read what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:17. It sounds harsh, but we must choose to bless ourselves by not walking, standing, or sitting with people who mean us no good.

Psalm 1 also tells us we must saturate ourselves with the divine principles of God's Word. The Psalmist says the blessed man delights himself in the law of the Lord. This word delight doesn't just mean you like what you like. We delight in oxygen, because without it we can't stay alive. We delight in eyesight, because without it we couldn't see. Likewise, we delight in the Word of God because without it we cannot survive spiritually. We should meditate on it day and night.

Lastly, this psalm tells us we are to be planted in the right place. We are not to be just any volunteer sapling that springs up, but intentionally and carefully planted in a chosen spot where we are positioned to receive plenty of spiritual nourishment and become fruitful. The storms of life may still blow your way, but because you're rooted in the Word of God, you are anchored in the life of Jesus Christ. And nothing will be able to stop, halt, or hinder what God is doing in your life in 2018.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: Larry McKahan, ? ? ?, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick
Alternate: Ken Nice

Business Meeting and
Carry-In Dinner Noon
No Evening Services

Wednesday, January 24

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, January 25

BSU Meal—Chips and Cookies needed by 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Don Sharp, Fred Kerns
Alternate: ? ? ?

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

No Evening Services

Wednesday, January 31

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

January 21 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting

— Collect for Longs

January 25 — Food Pantry Day

— BSU Meal—Church will provide soup and
sandwiches. Donations of chips and cookies needed by 4:30 pm.

(Are you willing to help?)

January 28 — Diversicare Service 2:30 pm.

February 4, 18, and March 4 are January Bible Study Dates.

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and
Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will not meet on Sunday evenings until the weather gets better.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm.

Lord's Supper Observance

Morning Worship

Today, Sunday, January 21

Benevolent Collection—all undesignated monies in the offering plate will go to local benevolence.

January Bible Study

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner

We will have our regular business meeting and carry in meal
immediately following the
morning worship service
today, January 21.

A Note From Anna

To My Brothers and Sisters at Calvary,

Thank you for your partnership over the last year. It has been exciting to see how God has answered our prayers and been at work amongst South Asian peoples. I am confident He will continue to move mightily in 2018 bringing a vast multitude of every South Asian tribe, tongue, people, and nation to know and worship Jesus Christ.

In the coming year, I will continue to pray for the body of Christ at Calvary Baptist Church. May your love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight and may you be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Thank you again for praying!

Merry Christmas!

Hope your season was filled with joy as you celebrated the birth of our Savior.

For the Record-

Attendance: January 7, 2018

Sunday School.....	18
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	20
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	26
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Wednesday Night	10

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 3,116.71
Long Family-Dec.....	\$ 132.00

Offering Received by Mail:

January Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

January Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

January Member Birthdays:

01... Carol Helean
01... Marcia Hart
19... Juanita Haskins
22....Eric Thompson
24....Aubrey McCamy
27... Gary Yarbrough
28... Donna Dunn

January Anniversaries

Allan and Ellen Lane
Married January 2, 1983

Philip and Kelsey Lane
Married January 3, 2009

Prayer Requests ...

Russ McCamy
LoLeta Middleton
Family of Craig Beeman
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Rick and Mary Bruntmeyer
Rachael & Erin Molloy and Family

Brigida Winans—recovery
Mike Green—knee recovery
Arlette Duty—carpal tunnel
Gina Harr—recovery and strength
Don Beavers—heart and health
Curtis Conard—surgery January 16
Emily Jones & baby
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—home isolation
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
