

## Morning Worship

January 12, 2020

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading		Romey Keith Davis
Hymn # 138	<i>At Calvary</i>	Romey/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Hymn # 273	<i>Freely, Freely</i>	Romey/People
Hymn # 445	<i>Sweet Hour of Prayer</i>	Romey/People
Offering Prayer		Fred Kerns
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Hymn # 407	<i>Because He Lives</i>	Romey/People
Special Music		
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 307	<i>Just As I Am</i>	Romey/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Closing Chorus # 407	<i>Because He Lives</i>	Romey/People

## The New Year

Ephesians 5:15-21

We may not like the idea of a new year because a new year means we're getting older and we may experience more health problems. It's true, isn't it? We never

know what the New Year will hold for us. Some of us think, "Ugh!" And some think, "Oh boy!"

Maybe, just maybe some things will be better or get better. It depends on our attitude and our altitude, that is, our spiritual altitude. The important thing about a new year is to think about what we're going to do that will make us better people in the eyes of God. It's only in our relationship to God that anything can be better or get better.

When things go wrong He's the only one who can make things right or better. Going into the New Year, what should we do to have a better life? Let me suggest to you some solid ideas for making the New Year better.

## **1. Be Careful . Verses 15-17**

### **a. In the way you live .**

Paul spoke of the way we walk. He was talking about the way we go about our daily living. He meant to be careful in living. Be wise. Be careful with your time, which is God's time. Don't contribute to evil. Seek the Lord's will in all things. That means in every day and in every way.

Hurry, worry, multitasking, stress — you might call them the four horsemen of the accident prone. Stress is such a huge factor when it comes to accidents. In fact, it was recently linked to an increase in traffic fatalities by researchers at the University of Minnesota.

We're all vulnerable when it comes to accidents, but obviously, some are more prone than others. Hurry, worry, multi-tasking, and stress all lead to accidents.

The same is true in the spiritual realm. If we are not properly focused in life, we will suffer for it. And most of the time, we are far too worldly or materially focused than we are spiritually focused. Let's be honest about this. We are not as spiritual-minded as we should be. We are far more earthly or worldly-minded.

### **b. In how you spend your time .**

Colossians 3:1-4 tells us that which we should be doing and/or focusing. Back in November of 2009, Toyota issued a recall said it will replace accelerator pedals on about 4 million recalled vehicles in the United States because the pedals can get stuck in the floor mats, another blow to the reputation of the world's largest automaker.

Perhaps we all need a recall in regard to our lives because we don't always function properly. Sometimes we even get out of hand and do crazy things. And no matter how good we are, sometimes we mess up. We need to be more careful and use our time more wisely for Christ.

Someone said: On my way to make a delivery to a customer, I saw a handwritten sign at the entrance of an alley. It read: "Blocked! Do not pass! Difficult to turn back." I continued anyway, only to discover that the alley was indeed blocked by a fallen tree. As predicted, it took a while to turn the truck around. When I finally got back to the entrance, I noticed a second sign. It read: "Told you so!"

Brothers and sisters, God has told us so many times in life but it seems that we don't listen too well. Some people just keep right on doing the same old things when they know that they are not right. And some day, it will catch up to them and God will do worse than block the road or put up a sign that reads, "told you so!"

Be careful in the way you live. Use your time for the Lord. Seek the Lord in life. Serve the Lord no matter else you do.

## **2. Be Thoughtful . Verse 18**

As abstinent Baptists we tend to focus on the "don't be drunk with wine" part of this verse and fail to really catch the depth of what Paul is saying. Those who drink too much tend to be selfish people. They are concerned only with their own pleasure and "feeling good." Be thoughtful of others. That's always good advice. But here we are to be thoughtful of God's Spirit who lives within us.

**a. Don't be self-centered .**

From an unknown source comes an article titled, "How To Be Miserable." It says, "Think about yourself. Talk about yourself. Use "I" as often as possible. Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others. Listen greedily to what people say about you. Expect to be appreciated. Be suspicious. Be jealous and envious. Be sensitive to slights. Never forgive a criticism. Trust nobody but yourself. Insist on consideration and respect. Demand agreement with your own views on everything. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown them. Never forget a service you have rendered. Shirk your duties if you can. Do as little as possible for others."

Are we ever guilty? At times, we are. We all like to be appreciated for the good things we do, however, we can get caught up in ourselves if we're not careful. We can become too self-focused and forget about others.

Many people are only interested in what they can get, not what they owe the Lord or not what they can give to others!

**b. Be spirit-centered .**

We are reminded of several key Scriptures which should help to guide our thinking and our lives:

I Corinthians 10:31

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 6:2

Galatians 6:9-10

Jesus said the two greatest commandments are to love God first of all and then love our fellow human beings (Matthew 22:36-40). If we will do that we won't go wrong.

Instead of being self-centered, we should be Spirit-centered. We should think more of Him than we do about ourselves. Be more spiritual minded than worldly or fleshly minded. If we'll set our minds on scripture, prayer, praising, and serving we will have a better new year.

**3. Be Thankful . Verses 19-20**

Be thankful in Christ. Living a grateful life will keep you on the straight and narrow. People who are not aware of their blessings are not thankful. Instead, they are always looking for more.

**a. Don't be rude .**

Nearly 70 percent questioned in an Associated Press poll said people are ruder than they were 20 or 30 years ago. Peggy Newfield, founder and president of *Personal Best*, said the generation that came of age in the 1960s and 1970s are now parents who don't stress the importance of manners, such as saying thank you and please or opening a door for a female. A whopping 93 percent in the AP poll faulted parents for failing to teach their children well.

Are you rude? I hope not. Are you quick to be polite in actions and speech? Sometimes I find myself forgetting to say "thank you" to someone for something they did and then later I whip myself for it. Shame on me for being rude and impolite.

What about being rude to God? Would we ever? When we fail express proper thanks and gratitude it's being rude. To Him we owe our greatest thanks and praise.

A five-year-old said grace at family dinner one night. "Dear God, thank you for these pancakes..." When he concluded, his parents asked him why he thanked God for pancakes when they were having chicken. He smiled and said "I thought I'd see if He was paying attention tonight."

Trust me when I say that I believe God pays very good attention to us when we pray and when we don't (Psalms 103:1-3).

**b. Be polite .**

Dr. Dale Robbins writes, "I used to think people complained because they had a lot of problems. But I have come to realize that they have problems because they complain. Complaining doesn't change anything or make situations better. It amplifies frustration, spreads discontent and discord, and can invoke an invitation for the devil to cause havoc with our lives." According to these Scriptures complaining could make us miserable (Psalm 77:3b, Philippians 2:13).

A positive, thankful person is a great witness in this dark world. We only shine when we are thankful. Our light shines for the Lord when we are thankful, when we live it and express it.

Wouldn't you rather hear someone saying things like, "bless the Lord" or "Thank you, Lord" or "Praise the Lord" than complaining? I Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us to "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I'm convinced that a grateful person, a thankful person will live a better life and will be blessed with a better life. Do you want a better life in the New Year? Be polite to God. Be quick to praise Him and thank Him every little blessing you receive.

**Conclusion:**

Someone said: Last year when calling his parents to wish them a happy New Year, his dad answered the phone. During the conversation he asked his dad what's your New Year's resolution? His answer was "To make your mother as happy as I can all year." Then his mom got on, and he said, "What's your resolution, Mom?" Her answer: "To see that your dad keeps his resolution."

God would certainly like to see us keep His resolutions. He knows that's the way to be blessed. Walking with the Lord, doing things His way, is the way to be blessed. Be careful. Be thoughtful. Be thankful. We don't need new and better material things, but we all need to be a new and better person. That will only happen in Christ.

Nature forms us. Education informs us. Sin deforms us, but only Christ transforms us. Choose Christ to become the better you in the New Year.

***Walk with The Lord!***

***What Will 2020 Be?***

The New Year is only a couple weeks old and already there have been challenges. Here are some of the things we might note to pray about for the coming year.

**Our nation and leaders.** We ended the year with political unrest in Washington, D.C., as the House of Representatives voted articles of impeachment. How will all this play out over the next few weeks? With this being an election year, we can see just how important prayer is for the sake of our nation and for the well-being of its citizens. While we may have personal opinions concerning politicians and their actions, our real source of truth is in our God, the creator of all things. They all need our prayers.

**Terrorism around the world.** The death of a key leader in terrorism may only halt terrorist activities for a while. Sooner or later someone else will take charge. We must pray for the Middle Eastern leaders to gather together and reach some level of unity that would allow all

peoples to thrive as human beings. As we hear reports of people being converted to Christ in Muslim nations, we must pray for them and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to be received.

**The Persecuted Church.** Many believers around the world suffer because of their faith in Jesus Christ. We hear the horror stories and, because we are so sheltered in our free nation, we tend to listen in disbelief. Yet many are tortured, beaten, and even killed simply because they have confessed to believe in Jesus and are His disciple. We have a hard time imagining such a thing, but it is true.

**The Methodist Denomination.** In my mind, when a major protestant denomination reaches an impasse over a major theological issue, it is never a good place to be. David Closson of the Family Research Council with Tony Perkins wrote a really good article this week concerning the dilemma of the Methodist church. Last week church representatives tentatively agreed on a proposal that would split the nation's second largest Protestant denomination over "fundamental differences" regarding the "interpretation of Scripture, theology, and practice."

Closson said, "Years in the making, disagreements between conservatives and liberals in the church reached an impasse last year at a special conference convened to address the church's position on the morality of homosexuality and the issues of same-sex marriage and the ordination of clergy who identify as gay. In a document released Friday, both sides conceded that given intractable differences, splitting the denomination seems to be in the best interest of both parties. For the proposal to go into effect it will need to be adopted by the 2020 General Conference in May."

All I can say is they really need prayer. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently noted, if a church will not take decisive action to remove those who teach and believe what is contrary to the faith that established the denomination, "a denomination that refuses to excise people who teach contrary to their fundamental beliefs is a denomination that will no longer have fundamental beliefs."

These are just a few thoughts. Looks like 2020 will really dictate our prayer agenda.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

## **Opportunities For Service**

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

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Fred Kerns, Dillon Burgess, Gary Yarbrough, Don Sharp

Alternate: Joe Coats

Evening Worship ..... 6:30 pm

**Wednesday, January 15**

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

**Saturday, January 18**

VBS Pastors and Directors

Clinic—Rolling Hills ..... 10 am

**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Bill Schottel, Ken Nice, Joe Coats, George Burgess

Alternate: Don Sharp

Fellowship Dinner and

Business Meeting..... at Noon

Mission Study ..... immediately following our business meeting

No Evening Worship

**Wednesday, January 22**

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events .....**

**January 18 — VBS Directors and Pastors Workshop**

**Rolling Hills Library upper story 10 –12 am**

**January 19 — Fellowship Dinner/Business Meeting—Noon**

**— International Mission Study immediately after our  
business meeting**

**GROW Team**

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

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**Sunday Night**

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. Join us as we continue our Ten  
Commandments study with the Second Commandment.

**Wednesday Night Prayer  
and Bible Study**

We previewed a new study this past week and will officially begin January 15th .

Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

***Vacation Bible School  
Directors and Pastors  
Workshop***

January 18, 2020

10:00 am to 12 Noon

Rolling Hills Library

Upper Story Room

**Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting  
January 19, 2020**

Immediately following our morning worship service. Please join us as we fellowship together and conduct the business of the church. Then....

**International Mission Study**

Our Study will follow our business meeting. Have you ever heard of the Rohingya People group? Please plan to make an afternoon of it and learn about the plight of refugees in North America.

***January Bible Study***

This year our study is on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. We'll schedule our study on Sunday afternoon as in the past. More details to come later.

***For the Record-***

**Attendance: January 5, 2020**

Sunday School.....	35
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	35
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	40
Sunday Night .....	N/A
Children's Worship .....	12
Wednesday Night .....	5

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### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget ..... \$ 2,286.39  
Offering Received ... \$ 2,921.50  
Long Family – December \$ 170.00  
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### **Offering Received by Mail:**

### **January Counting Team:**

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

### **January Van Driver:**

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

### **January Member Birthdays:**

01... Carol Helean

01... Marcia Hart

08... Al Shirley

19... Juanita Haskins

22....Eric Thompson

23... Pat Puckett

24....Aubrey McCamy

27... Gary Yarbrough

28... Donna Dunn

29... Sharon Waters

### **January Anniversaries**

Allan and Ellen Lane

Married January 2, 1983

Philip and Kelsey Lane

Married January 3, 2009

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Many with colds

Alice Coats—broken wrist

Seth Long—Vicki's grandson

Betty Campbell

Jim and Brigida Winans-Jim is home

Mark Robertson—health

Dottie Wildberger

Gary Hurst—cancer

Sandy and Stanley Wilson

Janette Shirley—Al's daughter-in-law

Carl Conard—Jack's cousin

John Lewis

Mike Green—ankle recovery

Jack and Flo Conard

Sharon Russell—George's sister

June Fritchle

Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister

Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys



Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery  
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!  
Romey Keith Davis—Music  
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings  
Arlette Duty—strength  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Chuck and Gloria Stewart  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard’s sister  
Mary Sharp’s brother-in-law Jim  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae’s son  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson’s sister  
Doris Richardson      Elmer Mayse  
Kevin Duty              Tim Izer  
Bill Dunn                Nellie Reynolds  
Ann Riddle              Kenny Duty  
Keon McKahan        Buddy Means  
Jozy Winans            Curtis Conard  
Pat Means               Seth Long  
Bill & Juanita          Brenda Burgess  
Pat Puckett              Sharri Duty  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service Women and Men  
Terrorism in our world

**Today’s Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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