

SERMON NOTES - A NEW BEGINNING
Exodus 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

A. In our text, God is speaking to Moses and Aaron about the institution of the Feast of Passover which marks:

1. The beginning of Israel as a nation and their deliverance from slavery and sin.
2. The beginning of the Jewish religious year.

B. The death of the Passover Lamb made a new beginning for Israel just as the death of Christ makes a new beginning for Believing Sinners. Christ is the Christian's Passover.

C. The Past Year

1. Good Memories and Bad Memories
2. There are things we wish had never happened. What is done is done and we cannot change the past. However, we can look ahead into the New Year and do all we can to make it a Happy New Year for ourselves and others for the Glory of God.

I. A New Birth (John 3:1-5)

A. Make sure you have been Born Again

1. It is the foundation of the Christian Life
2. It is not based on works that we have done (Eph 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)

B. The New Birth is receiving Christ as Saviour (John 3:16)

1. According to John Wesley, the New Birth is that great change which God works in the soul when He brings it into life; when He raises it from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. It is the change wrought in the whole soul by the almighty Spirit of God when it is "created anew in Christ Jesus;" when it is "renewed after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness;" when the love of the world is changed into the love of God; pride into humility; passion into meekness; hatred, envy, malice, into a sincere, tender, disinterested love for all mankind. In a word, it is that change whereby the earthly, sensual, devilish mind is turned into the "mind which was in Christ Jesus." This is the nature of the new birth: "So is every one that is born of the Spirit."

2. **GRACE** – (God's Riches At Christ's Expense)

C. The New Birth is a Must to Enter Heaven (Matt 18:3; John 3:3; 14:6)

D. "Old things are passed away: behold all things are become new" (2 Cor 5:17).

II. A New Hope (Titus 2:13)

A. The Need for Hope

1. **World conditions**
2. **Church conditions**
3. **Home conditions**

B. The Source of Hope

1. God's Faithfulness (God Keeps His Promises)
 - a. "I am with you always" (Matt 28:20).

 - b. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb 13:5)
2. God's Everlasting Love
 - o "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jer 31:3)
3. The Second Coming of Christ (Titus 2:13)

III. A New Goal (Phil 3:13-14)

A. Do not dwell on past sins and failures

1. **Unsaved** – get rid of anything that hinders you from becoming a Christian.
Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-22).

2. **Saved** – get rid of anything that hinders spiritual growth

B. The Goal is to Know Christ and to be like Him

1. Keep your eyes on the goal – Christ

2. Build on your relationship with Christ

IV. A New Home (Rev 21:1, 5)

A. Some people cannot afford an earthly home or a decent place to live

B. All who trust Christ as Saviour will spend eternity in Heaven.

- o Heaven is available to all regardless of social or economic status.

- ❖ "Heaven, the home of every heart's desire, is open only to those who answer God's call to salvation through Jesus Christ" – Leighton Ford.

CONCLUSION:

A. Let's Begin this New Year with:

1. **A New Birth** – a necessity to enter heaven
2. **A New Hope** – the Second Coming of Christ
3. **A New Goal** – build on your relationship with Christ
4. **A New Home** – Heaven

B. "Thus saith the Lord; behold I have set before you the way of life and the ways of death" (Jer 21:7).

C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

From the Preaching Ministry of:
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“...the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).