

PASTOR SCOTT'S

MONTHLY MESSAGE



It's a New Year. 2019. Remember to write it, not that other number you are used to writing. Take down that old calendar and put up the new one. And on this cusp of the new year we often take time to look back at the last year. What were the highlights (favorable, or not so much)? What did we learn, or at least what should we have learned!

It's a new year; change is coming. After reflecting our focus shifts forward, to the yet unknown. We make plans for what we want to accomplish while keeping in mind those things we anticipate might occur. Some of our "anticipations" may be rather concrete: surgery that is scheduled, a trip that is planned, a major purchase we intend to make, applying for Medicare (for we're turning 65), an upcoming birth, or maybe we think this will be the year we'll retire. Other anticipation for 2019 may just be our best guesses: the economy, will my portfolio increase, the weather ... But we look forward through the hints and glimmers of what may come to be.

This reflecting back/looking forward occurs primarily on anniversaries, like birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and New Year's Day. But there is something special about the "newness" of New Year's.

It is important to look back, to learn from our experiences as to not repeat the mistakes, and to use the wisdom gained for making even better decisions going forward. But in looking back - remember - that while our historical decisions (strong and poor) may continue to have an impact upon our current status, they don't define us!

The "New" Year reminds us that God is a *creating* God. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Is. 43:19) "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" (Rev. 21:5).

In this New Year our creative God is doing new things and making everything new. *Everything*. That includes us. Regardless of what we have been, we will be something new. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor. 5:17). If you give your life over to Christ, you are a new creation. If you gave yourself over to Christ a while ago (even decades ago), you are still being made into something new!

In "The Christmas Carol" Ebenezer Scrooge stop being, well, a scrooge, and becomes the man who keeps Christmas well. In "Groundhog Day" Phil Connors leaves his self-centered egotistical self behind and becomes alive to life, love and others. There are countless stories of people becoming a new creation. They don't all credit Christ for the change - but he is the agent behind those who were "dead" coming to life!

Let's barge into 2019 being the *new thing* Christ is doing in us. Let's seek and embrace the new thing(s) that God is up to this year. It's a new year. We are not who we were. We are *new*!

Peace,

Pastor Scott