New Year 2023 - 1 Peter 1:3-5

**3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

New Year’s Eve is once again upon us, and it is time to reflect on what has changed for the better or for the worse in 2023. Did you read the Word more than you did the year before, or did you get out of the habit? Did you pray more than you did the year before or did you try to go at it alone? For many people there were highs and lows as there always are each year, but rest assured if you are in Christ it is one year closer to being in our forever home with the Lord.

People, like every year, will try and change a lot of things about themselves. Whether it is their weight, their mindset or their goals in this life. There is only one change that changes your joy and that is going from believing in A Jesus to believing in The Jesus. This is the most important decision that one will make in their entire life. It is life changing and life altering.

While we as Christians have made that choice from our perspective, we will find plenty of decisions that will either pull us closer to Christ this year or further away. Will we study our bibles? Will we pray to God more often? Will we seek a deeper relationship with Christ? These questions will be answered by the end of 2024 if the Lord does not come back before that. I love that we started last year with New Years Day as the first day of the week and we are closing the year with the same day. It allows us to be in God’s house at the start and close of the year as it always should be.

Remember this week and for this year to grow closer to Jesus than you were last year. Read and Study your word more, pray more, and love more than we all did last year. Remember that no matter what happens in this coming year that we have a heavenly home waiting on us and a loving Father whose arms are open wide waiting for us to return.