

SALT & LIGHT

a black and white voice in a grey world of politics

Jesus said: "Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world ..." (Matthew 5:13-14)

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Happy New Year!!!

By Rev. Peter Rahme – CDP Deputy President

Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness; (Psalm 65:11a)

The countdown was exiting and thrilling once again, but the celebration is over and out for another year. The fireworks lit up the skies for a little while, but the fun will be remembered for a long time to come. Like clockwork, one year concluded successfully and without missing a beat a new one commenced straight away.

The old passed away into history whilst the new was preparing to write its own. The tired one finally went to bed after a long hard year as the fresh one got up on the dot and went straight to work.

At the stroke of midnight the big hand on the Big Bens of the world reached out and touched the small hand of their small sisters. The long awaited signal went out all over the earth. It's "New Year" message was once again heard loud and clear. People everywhere followed suit and greeted each other with a **"Happy New Year"**.

- **"Happy New Year"** - For many, it is a time where family feuds and sibling rivalry are momentarily put on hold and artificially laid aside and where even complete strangers can be mistaken for old friends.
- **"Happy New Year"** - For most, it is nothing more than a "commercial break" in the ongoing drama of their lives; a breather to go and get a bite to eat and something to drink before they return to the fantasy world of their mere existence.
- **"Happy New Year"** - For the majority, it is just wishful thinking; something nice to say, hoping that someone up there somewhere, may look down upon earthlings with favour this year.

So then, is it actually possible to have a "Happy New Year"?

Yes – I sincerely believe so!

We can have a **"Happy New Year"** when we take time to:

1. **Reflect** on the past 12 months of our lives and **review** the highs and the lows.
2. **Rejoice** over saved souls and spiritual growth and **repent** of our sins of omission and commission.

3. **Renew** our dedication to - "Observe the great commission" (Matt 28:18-20) and **refresh** our attitude to - "Obey the great commandments" (Mk 12:30-31).
4. **Refocus** afresh on what really makes a difference on earth and matters dearly in eternity – i.e. a faithful life of purpose, commitment, excellence and service rather than a fragile existence for pleasure, comfort, mediocrity and self-centeredness.
5. **Recharge** the battery of our souls and **resume** our earthly journey towards our eternal rewards.

We will also have a "**Happy New Year**" when :-

1. On our revived action plan, the top priority is to first seek the ONE who "**crowns the year with His goodness**" (Psalm 65:11a); and "**enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name**" (Psalm 100:4); "**for He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand...**" (Psalm 95:7a).
2. On our list of things to do, the first thing on the schedule, like the first hour of the day and the first day of the week, is to enter into *the power of His praise and enjoy the wonder of His worship*. (More on this in my Bible devotion)

With the Love of Christ,
Peter
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