We want to thank you listeners for your dedication in collecting items for our Christmas Collections! We had an amazing turn out of items for nursing home residents, foster kids & teens, as well the homeless community. Pictures will be featured in our next newsletter or head to wilu.org/collections2024



so you can call in!

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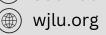
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SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY **Sanctity of Life Month** 1.1 | New Year's Day 1.19 | Sanctity of Life Day 1.20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day & **Inauguration Day**

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Happy New Year! We ask that you join us in praying for the new year of 2025. Pray for our nation and the new administration taking office this month. We also pray for the students returning back to school from Christmas break, may they be focused and ready to get back to work and finish out the school year strong. We also ask you to join us in praying for our preparations for our 2025 Sharathon as we begin planning this month.

We don't know what the Lord has in store for us in 2025 but we know that whatever it may be He "causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Rom 8:28. May we all trust and obey in 2025. Amen



How then will they call on Him in whom they have not be And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have ne And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Rom 10:14)

JANUARY 2025



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2025 BY BILL POWELL

2025...what will it be like? There is a lot of water that goes under the bridge in a year. How about the weather...what will it be like? The government looks totally different, and what will that bring? There will be many things that will happen we have no control over, good, and not so good, not to be negative. Then there are the things we do have control of. What are your plans, vacations, marriages, and births? What about career changes, goals to achieve, and projects you plan to tackle?

Can I make a suggestion? As Christians, we know we are saved by grace, and it's not of ourselves but a gift from God. Store that for a bit. We make goals like exercising more, reading our Bibles more, eating healthier, and the list goes on. Here is my suggestion: How about setting some goals to do some good works? This scripture has been rattling around in my brain for a while.

(Eph 2:10esv) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Let's face it, we all need help with one thing or another. We should help and be helped. I remember a sweet elderly lady with whom I had a conversation a while back. She mentioned a problem she was having. I said, "I can take care of that for you." She protested that she didn't want to be a bother. When I explained to her that she was denying me the blessing of serving and doing good works, she got the point.

(1Pe 4:10esv) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: We don't do good works for any selfish reason but to do it unto the Lord

(Col 3:23esv) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

(Col 3:24esv) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

So, as you look ahead to 2025, (I can't believe I am saying 2025) as you think about the new year and your plans and goals, why not add in a few good works? I might mention just as the year doesn't always go as planned be ready when you see a need to give a helping hand.

Our mission last year, this year, and next year is the same: proclaim the gospel and do what we can to help disciple those He has saved. The culture changes, the weather changes, and the calendar changes. God is on His throne, and Jesus is coming back to create a new heaven and a new earth. That never changes. Becoming the people the Lord would have us be is our path going forward.

Have a happy New Year as we look forward to the glorious future ahead of us.

Your friends and co-laborers in Christ,

Bill

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Will I Be Usable In 2025?

BY BRANDON SCHMIDT

Happy New Year Cornerstone Friends! I cannot believe we have another year in the books. Like many of you I look forward to the New Year with anticipation. I wonder what will happen in 2025. What will happen with my family? My friends? In our country? And so on. One thing I wonder about is what my life will look like and who I will be in 2025. During this time many of us make New Year Resolutions. I know I have made my fair share over the years. I really enjoy this practice and over the years it has helped me focus on what I seek to accomplish. I would love to encourage each of you to consider putting an emphasis on your relationship with God in 2025.

He said, "One day someone came to me and said, 'I want to be used by God,' and I replied, 'Then make yourself usable. Throw yourself into the Scriptures..." Like many, we desire to be used by God, but sadly we do not spend time preparing for the very work we hope to do. I want to encourage each of you to take this next year and work on your relationship with the Lord. Discipline yourself for the sake of godliness. Spend time growing in the and when we failed? Well, didn't that have some sad and short-sighted consequences. Lord through prayer, Scripture, worship, etc. Once Christ has saved us, we have a responsibility to work hard to be conformed more to Christ. You know of all the things about our life, the most important is our relationship with Christ Jesus. Will you commit to making yourself usable this year by conforming more to Him?

Finally, I want to thank everyone who supported us in our Christmas Collections this year. It was truly a blessing to so many to receive those items. Thank you once again for your love for others and your kindness that you displayed to so many!!



Stand Out

BY LUCAS WILLIAMS

Are you prepared to stand out as a Christian? To be unique? To find yourself at odds with the conventional way of doing things? Christ has called us to be holy - "set apart" for Him, and this means we might just look a little but different from everyone else.

It could mean the music you listen to, or the way you treat customers at work. Maybe it's the fact that you pray before you eat on lunch break (because who does that?), or the fact that you refuse to lie at your boss's request. There are endless ways that we a Christians go against the grain of society simply by living Biblically.

I want to encourage you, though, don't let the world miss the reason you are different. When you refuse to use foul language on the golf course or you return the extra sixty cents you got form the cashier, use that as an opportunity to share Christ's love with people. Don't let them walk away merely thinking "What a strange individual!" Instead, share with them the hope that you have in Jesus your Lord. It may just be that God intends that very circumstance to be an chance for you to share His love, so don't miss it!

And when it gets lonely, as it will, being the odd one out, remember that Jesus was rejected first. Consider what a great honor it is – to join with Christ, to be identified with Him! What more could we ask for?



Let's Seek God First

"Three before me" my English teacher would repeat daily, sitting at her desk overflowing with students' assignments. She didn't stop grading the paper in her hand. She didn't look up. She didn't skip a beat. She couldn't afford to, perhaps, with 35 students in each class, six classes every day. She fiercely guarded her time and energy against being overwhelmed.

So, for whoever had her in 12th grade English, they may have come to the idea that going to the authority for an answer should be the last resort rather than the first one. So, we had to ask three people who were less knowledgeable, just learned it, and still- students themselves. Or we didn't. We sought out the answer from written sources, from other teachers. From guidance counselors. I was listening to a preacher one day and he said something that struck me to my heart. We watched TV news (no internet back then). This search for answers in this way fostered our independent spirits. And sometimes, that was good. Other times, it wasn't. We wasted a good deal of time going to the inferior sources. We got things wrong and learned them the hard way. We sometimes relied on our own selves out of defiance, that the authority figures were the last sources we would seek out for help. We did it OUR way... When we succeeded, we gave ourselves credit,

> God, being One of infinite energy, resources, time, and knowledge, is not a "three before Me" kind of God. He is "Come to Me". He is "Seek Me while I may be found". He is "fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge". He is a "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" kind of God. If you have learned to seek God first, then you know the blessings that it can produce. Maybe you can even see the pitfalls you were able to avoid as you trusted in God's wisdom. If you are still learning to put God first in your life, then good for you too, keep at it. Keep moving forward. We are living in an age blessed with the ability and the resources to access God's very own Words and Wisdom. Let's make the most of every opportunity in 2025. Let's redeem this time, this year. God will not get overwhelmed with all our requests and questions. He's just that big and that good.













ATURDAYS



What's New?

BY CHRISTINA HUTCHINSON

a brand-new year, it's natural to wonder, "What does the message of Christ's salvation is still the answer (John new year hold?" Yet, Ecclesiastes 1:9 reminds us, "There 3:16). God's love, grace, and promises are as fresh today cycle—facing the same challenges, wrestling with the reminded, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today same questions, and navigating the same struggles year and forever." That's a truth we can cling to no matter after year. We see patterns repeat in our personal lives, how wild the world feels. relationships, and even in the world around us. But in us: "I the Lord do not change" (Malachi 3:6). While the and remember that God's unchanging nature is a gift. He details of each year may look different, the faithfulness knows our future (Jeremiah 29:11), walks with us in the of God remains constant, offering us a firm foundation present, and forgives our past. Yes, we will encounter no matter what lies ahead.

everyday. But while the packaging may change, the core and secure. issues of life remain.

As the clock struck midnight and the world cheered for Humanity still struggles with sin (Romans 3:23), and the is nothing new under the sun." Life often feels like a as when He first spoke them. In Hebrews 13:8, we're

the midst of this repetition, there's a truth that steadies So, as we step into this year, let's take a deep breath challenges, but we'll also have countless opportunities to see His faithfulness at work. Let's ask ourselves not just, Looking ahead, we're bombarded with the "new" all the "What's new?" but "How can I grow closer to God this time: new technologies, new challenges, new social year?" His Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), and trends. It can feel overwhelming, even unsettling, as we it's where we'll find the wisdom to face whatever comes. try to navigate a world that seems to reinvent itself. The world may change, but our hope in Him is timeless



