



**New Year**

**New Beginning**

- "New beginning" sounds all fresh and fancy – but nobody ever felt passion about an "old middle"! In a lot of ways, though, the "old middle" is where we discover our resolve and commitment.
- "Yes" needs to be "yes" and "no" needs to be "no" (James 5:12, Matthew 5:37).
- Similarly, there is a story told in Matthew 21:28-32 about two sons who each respond differently to their father when he commands them to do something. Jesus asked His listeners, "Which one did the will of his father?"
- God is not looking for empty talkers, braggarts, and people who make big "campaign promises." He wants commitment, follow-through, resolve.

**“New Beginnings” Lead To  
“Old Middles”**

**It's not A “new beginning”  
if it's only superficial change**

- "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts" (Galatians 5:24).
- "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self" (Colossians 3:8-10).
- "How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:2).
- "Our old self was crucified with Him" (Romans 6:6).



**Ephesians 4:17ff**

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- The new creature does not change half-heartedly, but dives in head first. The new creature isn't satisfied with piecemeal change, but resolves to mold himself in Christ's image.
- The new creature thinks differently. In order for a mental change to occur, actions must change, attitudes must change, outlook must change.
- The new creature finds the impetus for change in the Word. We must all diligently seek the message of the Bible, and conform ourselves to its life-giving expectations.
- The new creature treats people differently;
- He devotes himself more to family, responsibilities, mental self-control, etc.;
- He takes control of outcomes, knowing when to flee (1 Timothy 6:11).

## **The New Creature**