



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

Rev. Larry D. Green, Pastor

THE POWER OF A SHARED PURPOSE
Four Prayers and Priorities for the New Year
(From Paul's Letter to the Philippians)

INTRODUCTION:

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ **always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all**, ⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel **from the first day until now.**"*

—Philippians 1:3-5

**THE GOSPEL, ITS _____ AS WELL AS ITS _____, IS
AT THE HEART OF PAUL'S EXHORTATIONS.**

*"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

*¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, **children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world**, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain."*

- **Salvation is viewed,...** not as an **objective to be _____**, nor as a **benefit to be _____**, but as a **possession to be _____** fully.

**1A. "LORD, MAY WE ENTER THIS NEW YEAR WITH AN _____
_____ CHRIST." (Chapter 4)**

*"Not that I speak from want, for **I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am**. ¹² I know how to get along with **humble means**, and I also know how to live in prosperity; **in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret** of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**"*

—Philippians 4:11-13

- **Contentment is...** a mark of **spiritual _____** evidenced by a _____ **spirit regardless of temporal _____** because Christ has become our **Source of _____ and _____**.

2A. "LORD, MAY WE ENTER THIS NEW YEAR WITH AN _____
_____ CHRIST." (Chapter 3)

"Not that I have already obtained [it] , or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of [it] yet; but one thing [I do] : forgetting what [lies] behind and reaching forward to what [lies] ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

—Philippians 3:12-14

- Spiritual Maturity: A lifelong, passionate _____ of God's upward calling in Christ Jesus, experiencing greater _____ Him and _____ Him until that day I am _____ Him and _____ Him.

3A. "LORD, MAY WE ENTER THIS NEW YEAR WITH AN _____
_____ CHRIST." (Chapter 2)

"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,..."

- The _____ and _____ that are necessary for both _____ and effective _____ is only achieved through a spirit of _____.
- We need a _____ mind and a _____ mind. We need the _____.

4A. "LORD, MAY WE ENTER THIS NEW YEAR WITH AN _____
_____ CHRIST." (Chapter 1)

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

—Philippians 1:6

1. God has _____ it. ("He who began a good work in you...")
2. God is _____ it. ("...will perfect it...")
3. God will _____ it. ("...until the day of Jesus Christ.")

CONCLUSION: