

New Year, New Mindset
December 31, 2017

I Advent Wreath - Battles' Family

II Pictures

- A) Night in Bethlehem
- B) Jesus' Toy Box

III 2017 Review

A) Rube Goldberg Machine

- 1) Rube Goldberg is famous for creating very intricate machines that do extremely simple tasks
- 2) **SLIDE**
- 3) Describing this year is like describing a Rube Goldberg machine
- 4) We have turned simple things into complicated messes

B) This year defies logic, common sense, morality, and decency.

- 1) College campuses have become bastions of progressivism where freedoms are limited and discourse is no longer tolerated.
- 2) One college professor, to reduce stress on his students, told them they could pick their own grades. All tests would be open book and open notes. No criticism of any kind allowed.
- 3) Now that is reflective of the real world, isn't it?
- 4) Trump became president in a crazy election that defied all experts in all fields
- 5) Yet, today, still half this nation wants Pres. Trump dead, impeached, or arrested.
- 6) Washington believes the tax cuts are more dangerous to this nation than nuclear weapons.
- 7) We have invented ways to be offended: hair-shaming, makeup-shaming, man-shaming, body-shaming, clothes-shaming, costume-shaming, etc.
- 8) We are a nation of victims.

- 9) Yet, we tout ourselves as the savior of mankind and the purveyor of truth.
 - 10) We protest to save the world but cannot save ourselves.
 - 11) We fight for justice while embracing injustice.
 - 12) We have launched a new fight against racism, which includes, according to college professors across this nation, math, farmer's markets, friendship, total solar eclipse, the Bible, pollution, college football, singing "Jingle Bells," and expecting people to be on time
 - 13) We mourn over a polar bear but feel little for our troops.
 - 14) The church cannot agree on the importance of Jesus, and salvation is up for grabs
 - 15) We do not have to worry about God because, well, because what can He really do?
- C) **SLIDE** Nevertheless, 2018 is a year of challenge and expectation
- 1) As I was thinking about this message, the Lord told me New Year, New Mindset
 - 2) We need to know what is going on in the world, but if that is our focus, the world will taint our spirits and darken our thoughts
 - 3) We will renew ourselves with the world's futility and mindset
 - 4) We will grow angry, despondent, unloving,
 - 5) Therefore, if we are to embrace what God is getting ready to do, we need a new mindset

IV **SLIDE** Renewing our Minds

- A) Our minds are constantly being renewed
- 1) If we spend all of our time listening to the world, our minds and thoughts will be shaped by that news, wisdom, and morals
 - 2) More importantly, our minds will be shaped by those who deliver that news and wisdom
 - 3) If we spend our time speaking to non-believers, they will renew our minds with their views, beliefs, and opinions

- 4) Thus, we will develop a world mindset that cannot understand what God is doing
 - 5) Therefore, we are to renew our minds with the Truth
- B) **SLIDE Psalm 104:29-30 (NIV)** ²⁹ When you [the LORD] hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. ³⁰ When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 1) Without God, man dies
 - 2) When He sends His Spirit, we are created
 - 3) God is the only subject for the verb "created"
 - 4) When God sends His Spirit, He will renew the face of the earth
 - 5) **SLIDE Renew**
 - a) A verb meaning to restore.
 - b) It refers to the renovating or reconstructing of various items:
 - c) It is used figuratively to indicate the restoring or revitalizing of one's spirit (Ps. 51:10).
 - d) In a time of restoration, ruined cities will be rebuilt
- C) **SLIDE Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)** ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being **corrupted** by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be **made new** in the **attitude** of your **minds**; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
- 1) V 23: made new:
 - a) To renew, make young
 - b) To be renewed insofar as spiritual vitality is concerned.
 - 2) Attitude or spirit of our minds: breathe of God
 - 3) **SLIDE Minds**:
 - a) Organ of mental perception and understanding of conscious life
 - i) From where does our understanding come: man or God
 - ii) The root of our understanding affects the way we view all life

- b) **SLIDE** Seat of emotions and affections
 - i) Again, when our minds are renewed by the world, our emotions and affections will be skewed
 - ii) We will embrace what is evil and hate what is good
 - iii) Anger replaces love; judgment, mercy; hardness, compassion
 - iv) We will embrace ideas that distort our emotions and love
- 4) **SLIDE** Thus, we need to renew the Spirits of our minds with God's truth
- 5) We need to renew our relationships with Jesus
- 6) We need to do this on a daily basis so that our minds will remain young and spiritually vital
- D) **SLIDE Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.
 - 1) **SLIDE** Conform:
 - a) To fashion alike,
 - b) Conform to the same pattern outwardly.
 - 2) Transform:
 - a) denoting change of place or condition
 - b) To transform, transfigure, change one's form.
 - c) The idea of transformation refers to an invisible process in Christians which takes place or begins to take place during their life in this age.
 - 3) **SLIDE** Renewing
 - a) A renewing or a renovation which makes a person different than in the past.
 - b) to renew qualitatively, not quantitatively
 - i) Qualitatively: regards the quality of something
 - ii) Quantitatively: regards the quantity of something

- c) The world focuses on renewing their minds with quantity, believing that makes them wise
- d) We are to renew our minds with quality, which comes from God's word

E) **SLIDE Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)** ¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

- 1) We are to renew our minds this year so that we will not walk in the ways of man
- 2) We renew our minds constantly so that we will walk in the ways of God even though we cannot see that way
- 3) Church, Personal Bible Study, Group Bible Study, get involved
- 4) Tomorrow starts a new year, but things will not change
- 5) However, if we change, if we develop a new mindset, then we will change
- 6) When we change, then we can change the world around us
- 7) We will gain in 2018 if we have the right mindset

V Communion