

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of January 2016

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
Mason



It is not uncommon at this time of the year for me to hear someone say, "I am so glad that this last year is finally behind me. It was a really rough one!"

Occasionally, I have to admit, I have also found myself in this same place. It is refreshing to know that there is an official moment in our calendar (January 1st) where we can put the past behind us and look forward with great hope for the future. Change can be very good - especially if we are coming out of a really dark place.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Paul speaks of another change which is only found in the life of a Christian. He says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a *new creation* – the old has passed away and the new has come." Before Jesus came to earth as a human and took our sins upon Himself, there was no hope for humanity. It wasn't just a bad year but rather a bad: past, present and future. We were all condemned to divine judgment because of our rebellion against God and hence enslavement to sin. Our hearts and eyes were centered on ourselves and no longer on God (as we were intended to be). We were marked for death – as those who are defiant against our

Creator. This is a battle which we can never win (no hope).

Therefore, it is absolutely appropriate for us to have our New Year right after the date which celebrates Jesus Christ being born as a human child, because His arrival marks a moment in time for *new beginnings*. His life revealed the true interpretation of God's law/word and illuminated the path to come back to

our Creator. Many times He proved that He had the power of God flowing through Him by demonstrating His supremacy over: the darkness (demonic), the elements in creation (storms/sea), even sickness and death. Then for our sake, though He was sinless, He became the eternal sin offering for all who follow/submit to Him, so that they might be transformed into the likeness of God - a *new creation* (v. 21). Christ reconciled us to God by taking our due punishment upon Himself. He served as our propitiation (appeasement for the wrath of God). The result is now peace with God and a certain hope for the future (eternal life with God in love). Our fellowship with God is now warm and intimate as opposed to cold and distant – destined for destruction.

The moment a human accepts Christ as their King and Savior is the point of a fresh new start. The past is forgiven with God. We are marked for life in the power of the Holy Spirit and we are expected to join Jesus in His ministry of reconciliation to all humanity by reflecting His glory to the world. As we walk with Him, we will continually look more and more like Him. Our old ways pass away and new ones take over. Our hearts and eyes become centered on Jesus rather than on ourselves. Our

supply from God now adequately satisfies our souls as opposed to our desperate and hopeless grasping at the world's wide selection of sensualities, treasures and other distractions. Yes it is completely appropriate for us to celebrate the moment of *new beginnings* on January 1st (after the birth of Jesus Christ) because that is what the world now has access to in Him. His work impacts and affects all aspects of time. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Derek Mason



In Memoriam

Please join together in prayer as we mourn the passing of a member of our Moraine Valley Community Church family, Tony Zappa passed away Monday December 14, 2015.

Remember also his friends and family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Church Signs

Those little pearls of wisdom from in front of America's churches

Getting dunked in OUR pool has great significance.

God Answers Knee-Mail.

God Chats 24-7.

Food For Thought

Success depends upon maturity!

Maturity is many things. It is the ability to base a judgment on the big picture, the long haul.

It means being able to resist the urge for immediate gratification and opt for the course of action that will pay off later.

One of the characteristics of the young is "I want it now." Grown-up people can wait.

Maturity is perseverance—the ability to sweat out a project or a situation, in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks, and stick with it until it is finished.

The adult who is constantly changing friends and changing mates is immature. He/she cannot stick it out because he/she has not grown up.

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction. The mature person can face unpleasantness, frustration, discomfort and defeat without collapsing or complaining. They know they cannot have everything their own way every time. They are able to defer to circumstances, to other people—and to time. They know when to compromise and are not too proud to do so.

Maturity is humility. It is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when they are right, the mature person need not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to live up to your responsibilities, and this means being dependable. It means keeping your word. Dependability is the hallmark of integrity. Do you mean what you say—and do you say what you mean? Unfortunately, the world is filled with people who cannot be counted on. When you need them most, they are among the missing. They never seem to

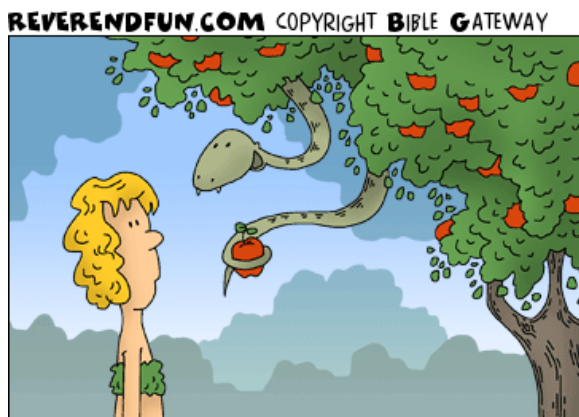
come through in the clutches. They break promises and substitute alibis for performance. They show up late or not at all. They are confused and disorganized. Their lives are a chaotic maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that somehow never materialize. They are always a day late and a dollar short.

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. Immature people spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then doing nothing. Action requires courage. Without courage, little is accomplished.

Maturity is the ability to harness your abilities and your energies and do more than is expected. The mature person refuses to settle for mediocrity. They would rather aim high and miss the mark than low-and make it.

Maturity is the art of living in peace with that which cannot be changed, the courage to change that which should be changed, no matter what it takes, and the wisdom to know the difference.

By Ann Landers



REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?

I've Learned.....

.... that you can get by on charm for about fifteen minutes. After that, you'd better know something.

.... that either you control your attitude or it controls you.

.... that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

.... that money is a lousy way of keeping score.

.... that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

From the Elder's Table

January, the beginning of a new year and time to start making those New Year's resolutions or, maybe to put it in other words, to begin setting goals for 2016. Around the Elders table, we are excited about the year ahead.

What will God call us to do?

What will He call you to do?

Read your bible every day, start a gratitude journal, be that comforting shoulder, attend our service each Sunday, join a Life Group or bible study, begin praying for those in need ?

We as Elders would like to encourage you in your discipleship with Christ. Please join us in watching for the opportunities God will set before us to bring our mission statement to life.

Remember in Prayer...

- Elsie's Food Pantry: provisions/wisdom/protection
- MVCC: wisdom/guidance/protection
 - Hearts to serve – to build our church (formation of ministries)
 - Wisdom and guidance in our new location
 - Discipleship/transformation/leadership
 - Youth and Children's Ministry growth and development
- Emmitt Hayes – heart/health/ condo restoration and living arrangements
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Vi Wagner – hip/arm/eyes/strength
- Mark DeBauche: cancer healing / strength /endurance / Dr's wisdom in treatments
- Edith Martinez – Her knee to heal and her Sister for healing
- Dorothy Martin's brother-in-law (Jeff) – cancer
- Roy Beehn – provisions, healing from his open heart surgery
- Tony Juarez – new job closer to his home
- Russ McGurty – job & insurance situation, surgery and pain relief
- Kim Healy – New work provisions
- Megan and Chucho – healthy pregnancy and provisions
- Sheri Clemente – cancer concerns
- Dan Tabert – foot recovery
- Linda Hudecek – lungs healing
- Harriet – strength in her legs, walking
- Becky Lewellen – employment

- Gary Rizza – hand and back healing
- Victor (Megan's 14 yr old cousin recently adopted from Ukraine) PTSD – poss. former abuse
- Bill Clemente – family healing and provisions
- Terry & Jennifer Zappa – grieving the loss of Tony
- Former Member Nancy Kohr was placed in hospice care.

Famous Last Words

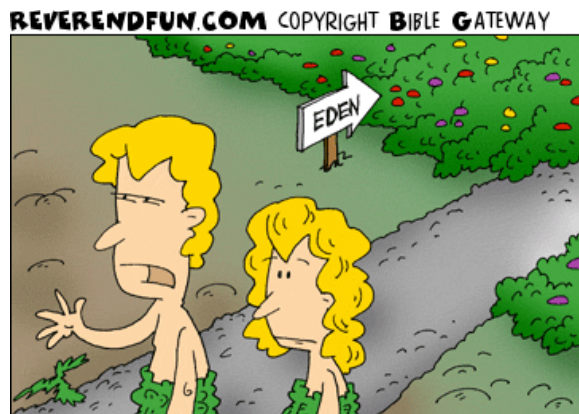
Die? I should say not, dear fellow. No Barrymore would allow such a conventional thing to happen to him.

~~ John Barrymore, actor, d. May 29, 1942
I'm bored with it all.

Before slipping into a coma. He died 9 days later.

~~ Winston Churchill, statesman, d. January 24, 1965

And now, I am dying beyond my means.
Oscar Wilde, while sipping champagne on his deathbed



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 3) 01-03-2005

OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN "LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH "TRUST PEOPLE MORE"

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