

Happy New Year!

So, a new year, a new decade, another chance to take a fresh look at life and all the endless possibilities that lay before us - is here!

Now you may or may not be a resolution kind of person. I'm not here to tell you that you should or shouldn't decide to change something at this time of year. Whether it's to exercise; to learn a new skill or hobby; to save money / buy less; to travel more or simply to spend an increasing amount of time with family and friends - these aren't bad things to seek to do. Looking after your body, developing healthy relationships and stewarding what we have are good principles and goals all year round.

I do wonder, though, whether the whole idea of resolutions at this time of year can have something a distracting impact on the Church and those seeking to follow Jesus each day of their lives. As I've reflected on this, I wonder whether all this talk of resolutions and 'starting again' can lead us to a place where we feel that's what we ought to be doing. So on an annual basis we look around for that fresh and shiny thing that we can focus and chase after for the coming 12 months.

The truth of the matter is though, nothing has changed. I believe the task before us as disciples remains exactly the same as it did yesterday, last week, last year, even back as far as the last time the world found itself within a decade known as the twenties.

How we connect and engage with society, and the communities to which we belong needs to stay fresh and relevant, yes. We must ensure that young through old are able to hear about and have the opportunity to respond to the Good - and life transforming - News of Jesus Christ, yes.

The content of the message though, continues to require absolutely no alteration in any way, shape or form, not this year, not ever. We are called to share God's story, to tell of the invitation to know Him personally, through His son Jesus and the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

As a church, we continue to explore the outworking of what it means to be a people committed to Being Transformed Together. We seek to see Kingdom Growth right here in Battle and within the other communities to which we belong. I pray that we will keep on doing the very thing that God has asked us to do: that we will keep on playing our part in sharing His truth and seeing the impact it brings.

Perhaps this will cause some of us to take stock after all, to make a change, refocussing our lives, actions and energies, ensuring that we are responding to His call?

Whatever this year holds for you personally and for us as a church, may we prepare ourselves for all that is ahead, to throw ourselves into all He sets before us, resolving not to become distracted, to stay the course and give our all to Him!

Be blessed

Ed Jones