

## New Year

### I. Introduction

- A. Do you ever feel like you are wasting your time, or that your priorities are a little off?
- B. Most people limit themselves by things that happened in their past, especially failures. They let things define their future; do you?
- C. Anyone ever known a person who cannot stop themselves from talking about an event where they believe they did something great?
- D. How does it feel to be around a person who will not stop living in the past, but has gone nowhere in their life?

### II. Scripture

#### A. **Eph. 5:1-17.**

1. **Eph. 5:1-5**—"1-*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2-And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor. 3-But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4-Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5-For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*"
2. **Eph. 5:6-14**—"6-*Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7-Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8-For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9-(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10-Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11-And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12-For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13-But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14-Wherefore he*

*saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."*

3. ***Eph. 5:15-17***—"15-*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16-Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17-Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*"

B. ***Php. 3:12-15***—"12-*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13-Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14-I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15-Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*"

### III. Application

- A. Has any Christian attained perfection in their Christian walk?
- B. Should we keep trying and following Christ anyway?
- C. How can a person practically forget a positive and/or painful past?
- D. How can you walk wisely, redeeming the time, to understand God's specific plan and timing in your life?
- E. How do you sincerely follow God like a dear child?
- F. How do you keep from being deceived, darkened, and prove what is acceptable to our Lord?