

I Will Do More in 2006

1. I will do more than belong - I will **participate**.
2. I will do more than care - I will **help**.
3. I will do more than believe - I will **practice**.
4. I will do more than be fair - I will be **kind**.
5. I will do more than forgive - I will **encourage**.
6. I will do more than earn - I will **enrich**.
7. I will do more than teach - I will **inspire**.
8. I will do more than give - I will **serve**.
9. I will do more than live - I will **grow**.
10. I will do more than be friendly - I will **be a friend**.

A Wise Old Bird

A wise old owl lived in an oak;
The more he heard, the less he spoke;
The less he spoke, the more he heard —

Why can't we be like this wise old bird?



Valley Station Church of Christ

Our sole purpose of being a church is to provide a scriptural worship for those who love God and honor his holy word. We offer nothing you cannot find in the New Testament in our work, our worship, and our organization. Please visit us and see for yourself!

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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The Valley Tidings

Set For The Defense Of the Glad Tidings

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NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, make 2006 a very happy year for all of us individually here at Valley Station. Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes.

Not by taking hardship from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet hardships.

Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path. Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright even in the shadows.

Not by making our lives always pleasant, but by showing us where others and your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there and to help...

We pray also Lord you will bless us as a local congregation,

Not with great numbers of people who come looking for entertaining activities and services . . .

But with abundant opportunities to teach your word and do your work here in this area in all sincerity and truth.

Nor do we pray that you will make our name great as a local church, but that through us your great name will be magnified.

Father, make our year a happy one! — In Jesus' Name, Amen!



Pitfalls on the Road of Life

The story goes that in an ancient European castle there was a deep, dark shaft in the center of a darkened passageway. At the end of the passage there was an opening to freedom and light. The keepers of the prison took their prisoners to the passageway and told them to go free. As the joyous prisoners raced for freedom they never noticed the pit. Looking only at the end of the tunnel they failed to see the pitfall along the way and fell to their death on the rocks and water below. Such a ghastly thing should make us think of Solomon's words: *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Prov. 14:12).

Many of us are just as oblivious to the pitfalls of life as the prisoners in this story were. Consider the horrible story of heartless king who would promise freedom to condemned prisoners only to fool them into losing their lives. That the same thing occurs in religion. That is what Solomon meant.

What may seem good in religion does not give assurance that it will give life. It may be deadly. What seems right is often the result of someone leaning on their own logic, ability, or personal opinions. Proverbs 3:5 reads: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

The apostle Paul wrote, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). Knowing the frailty of humans and knowing that when man tries to lead others he either ends up in a blind alley or falls in a ditch the Lord said through the prophet Jeremiah, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

Unaided man is incapable of knowing for sure the way he ought to travel spiritually. He cannot see what is ahead in the darkened passageways of life. He has no real discernment to know where the dangers are that lurk in his future. But God does. God knows the way of surety and safety because He created and established it. And where may we find that way?

The one and only infallible source of direction is the word of the living God. It was the Psalmist who wrote: "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path" (Psa. 119:105). That is the word that produces faith. Paul wrote, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17).

It is the height of stupidity to ignore what God has revealed in His will and lean on the broken reeds of human experiences, human testimony, or human traditions. There are specific cases in point where sinners today are promised freedom by those whose promises are false. There is a false promise that freedom from sin will be enjoyed by those who "pray through" or have an emotional "experience" with the Lord. The promise of receiving baptism of the Holy Spirit is included in this false notion. Anyone who accepts this will ultimately be disappointed and die in sin.

None can rely on feelings or emotions as assurance of freedom from sin. Feelings often lie. The old Patriarch, Jacob had twelve sons and one of them became his favorite. This youngster was Joseph and the favoritism shown to him created jealousy among the other sons. The brothers sold Joseph into slavery. To cover the crime the brothers dipped his coat in animal blood, and sent it to Jacob. They had not killed Joseph. He was alive but a captive.

They sent the "evidence" to Jacob with the simple question, "Is this your son's coat?" Jacob

examined the coat and instantly felt in his heart that Joseph was dead. "He said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces"" (Gen. 37:33-34).

Jacob came to the wrong conclusion. He looked at the evidence and it seemed absolutely convincing – but he did not look far enough. A number of years later, in God's own good time, those same brothers came to Jacob and told him that Joseph was alive and serving as a high official in Egypt under Pharaoh. "And [they] told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not" (Genesis 46:26).

There is hardly a more typical story of what is happening right now in religion. People who rely on their feelings will believe a lie and when presented with truth refuse to accept it. Today there are those who shout and scream, often to the point of absurdity urging folk to "accept Jesus," "Be saved," "be baptized in the Holy Ghost," "get salvation," and "get right with God," without ever citing one single reference to what the Bible says one must do to be saved..

Dear friend, don't be like Jacob. Don't rely on the flimsy foundation of man's theology, man's opinion, man's wisdom, or man's tradition. Take the Bible alone for all you believe. Don't just say you take the Bible, really take it and read it for yourself. You don't need any preacher to tell you the plan of salvation. All you need to do is read it and obey it. Paul said, "When you read you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4).

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Also Jesus said, "Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given" (Mark 4:24). It is important to be discriminating when hearing anything purporting to be the gospel of salvation. Allow the penetrating power of the gospel to open your heart. Of Lydia, it is said she "worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul" (Acts 16:14).

Her heart was opened by the power of the word Paul preached. Now, obey without reservation from your heart. Paul wrote to the church in Rome, reminding them of how they had obeyed. "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18).

Obedience to God begins with faith and culminates in total surrender to His divine will. Today, you have the opportunity to do just that and may God bless each one who reads these few words to come to God today in faith and obedience. - DRS

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