



Weekly Devotional

January 5, 2009

A Prayer For The New Year

“Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law” (Psalm 119:18).

The first of the year has become a time when many people make their New Year’s resolutions. According to recent polls, the ten top New Year’s resolutions are as follows: (1) Spend more time with family and friends, (2) Fit in fitness, (3) Tame the bulge, (4) Quit smoking, (5) Enjoy life more, (6) Quit drinking, (7) Get out of debt, (8) Learn something new, (9) Help others, (10) Get organized.

While attempting to reach any of these beneficial goals is to be commended, the most important matter seems to be overlooked. None of the top ten resolutions have anything to do with our relationship with God. We must not forget that Jesus taught, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

This is not to imply that it is wrong for Christians to have renewed goals and resolutions. We must not lean on the arm of the flesh, however, to accomplish these goals. The Holy Spirit lives within us to enable and empower us to do the will of God. I think it is good to have a verse of scripture to claim or a prayer from the Scriptures to pray throughout the New Year. This is the prayer I have chosen for the next twelve months.

This prayer recognizes a spiritual universe! There is a world of divine realities, a realm of eternal truths, which many never know. The Psalmist intensely desired to enter this sphere and prayed to “behold wondrous things” from God’s law. The word “wondrous” indicates “marvelous, surpassing, or extraordinary.” Oh, may we be conscious of the truths of God and conscious, as well, of the God of truth.

This prayer requests a spiritual unveiling! Our spiritual eyes must be opened for us to see the things of God. A mere reading of the Bible, or a casual acquaintance with holy matters, will not bring divine realities into focus. Neither can we force the spiritual world to open to us through self-discipline. The Lord must take the veil away. He must remove the fleshly hindrances from our minds. With the Psalmist, then, let us cry out, “Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.”

This prayer renews a spiritual understanding! The need is greater than just to be aware of the spiritual world, and it is greater than just praying for God to open our eyes. The need is to “behold” the wondrous things in the divine sphere. The word “behold” means “to look, to consider, to regard.” The truths of God are to be deeply appreciated and appropriated by the children of faith. May this prayer of the Psalmist become a part of our devotional life.