A New Year
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A Matter of Time vs. 1-8
Our existence in this world is a mixture of joy and sorrow, harmony and conflict, and life and death. Each has its own proper moment, and we, as creatures of time, must conform to the limitations that are built into the cycle of life. No permanent state of affairs exists in this world. This can become a great source of frustration for people since we can neither be satisfied with what we are, nor understand God’s purpose in all this. We can only humbly accept what we are in this world and confess our faith that God’s way is right. In light of this text, we will consider the passing of one year & the beginning of a new year.

Disciples: Not Knowing What Lies Ahead
The Disciples experienced what King Solomon stated in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 because Jesus had died. They had much to be concerned about and faced uncertainty in the days following the crucifixion.

As we contemplate any new year’s resolution, and the uncertainty of a new year we must do so realizing that we cannot be successful apart from God.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.

John 15:5 (HCSB)

Resolve to Make Time for God
Find time for God. Build that personal relationship with Christ. In the course of each day make time to creatively spend with God. You know the old saying, “if you want something to happen write it down.” Put it on the calendar; the odds of it happening just increased.

In this time you can read your bible, read an inspirational magazine or book, pray, sing, walk, journal, etc. As you build that relationship the Holy Spirit will convict, guide, rebuke, teach, counsel, and comfort you. When that happens your relationship will deepen and you will grow.

Resolve to Stay Active in Worship & Bible Studies
Stay or become active in a local church’s worship and Bible Studies. Don’t just come on Sunday morning or once a month or year and expect to personally grow.

Resolve to Regularly Tithe
Choose to become a regular tither this year.

“Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way,” says the LORD of Hosts. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure. Malachi 3:10 (HCSB)

With the first check of the New Year give God the first fruits of that check. Before a single bill is paid give God his 10 percent; trusting that God will provide if we obey his word. We miss a blessing because we don’t trust God with our money. By not obeying and tithing we are disobeying God and we are sinning against the very God that we say we love.

Conclusion: Read the Bible This Year
Scripture is a compass for our lives, directing us in the way we should go. This is why God’s Word tells us there is an absolute standard for right and wrong. As you diligently work to put God’s Word into your life, it will become an anchor in times of storm and a center line to navigate by, just as it was for David and Joshua. Over time you will begin to learn the Father’s viewpoint, ways, and wisdom, because you will have a deeper understanding of His holy character.

“This is why it is so important to read the Bible today and every day and allow its principles to transform you spirit, attitudes, words and actions. By doing so, you will not only strengthen your faith but also develop the courage to express your convictions.” ~ Dr. Charles Stanley

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word. I have sought You with all my heart; don’t let me wander from Your commands. I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You. LORD, may You be praised; teach me Your statutes.

Psalm 119:9-12 (HCSB)