

Mustard Seed

Being Grateful to Follow and Worship Jesus in 2017

Scott Swartzendruber

In our culture, we tend to see the Christian life from a Santa Claus mentality. We go to Jesus as long as we can get something from Him. If we don't get the "stuff" we think we should get, we are quick to move on to someone else who can give us what we want. What if in 2017 we would take a different approach in our relationship with Christ? What if we would stop being so demanding with our selfish wants and expectations and start being people who are grateful to love, serve, and worship Jesus?

As we go into a new year, my prayer is that we would enter it with hearts filled with gratefulness. We can be grateful for the wonderful opportunity to love, serve, and worship our Lord and Savior for another year. A deep sense of gratitude is what will cause us to want to run to God instead of wanting to run away from Him. I truly believe that one of the key ingredients to the Christian life is having a "desire" to follow, worship, and serve Christ. In the days to come, may we encourage one another to "desire" a life with Jesus and may we be ever so grateful for the opportunity to serve the One who came in the flesh to love us in a way that nobody else can. His love is absolutely pure, and this is something that should make us want to live with gratitude and faithfulness in 2017.

Also, as we enter into a new year, I encourage you to continue to pray for those who lost loved ones in 2016. As we serve with the love of Jesus, may we seek to reach out with healing words and loving actions to those who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones. Many thanks for supporting one another this past year and for your desire to love, worship, and serve in 2017!



CONGRATULATIONS

*These people have reached a milestone, 50 or more years of marriage,
or 80 or more years of life.
Don't forget to send a card!
The addresses are in your church directory.*

Birthdays:

Harvey Yoder~January 1

Gladys Gnagey~January 17

Gene Miller~January 19

Ida Yoder~January 25