

Col. 3:1-2 "Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Well, it has happened again! A year has passed and another now stands before us. Maybe it's just me, but it seems to happen a lot faster than it used to.

As we stand here in the beginning of a New Year it is a good time to reflect on the year that is ending and look forward into the year that is just beginning. It is also a good time for God's people to take inventory of their walk with the Lord. Where did we spend our time? Where did we spend our efforts? Where did we spend our money? What difference did we make? Are we a better person than we were a year ago?

Have we moved two steps closer to Jesus than we were a year ago? We seem to be hit with so many questions this time of year!

We should take a very close look at where we are in our relationship with Him. We need to examine ourselves and see where we have been, where we are and where the Lord wants us to be. This passage gives us the opportunity and the challenge to do just that.

I see four things we all need to take a look at:

1. Some things are worth hanging on to. There have been some great successes in our church-planting efforts. NPEA has been involved in new church plants in Nebraska and Montana as well as keeping up with our current plants.
2. Some things are worth getting rid of. We can always beat ourselves up for not doing more (there's always more), but that is effort wasted.
3. Some things are worth remembering. All of our church plants have had some awesome, wonderful successes this past year! There have been scores of baptisms and growth numerically and/or spiritually. As we remember the blessings God has given, it becomes motivation to do even more, celebrate even more, and worship our Creator even more.
4. Some things are worth forgetting. Did you fail at some task this past year? Did you not live up to the standard God has set for us? Did you keep the resolutions you made a year ago? Did you fall into sin and can't move past it? As children of God we live a victorious life! We are not bound by our choices of the past. We can move past them to live the life of victory God provides.

This new, bright, shiny year that is just beginning is a blank slate. It will become whatever picture you draw on it...At NPEA we are dreaming big dreams and setting our sights on things above. We are moving forward in planting new churches for the kingdom as God leads us. We need you to come along with us in the excitement of God's vision and God's dreams.

Larry Andrews

NPEA Board Member