

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America New Year

New Year

As we come into a New Year, we tend to look back at the year gone by and reflect on the successes and the failures. We also might make new promises to do better in the areas we feel like we need improvement or have failed. In our natural life we hear and make many New Year resolutions such as maybe losing some weight, quitting some bad habit, starting exercising to help your health, etc. We also look back at our Christian journey over the last year and see all the times we were not the kind servant we should have been. Finding ourselves not doing the good that we should be doing, and how often we do just opposite. **Romans 7: 15 For that which I do I allow not; for what I would that do I not; but what I hate that do I.** So, what can we say, Paul said it so well a few verses later **24 & 25 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** We are forgiven and are made new from moment to moment. Which we are so thankful for. We just celebrated new life with the birth of the Christ Child in the manger, the beginning of a new deal that was promised us way back in the garden of Eden when God cursed the serpent in **Genesis 3:25 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her; it shall bruise thy head, head and thou shalt bruise his heel.** And the promise was when that bruising of the serpent's head happens the New covenant would begin. **Jeremiah 31: 33 But this the covenant that I shall make with the house of Israel; after those days saith the Lord. I will I put my laws in their inward parts and write it in their hearts; and I will their God, and they shall be my people.** And that deal was finalized with when our savior gave his life for us on the cross. And he said **It is finished**, our weaknesses, our slowness to do what we should, our pride, our greediness, our lack of love, our selfishness, our lack of praising God, and you know what all our SIN has been forgiven!! **Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall know me, from the least of them onto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

So rather you are new in the faith or you have been a believer for a hundred years each day is a beginning of a new day of grace or new year of grace and God see us clean and completely free of sin. A new creature. **2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold all things are become new.**

So, this new year let us not focus on what we are doing or what we are not doing but let us focus on our lord and savior JESUS the KING. And just as Abraham believed God (had faith) and obeyed what God ask him to do, let us also believe God by faith and be obedient to what the Word would ask us to do, and this we want to do not to be saved but because we our saved. Oh Lord help us to be a servant for your name sake for this new year and always.

God's peace In Christ,
Ken Matson