

Good-bye 2014. . .

Let's Reach Forward!

Rev. Stephen Llewellyn

It's gone and a new year is upon us. What have we done? Can you record any significant achievement for the last year? Many of us have a very long list while some of us may look at the year with disgust, failing to consider that the challenges that we had during the year were just challenges to prepare us to reach our destiny.

Life is all about purpose and destiny. Not so much about us gaining the attention of others, but rather knowing the reason we exist and pursuing our destiny. Many of our young people fail to understand that they are very important in the conversation about purpose and destiny. They must develop an approach to life knowing that **God has designed** them for **success**, has a **purpose** for their existence, and has a **planned destiny** for them. It is very important that they know this at an early age so they can look at the future with hope.

God has a special plan for your life. He has redeemed you and has called you by name. He has given you **hope** for every unknown situation. His Word said, "I am the God that created you, I have redeemed you, I've called your name. You are mine. When things get over your head, I'll be there with you. When you are in rough waters, you will not go under. When you are between a rock and a hard place, it will not be a dead end, because **I am God**; I am **your personal God!** The Holy One of Israel, your Savior, and I **paid a great price for you.**"

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not evil to give you an expected end." We must understand that He is our God and we are very special to Him.

Flashy cars, fancy spinning hubcaps, wearing name-brand clothes and shoes, speaking as though you are a thug or flaunting as a football player will not give you the attention you crave. It is possible to have all this and the attitude that goes with it and no one cares but Jesus. He loves you. He cares about you. He **craves to be your friend**. He wants you to recognize Him as your friend. In fact, He did something very special for you; and if you fail to recognize Him now, you will sometime later.

"For God so loved us that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have an everlasting relationship with Him." John 3:16

"Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man: and being formed in fashioned as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:6-8

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised and we yet esteemed Him not. Surely He had borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:3-5

He did it all for us **especially for you**. He is presently **working within you** so that **you will desire** to do His will and good pleasure to the honor and glory of God the Father.

It is time you do something of significance, give Jesus Christ **top priority** in your life. Once you **place Him first** in your life, He will **give you the ability** to clean house so you can remove every trace of wickedness (depravity, malignity), deceit, insincerity (pretense, hypocrisy), grudges (envy, jealousy), slander, and evil speaking of every kind.

With Him and His kingdom as our top priority **we can go to Him** as living stones, being built into a spiritual house a Holy (totally dedicated and consecrated) priesthood, so **we can offer** up those **spiritual sacrifices** (the fruit of our lips giving praise) that are **holy, acceptable** and **pleasing to God** through Jesus Christ.

For the New Year, let us do something of significance that will help us find our true purpose and point us toward our destiny. Let us **make Jesus Christ Lord** of our life and **seek first the Kingdom of God**.