



Well, have you noticed another year has begun? This is often the time of year when people make noble gestures toward self-improvement in some aspect of their life.

And that is a good thing.

I want to bring a message to you today to help us to do that very thing; move toward self-improvement.

I want to give you 3 things to consider correcting in the new year.

We sang a song today called "10,000 Reasons."

Now,

10,000 of anything is a lot. So aren't you glad I'm not giving you 10,000 things to correct – only 3?

The first one is:

1 Correct your focus

Col 3:1-2 *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ,(and you have), keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

Something in the past mobilizes you in the present.

Past: "raised up with Christ"

Present: "seek things above"

"raised" verb in aorist tense (past action)

Passive voice -it happened "to" you

Ie.

God raised you up with Christ in the past when you accepted Him as your Savior.

"keep seeking" verb, present tense- continually

Active voice – you do it

Imperative mood – a command

Again;

Passive voice - it's done for you

Active voice - you do it

Ex.

Peel a grape for me - passive voice

I will peel my own grape -

active voice, imperative mood

Same thing in v.2

v.2 *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

Another command to carry out the action of focus.

Isn't that where we begin anything?

We begin on focusing on it.

When Adam saw Eve in Gen 2:23

God brought Eve to Adam and he was focused:

He said;

She shall be called Wo-man,

A pilot is focused.

A surgeon is focused.

A ship's captain must focus on where he is on the sea and at times make a course correction.

That's what this message is about.

Secondly:

2. Correct your habits

I Tim 4:7 *But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;*

Here,

We have two sources of input.

One from the world and the other from God.

In those days it concerned;

Either Jewish fables, the traditions of the elders; or those of the Gnostics, concerning God, angels, and the creation of the world; or those doctrines of demons, and which forbade

marriage, and commanded abstinence from meats before mentioned;

Today,

We have similar fables from the world:

- Evolution
- No life in the womb
- Gender engineering
- Gender transitioning
- No heaven or hell
- Sex is okay outside of marriage

have nothing to do with worldly fables

Rather;

discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

So,

Is what you habitually take into your soul giving you a worldly perspective or Godly perspective?

The word "worldly" actually means wickedness.

Wickedness is anything that leads one away from God.

As Lucifer did with one third of the angels.

Parents;

Please be so careful. The TV is programming your children against the values you are trying to instill in them.

We must all stand with the Word of God.

Develop a new habit of Godly exercise.

discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

"discipline" gumnazo – practice naked

Now;

There are some things that we do not take literally, like plucking out your eye, cutting off your hand or going to church naked.

This actually means to train yourself in Godliness without putting on the way of the world.

The ancient athletes actually did train naked for their competitions.

Also;

"Have nothing to do with fables" and "discipline" are also in the imperative mood – commands.

Like the captain of a ship;
He yells out "Hard right" "Hard left"
Why?
We are sailing into the rocks!
You don't question the captain, you obey.
As it should be with the Word of God.
So far;
Three course corrections of the new year:

1. Correct your focus
2. Correct your habits

Thirdly;

3. Correct your life responses

Our outward responses are due to our inward thinking.
This is why #2 is so important; *discipline yourself for Godliness*

Godliness on the inside results in Godliness on the outside.
So here we go!

Rom 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

"conformed" fashioned, pattern
"transformed" *metamophoo* – to change
Ex. The butterfly
Old life – he crawls around
New life – he soars

And what makes this possible?
v.1 *present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

Ie.
Be faithful to church.

Eat healthy once a week and junk for the other six days – see what happens

Go to church once or twice a month and get worldly input thirty hours a week and see what happens.

In the first case it's ill health, tiredness, disease.

In the second case it's:

- Depression
- Negativity
- Divorce
- Selfishness

And so on.

So here you have it for a new year.

We have 10,000 reasons to praise the Lord.

But let's work on just 3 things to improve our lives:

1. Correct your focus – seek God
2. Correct your habits – practice godly discipline
3. Correct your responses – renew your mind

And let's have a great start to a new year!