

2012 Resolution: Drive Carefully, Observe the Yield Signs

Text: Romans 6:13 (KJV)

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

This is a new year that God has granted us and I feel blessed, as I know you do as well, to still proclaim, without equivocation, that God is good. In the earlier days of my ministry an old intenerate Deacon would always say in his prayer, “God has been better to us than we have been to ourselves.” During this time of the year various mediums of communication are replete with New Year resolutions regarding how to improve ourselves. Typically, losing weight and getting in better physical condition probably rank highest in importance. This is followed by various priorities touching on goals we can set to enhance our vocations and emotionally recalibration ourselves. Our text this 1st month of the year touches on a passage whose primary verb is –“yield.” Although the Webster Dictionary defines this word as “surrendering something”, “giving the right of way to another”, “to lose precedence or leadership”, the Greek rendering is “to present.”, to present ourselves spiritually is the message here

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to prepare the way for his coming visit to Rome and his proposed mission to Spain, he begins by surveying the spiritual condition of all people, Jews and Gentiles. In the very first verse of this chapter, he poses a profound question that has relevance today almost over 2000 years later; “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? This is a question that gives cause for deep introspection.

I certainly agree that we all should exercise, give due diligence to maintaining healthy eating habits, and improving our physical conditioning, but I stress, as does the Apostle, that we think deeply about our spiritual condition.

With this in mind please complete the following Spiritual Report Card. Honestly assess where you are on a scale A thru F. After you complete this Report Card follow the Spiritual Yield Signs I have prepared for you so that your spiritual drive through this New Year will be successful and pleasing in God’s sight.

REPORT CARD

THE CHRISTIAN'S Annual Progress Report

NAME _____

DATE _____

Grading Code

- A - Excellent progress
- B - Above average
- C - Consistent or average
- D - Below average, needs improvement
- F - Failing to make progress, needs help

BIBLICAL STANDARD

GRADE

Refrains from quarreling about words	
Does best to present self to God as one approved	
Is not ashamed of workmanship	
Correctly handles the Word of Truth	
Avoids godless chatter	
Confesses the name of the Lord	
Turns away from wickedness	
Flees the evil desires of youth	
Pursues righteousness	
Pursues faith	
Pursues love	
Pursues peace	
Has a pure heart	
Has nothing to do with foolish and stupid arguments	
Does not quarrel	
Is kind to everyone	
Is able to teach	
Is not resentful	
Gently instructs	

COMMENTS:



”Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”--- Matthew 11:28-30



”I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable serve.”—Romans 12:1



”Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding; In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.”—Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)



”Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”—Matthew 7:12 (KJV)



”Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.....Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”----James 4:8-10 (KJV)



”Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”---2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

An excellent New Year’s Resolution would be to set a goal to read all 66 books of the bible by year end. You have the choice of either following the reading schedule in the weekly Bulletin, or by clicking on the Daily Bread icon, you will find on a reading schedule design to cover the entire bible in a year as well. Remember to drive safely throughout the rest of the year.

I close with these lyrics from an old familiar hymn, “Yield Not to Temptation” by H.R. Palmer:

Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin; Each victory will help you some other to win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue, Look ever to Jesus, He’ll carry you through.

AMEN!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Yours in Christ,

Dempsey Scott Harrison, Jr.