

# The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

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So, this new year be thinking about how we can best be **Following the King of Kings in 2018**.  
We will revisit this from time to time.

## A New Beginning In Christ

I know it's a mind game we play with ourselves, but isn't it nice to erase the slate and start over again with a fresh calendar full of unlimited potential for good? Sadly in the game of life there are no mulligans or do-overs. However, every 365 days we do get to begin again with a fresh start, a clean slate, and a new calendar unstained by mistakes or sins. All the things we intended to accomplish last year, but somehow were thwarted in doing, can be attacked with renewed zeal from a fresh perspective..

Perhaps God created the structure and limits of time, because in His infinite wisdom, He knew humanity would need new days, new weeks, and new years to inspire us to put the past behind us and to press on toward greater accomplishments. Maybe that's why the Bible puts such great emphasis on the new beginning each of us can enjoy in Jesus Christ when we obey Christ and embrace Christianity as our new blueprint for life.

"In Christ," we are "new creatures" (1 Cor.5:17). As the blood of Jesus washes our sins away, we are spiritually set free from the past, to become new people in Christ. Paul wrote of putting on the "new man" that is like God in righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24). Romans 6:4 states that we are raised from the watery grave of baptism to walk in "newness of life." Romans 7:6 says that under the "new covenant," we serve the Lord in "newness of spirit, not in the oldness of the letter." Many other passages touch upon the "new beginning" and the "new life," which describes the lifestyle of disciples who walk in the footsteps of Jesus (Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:15; I Cor. 5:7; Col. 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:21). The Old Testament even prophesied of a "new name" (Christian) to be worn by Christ's disciples (Isa. 62:2).

Yes, Christ offers all of us a clean slate, "a new beginning" in Him. However, along with that opportunity to start over again, comes some new responsibilities and new attitudes that must be assimilated into our lives. We have a new way to talk, dress, think, and act. We must daily struggle with giving up our old sinful ways, to live a new life in Christ. A fresh start means we must realize, like Paul, that we profit most from putting the past behind us and beginning again, as single-mindedly we press on toward the goal of thinking and acting as a reflection of our perfect example Jesus the Christ (Phil. 3:13-14).

## **A New Beginning In Christ**

As we strive to *Follow the King of Kings in 2018*, we would all do well to make a mental break with the past. I suggest we leave behind not only our fears, discouragements and failures, but even our successes, and accomplishments. In their stead think only of the great potential for good which lies before each of us. Each day in the Lord's kingdom, becomes a new day, full of potential for service to the Master, if we will simply seize every opportunity to do His will. Remember the old Latin motto from the Roman poet Horace: "Carpe diem," which means seize the day!

May God help us to truly be "new creatures in Christ", and to experience "a new beginning" in His work here at *Oak Grove* in the year 2018. By faithfully living the "new life" in Christ each day, we can expect someday soon to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10) and to inherit eternal life in heaven in the great by and by (2 Pet. 3:13).

**David A. McCain**