

HAPPY NEW YEAR INSTRUCTIONS

I Peter 3:8-12

Tonight we'll examine three of Peter's principles and apply them as guidelines for a happy and holy new year.

I. ACT RIGHT (8-9)

A. AMONG BELIEVERS (8)

1. Unity: Being harmonious
2. Sympathy: Being selfless
3. Family: Being brotherly
4. Compassion: Being kindhearted
5. Humility: Being courteous

B. TOWARD UNBELIEVERS (9)

1. Consider the forbidden words
 - No verbal abuse - I Thess. 5:15
2. Consider the contrasting words
 - Bless them > Say good things, seek their very best
3. Consider these knowing words
 - We are called to display such Christ-like conduct

II. PLAN RIGHT (10-11)

A. CONSIDER YOUR GOAL? (10a)

1. Decisions: Determine your destination and then you can get directions
2. Desires: Life and good days

B. FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES (10b-11)

- Citing Ps. 34:12-16

1. Be Disciplined:
 - a. In word (10b)
 - b. In actions (11a)
 - c. In passions (11b)
2. Be Different! Live above the norm
 - Are you willing to be abnormal?
3. Be Determined - Stop what has become customary

Over please >

III. **THINK RIGHT** (12)

- Good days are dependent upon God's responses!

A. GOD FAVORS THE RIGHTEOUS (12a)

1. He keeps an eye on them - See II Chron. 16:9a
2. He listens to their prayers - Note James 5:4

B. GOD OPPOSES THE UNRIGHTEOUS (12b)

1. He is against those who do evil - See Heb. 10:28-31
2. Literally: He is away from them > against or opposite them
- See I Sam. 28:5-6 and Ps. 66:18

CONCLUSION:

Your new year will be happy IF you will be holy.

Determine now to be set apart for God and His glory and then ...

1. Act right: Maintain a good attitude toward others
2. Plan right: Be disciplined and different
3. Think right: Know the rewards of righteousness