

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson (edits by Pastor)]

At the beginning of this new year, 2019, instead of resolutions, let's consider celebrations and the reasons for them.

Several nights ago millions of people tuned their outrageously expensive cable boxes to one of the channels broadcasting a surreal scene from Time Square in the middle of Manhattan. Those in possession of their faculties wondered why hundreds of thousands of people who have jobs, bills and families – in other words, allegedly “*normal*” lives – would stand, jump, dance and scream in the rain for 10-12 hours waiting for a mythical ball to drop signifying the start of another year. When the producers of this televised spectacle switched venues to New Orleans and Los Angeles, at least we could appreciate that those crowds had much more accommodating weather. But they all shared a single human attribute: *we love to celebrate*.

And we're not inclined to wait another 12 months to do so. We sprinkle our calendar with holidays that turn into celebrations. And we supplement those with personal celebrations, professional celebrations, family celebrations, community celebrations, and even block parties. It isn't about being rich or famous or North American. It's about being human. Something inside the human psyche loves to celebrate. Party. Sing. Dance. Laugh. Shout. Jump. Bounce. It's an energy that builds, a drive for self-expression, a validation of life itself, a desire to inform the universe of our presence. An explosion of joy in the face of a million questions.

Let's defy confusion. Let's have fun.

God agrees. He instructs Moses to program a festival into each month of the ancient Hebrew calendar. He prompts David – no stranger to trouble and tough times – to encourage us to shout and dance and sing. He gives St. John a peek into the heavenly dimension and John describes a celebration of epic proportions.

Our world contains so much hurt and heartache, so much conflict and outright evil, that it commands our attention. It clouds our worldview and saps our hope. No wonder we mark our calendars, and do crazy things like stand 12 hours in the rain to watch a ball drop. And if The Bible we referenced earlier is any indication, while we're celebrating a new year, God is celebrating new life.



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer in our homes

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid's Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services

SERMON NOTES

FAITH FOR THE SUPERNATURAL



Offering – There is an offering box as you enter the sanctuary on the right side just inside the door. Thank you for your giving faithfulness.

Sunday Evening Prayer – will take place in our homes during the winter. Let intercede for a real move of God.

Wednesday Bible Study – the Book of Romans and our children’s program. Come study God’s Word while your children enjoy learning together.

Promoting Our Church – please take a flyer on the table in the foyer and use it to promote our church. God bless our efforts!

Free For The Taking – in the basement next to the last room we have some items donated to the church. Please stop by and see what you might want and take it. We also have a crib, portable crib and stroller along with some other items for children in the foyer under the coat rack. If you can use any or know of someone who can, please take them.

TEXT: John 1:5-11; Zechariah 9:9; John 12: 1 (NKJV), 30, 34-36

1. **WHAT IS _____?** Ephesians 5:11

This darkness is a cloud of _____, a spiritual blindness, indecision, a gloom of spirit and mind – and it comes upon _____ . Isaiah 42:18-25

2. **HOW DO WE _____ INTO DARKNESS?**

A deep darkness comes upon those who _____ on their own supposed weaknesses and _____. Numbers 13:32-33; 14:11; Philippians 4:13

3. **HOW DOES GOD _____ TO UNBELIEF?**

God becomes outraged when His people don’t _____ in the light of His _____ promises. Hebrews 3:7-13, 17-19
Unbelief is the root _____ behind all _____ of heart.

4. **WHEN IS UNBELIEF MOST _____?**

Unbelief is most dangerous when it is _____. Deuteronomy 1:27-35

A full, complete _____ in God’s Word, and a total _____ on His faithfulness to that Word. Mark 6:50-52

_____ comes when we take the “_____” out of the supernatural.

5. **WHAT IS THE _____?**

The _____ that keeps us in Christ is supernatural. Mark 8:5-8, 17

It’s dangerous to _____ His miracles.

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