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ANOTHER YEAR HAS ARRIVED!

The year 2004 has just arrived with the opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Luke 9:23 we read these words from Jesus: **"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."** Each day of life we have the duty of following Christ. We should **"...search the scriptures daily..."**(Acts 17:11), we should pray each day (Matthew 6:11), we should **"...exhort one another daily..."**(Hebrews 3:13), and teach the gospel daily as we have the opportunity (Acts 5:42). We are as Paul says to **"...present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service."**(Romans 12:1) If you are a Christian who is presently out of duty with the Lord, then why not start out this year by being restored? (Galatians 6:1-2) If you are someone who has not yet **"obeyed the gospel"** (Romans 10:16/2nd Thessalonians 1:8), then don't you think it is time for you to do so? This could be the year that Christ returns or the last year of your life or mine. Let us all **"be faithful unto death"**(Revelations 2:10) so that we might all **"receive the crown of life."**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The contest between Elijah the prophet and the prophets of Baal took place on Mount Carmel. The God of Elijah accepted his sacrifice by sending fire to consume that offering. The prophets of Baal were then taken and executed. (1st Kings 18)

King Herod was eaten up by worms and died because he did not give God any glory but accepted all the glory for himself. (Acts 12:21-23)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What book of the Old Testament contains the prophecy of the betrayal price of Jesus that Judas received? What scripture shows the fulfillment of this prophecy in the New Testament?

HOW WE SHOULD PRAY!

We should begin our prayer by recognizing who we are praying to: **"Our Father who art in Heaven"** and praying with great reverence for Him: **"hallowed be thy name."** We should pray that God's will may be carried out: **"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."** We should pray for our daily needs to be met: **"Give us this day our daily bread"** and especially for our spiritual needs: **"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."** And we should always pray to give glory to God: **"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."** And following the example of Jesus close our prayer with the word **"Amen"** which means **"I agree or so be it."** (Matthew 6:9-13/1st Corinthians 14:16)

Let us learn from the example of Jesus so that we can offer up prayers that will be pleasing to God!

"...HE THAT WINNETH SOULS IS WISE."

In Proverbs 11:30 the following statement is made: **"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."** It is an interesting statement to say that there is wisdom in seeking to **"win souls."** There is wisdom in doing this because in so doing we are seeking to be like Jesus Himself. Jesus said in Luke 19:10 that **"...the son of man is come to seek to save that which is lost."** Consider also that it is a mark of wisdom to **"seek lost souls"** for in the process of doing this we are following the commandment of the Great Commission. Jesus said in Mark 16:15-16 that we are to **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned."** However in order to do this properly we must first know the gospel ourselves. This of course means that we must study the word of God. Paul said in 2nd Timothy 2:15 that we are to **"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."**

And an amazing and wonderful thing happens as we study the word of God; we grow stronger as Christians and ensure our own salvation. For example Paul said the following in 1st Timothy 4:16: **"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."**

There is no greater joy that you will ever experience in life than to see someone obey the gospel as a result of the teaching that you have given to him or her! After all you have helped them to be in position to live forever in Heaven after this world comes to an end. We therefore show great wisdom in seeking to save lost souls!