



Proverbs 35-6

As we begin the new year, this would be a good time to reaffirm a biblical tenet which will help us not only get through the new year, but also to conquer it. Proverbs 3:5-6 is a powerful concept:

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

"Lean on" is used here in the sense of relying upon or trusting someone or something for help or protection. The object of our secure trust is the Lord, of course—the most reliable object of confidence!

When we lean against a wall or on a cane, we trust it to support us. If it should fail to do its job, we will fall to the ground and perhaps be hurt.

In a purely figurative sense, in times

of distress we "lean on" members of our family or friends; we rely upon them for encouragement, support, help, or protection.

In this passage from Proverbs, "lean on" functions figuratively. Relying on our own understanding is compared to leaning on a cane that cannot bear our weight; it is unreliable for support. It is dangerous for a person to rely upon mere human wisdom or understanding because it is likely to fail him.

Acknowledging the Lord in all our ways means keeping Him in mind in every event of our lives. Godly living is not to be confined to Sunday, simply because God is involved in *every* moment of *every* day.

His involvement covers our lives from the time we wake up in the morning to the time we go to sleep at night. He wants us

to remember Him *all* the time, and to trust and obey *Him* to guide our conduct in everything we do.

That "He shall direct your paths" suggests that God will "smooth" or "make straight" the road of our lives. This is a promise that God will go before us and remove many of the obstacles from our path.

He wants us to be successful Christians, so if we trust Him and follow His instructions, He will lead us forward, helping us overcome the inevitable obstacle. What an encouragement!

If you are one of those folks who make new years resolutions, may I suggest one for your 2012 list? How about: This year I will lean more on the Lord, and less on everything else I normally run to for support. *Selah*

Begone 2011!

New Years. For some, it is a time for celebration and planning. For others it is a time of calm reflection—maybe even regret. Regret is a wonderful thing because it is the closest sibling to repentance.

New years is something that is observed throughout all the world. All civilizations everywhere stop and acknowledge the beginning of a new calendar year. It is a big deal to be sure.

Have you ever thought about why that is so? One reason is that, come January 1st, we have the potential of another 365 days with which to ply our trade, indulge our desires, live our lives—on and on I could go.

If you are one who makes resolutions at this time of year, good for you—at least as long as you can keep the resolution. I recently read the results of a large study (is there any other kind?) which revealed a not so startling statistic: a whopping 97% of ALL New Year resolutions last only a few weeks! Another 2.5% make it until Summer. Only .5% are still standing come next New Years Day.

Sad I suppose, but not surprising. Personally I stopped making resolutions decades ago because I knew that, for me anyway, they were a complete waste of time.

As Christians, New Years is an important milestone that should not be ig-

nored. It is a time to stop, take inventory of where you have been over the last 12 months, where you are at this moment, and, most important of all, where you intend to be this time next year.

How about a good "Christian" resolution? What might that look like? Consider Matthew 22:37-40: ³⁷Jesus replied: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

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Adopt an Attitude of Gratitude. Thanks.



nosed with cancer.

Jeff Whittington has undergone a third round of chemo-therapy and will need to endure a full seven rounds instead of the four that he had hoped.

Sister Bette is still having difficulties with her medications and needs prayer and encouragement.

Continue praying for our dear brother Jack as he continues his road to recovery. Be sure to let him know how much he is missed!

Keep it Clean

Let's do our part in keeping our building clean. Please keep your area clean, and pitch in when you see a need. We shouldn't put everything off on those who volunteer to clean the building.

Perpetual Prayer List

Please keep these people on your prayer list.

- Alex Chambers
- Jack Horrocks
- Max Horrocks
- Louise Johnson
- Bette Oney-Self
- Jeff Whittington
- Ashley Wood

Times are tough, and getting tougher. Let's all join together and make sure that our brethren's needs are being met.

Some might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They shouldn't have to ask- we should know what is going on in the lives of those we love the most.

We serve an awesome God, and He is so good to give us what we ask for so much of the time. Remember that we should praise Him whether he answers our prayers the way we would like or not.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Alexandria 7th

Cameron 21st

Abigail 16th

Arthur & Virginia 26th

Building Cleaning This Month:

?????????

Communion Prep For January:

???

WWW.
WSIDECOC
.ORG

Verse of the Month:

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

For Kids!

C R E A T I O N

T M K D M M J F N K
M J P R M Y Z E R R
F N P I C T V A L T
G L V B R E D A N S
S K O E S Y N Q N E
N T E W H D S G A R
P N A N E T U O M J
F K O R R R N O O V
S K Y O N A M D W K
F I S H M R E T A W

Created Just for the great kids at the Westside Church of Christ

Bird

Good

Rest

Sun

Dark

land

Seven

Tree

Fish

Man

Sky

Water

Flower

Moon

Star

Woman

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As you will recall, Jesus had been lured into a debate— a “trap” if you will— by the Sadducees, but he easily silenced them. But then, the Pharisees saw *their* chance, and one of their foremost “experts” on the law asked our savior, “...*which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*”

Jesus, in the passage we just read, in standing the Pharisees on their heads, expands the first commandment in what is called the “great commandment of the law.” Among all the things in our lives that we are to devote to God, this leaves very little out! It impacts every facet of our lives. What can we do that does not involve our very life, emotions, and intellect?

This commandment, therefore, involves the fear, service, obedience, and worship of the great God who is the Creator. The dictionary definition of *worship* says that it involves *intense* admiration, adoration, honor, and devotion to some one or some thing. From a practical standpoint, we might say that worship is our “response” to our God.

If we respect someone greatly, does not our respect cause us to behave differently because of him? If we know he will be in our area, do we not try to spend some time with him or at least see him? Maybe we plan to give him a gift. If we

know his habits, do we not try to emulate him, such as copying his manner of dress or his speech?

When we are in his company and he suggests we do something, are we not moved to comply?

In Western civilization, people and institutions reach heights of admiration that drive some to do all sorts of stupid things. Teens, mothers, and even grandmothers will swoon over a crooning singer. Fans will practically tear the clothing from a rock star. Boys and men idolize athletic heroes. At political conventions, grown adults will act like mindless fools on behalf of their candidate.

Oddly enough, it is just this principle that is involved in keeping the first commandment. The respect and response we give to men, things, or *ourselves* are the very things that should be given to God!

Do we devote as much time, concern, or effort in admiring God's great abilities as Creator as we do some human performer? After all, it was God who created those abilities and beauty we admire so much in humans. God's abilities are far greater!

So, this year, should you plan on making a resolution, why not start with “the greatest commandment”? I dare say that if we practice Matthew 22:37, our year will be pleasing to God.

For Our Guests: What to Expect During Today's Worship Service

Singing

We sing “a cappella” (without any instruments). This may be new to you, and if you are wondering why we do it this way, feel free to ask any of us. We encourage you to join in, even if you don't know the songs. But don't feel *obligated*; you are welcome to just sit and listen.

Lord's Supper

Communion is an important part of our worship *each and every week*. This is a celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In this simple memorial, we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins.

Offering

The work here at Westside is supported by the free will offerings of our members, as directed in scripture. You are not expected to make a donation, just pass the basket to the person sitting next to you.

Preaching

The sermon will be 40-50 minutes long, and will be grounded on scripture. Should you have any questions about what is taught here, please ask! We love to talk about our awesome God. After the sermon, an invitation will be given for those who desire to be Baptized. At this time, we will stand and sing a song. Please do not feel uncomfortable; you will not be singled out in any way.

Expected of you:

Nothing! We are honored that you chose to be with us today. Please take a minute after services to let us say hello to you!

Lest We Ever Forget

In the early morning hours of November 11th, 1918, representatives of the allied nations met in a railroad car near Compiegne, France, to sign an armistice ending what was being called “The Great War”. Meanwhile, somewhere in the trenches of France, the shelling and bombings were proceeding just as they had for all of the last 4 years. In fact, as 11 o'clock neared- the appointed time when fighting was to cease- the attacks actually intensified.

As one US soldier put it, “It was not a barrage, it was a deluge.” But then, suddenly, at the 11th hour, of that 11th day, of the 11th month, the battlefield went silent. At long last, all was quiet on the Western front. “The roar stopped as suddenly as a motorcar hitting a wall”, one soldier recalled.

The silence was described as “uncanny” as soldiers of both sides slowly began crawling out of their protective holes in the ground. Some cheered, some sang, while others just stood-

numbed by the peace which, just 24 hours ago, had seemed as remote as a trip to the moon. Germans threw down their weapons. One intrepid American infantryman raced out into no-mans land carrying the Stars and Stripes on a signal pole, and planted it in a shell hole while a lone bugler played the Star Spangled Banner on a captured German trumpet.

The armistice that we remember every November 11th ended WWI, but it did not end war. Nor did it end the need to defend the cause of freedom. Veterans day has therefore become a day to remember those who have fought in all wars. So today, with brave soldiers again engaged in conflict on foreign soil, may we remember the words of President Harry S Truman who said, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

Welcome to the
Westside Church of Christ!

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Neil Tremblett, Preacher

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Sunday Morning Bible Study — 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship — 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 P.M.

You are most welcome— please join us!