

**Sermon Quotes**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup> , 2006**  
**New Year's God's Mercies are New**

What the New Year's Ritual Tells Us

1. We know something is not right about our life in its present condition.
2. We still put hope in the idea that things might *somehow* improve.

“God's love is wonderful beyond comprehension. God could have quite justly abandoned us to our fate. He could have left us alone to reap the fruit of our wrongdoing and to perish in our sins. It is what we deserved. But He did not. Because He loved us, He came after us in Christ. He pursued us even to the desolate anguish of the cross, where He bore our sin, guilt, judgment, and death. It takes a hard and stony heart to remain unmoved by love like that.”

—John Stott

“His compassions are new every morning, because every morning I commit fresh sins. Strange creature that I am, I can scarcely open my eyes to the light ere my complex nature begins to display the darkness that still lingers within me. Miserable mass of humanity that I am by nature, I can hardly breathe without offending in the thoughts and imaginations of my heart; and even though I may watch my eyes, and guard my tongue, and keep the members of my body pure, yet still my heart goes wandering, and my tongue before long speaks idle words. Yet the mercy is that, with the new sin, there **always comes** the new pardon, for 'His compassions are new every morning'...We have been once washed in the precious blood of Jesus, and we are clean in the sight of God, but we need to be **daily cleansed** from our daily defilements, and every morning brings us this grace.”

—Charles Spurgeon

“Great is thy faithfulness, so great that there has never been an exception to it... Our God has had thousands of millions of people to deal with, throughout all ages, and yet there stands not beneath the covering of heaven, nor yet above the stars, nor in hell itself, a single soul who can say that God, in any transaction, has ever dealt with him otherwise than according to absolute faithfulness...But, further than that, no item in the whole roll of divine promises to us has been unfulfilled by God. God remembers every promise that he ever made, and he takes care to honor each of those promises in the experience of those who believe in him. They who trust in the Lord shall find him to be faithful, not only in great things, but also in little things. While he keeps the oath of his covenant fast forever, his faintest word shall abide firm and steadfast, and the least truth which he has ever declared shall never grow dim.”

—Charles Spurgeon

“In generations when almost everyone believed in the justice of God, people sometimes found it difficult to believe in the love of God. The preaching of the love of God came as wonderful good news. Nowadays if you tell people that God loves them, they are unlikely to be surprised. Of course God loves me; He's like that, isn't He? Besides why shouldn't He love me? I'm kind of cute, or at least as nice as the next person. I'm okay, you're okay, and God loves you and me.”

—D. A. Carson

**Heb 12:5-7** (ESV) “...My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. (6) For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” (7) It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”

**Heb 12:10-11** (ESV) “For they (earthly fathers) disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (11) For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

There is a **Big First Step** that Leads to the **Great Fresh Start**

First Step?

**Remember & Return**

“We lay it down, then, as a general principle, that if we would exercise our memories a little more, we might, in our very deepest and darkest distress, strike a match, which would instantaneously kindle the lamp of comfort. There is no need for God to create a new thing, in order to restore believers to joy; if they would prayerfully rake the ashes of the past, they would find light for the present; and if they would turn to the book of truth and the throne of grace, their candle would soon shine as it did before.”

—Charles Spurgeon

“Here we can feast the eyes of faith on the loveliness of Christ. The Father gave this glory to him: that with his blood he would write in large letters that **God is Love**. For our sake alone, under no compulsion than his affection for us, he took on our flesh. He gladly despised shame and humiliation that he didn't deserve. He bared his back for a whip, bowed his head for a miserable crown, and stretched out his hands to receive the nails. All this for us. All this in love...Any notion of God's love that we glean from nature or the works of providence is precious; still, we can't know from them that God is love. In declaring that God is love, **Christ is supreme**.”

—Kris Lundgaard