

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

What the new year brings to you will depend, in part, upon what you bring to the new year. —Vern McLellan

The year 2020 is now in our rearview mirror, and many Americans are not sad to see it go. It has been a long time since there's been so much stress in one 365-day calendar year. Not only did the Covid-19 virus disrupt everything, but it was also a presidential election year.

So now that we're in 2021, we are filled with hope. Out with the old; in with the new. This year, we hope and pray that a fail-proof remedy will emerge to combat this virus.

We've had to *defend* ourselves against the virus. We are asked to keep a space of 6 feet between ourselves and others. When in public, we need to wear a face covering. Churches were closed as were movie theaters and sports arenas. Oh, yes, 2020 was an unusual year! A year ago, we had no idea!

So we have been defending ourselves by staying home and alone as much as possible. But behind the scenes, scientists have been on the *offensive*, too, working feverishly to develop a vaccine of antidote to beat the virus.

We're ready for something new. We're tired of the old way of living.

Sounds familiar.

The apostle Paul speaks of the old and the new frequently. He notes that God is a God of new things. He also says that "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Here is encouraging news to remember for the year 2021: God is a God of new things. God will be with you, as God has in the past. Therefore, we do not fear.

May I suggest a Bible verse for you to remember for the year 2021? "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread ... because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Write this verse down, or underline it in your Bible. Memorize it if you can. It will be a big help to you in the coming year, 2021!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for preserving me throughout the past year! For the new year, I continue to trust in you. Amen.

*Happy New Years!
Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz
Steven, Sara, & Ethan*

Week of January 3, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** Genesis 1-5
Monday: Genesis 6-12
Tuesday: Genesis 13-18
Wednesday: Genesis 19-23
Thursday: Genesis 24-28
Friday: Genesis 29-32
Saturday: Genesis 33-36

READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE
IN ONE
YEAR!

Each week, *HomeTouch* will provide daily readings from the Bible that will take you through the Bible in one year. Sometimes, we will suggest a **Verse to Remember**. Many *HomeTouch* readers try to memorize these verses; memorization stimulates both the mind and the heart!

LEFT OUT

Directions: Insert one letter set from column A in the space provided in column B to form a six-, seven- or eight-letter word. Each set in column A can be used only once.

COLUMN A

- ARB
- AVO
- ELL
- ETH
- GIB
- HIN
- ILL
- KEA
- MAC
- MOG
- NOO
- TUI
- XIS

COLUMN B

1. FORE _____ N
2. SP _____ XES
3. HO _____ ENY
4. GRI _____ ED
5. LI _____ BLE
6. TAN _____ LE
7. GRA _____ TY
8. FL _____ R
9. UR _____ RA
10. GE _____ OX
11. DW _____ ER
12. SE _____ MS
13. SP _____ WAY

ANSWERS:

1. forenoon
2. sphinxes
3. homogeny
4. grimaced
5. likeable
6. tangible
7. gratuity
8. flavor
9. urethra
10. gearbox
11. dweller
12. sexismis
13. spillway

Genesis Pairs:

- Adam/Eve
- Cain/Abel
- Noah/Ark
- Abraham/Sarah
- Isaac/Rebekah
- Jacob/Esau
- Rachel/Leah
- Ishmael/Hagar

GENESIS PAIRS

Directions: The Bible readings this week are from Genesis 1-36. Sort the names listed here into pairs. Each name can be used only once. (Use the white space to do your work.)

- Rebekah
- Ark
- Cain
- Abraham
- Adam
- Noah
- Abel
- Ishmael
- Sarah
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Eve
- Rachel
- Leah
- Hagar
- Esau

January 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						