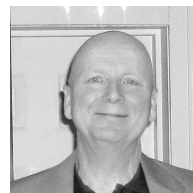


Lo The d Ou Righteousness

Inventory Time

Elder Charles Moore



However, don't look too long. If we do, we may fall prey to a gloomy disposition which

Satan may use to defeat us.

Let's take a look at the present. A true spiritual inventory not only includes a look backward, but also involves a careful examination of our present lives. In order to do this, two things must be scrutinized: our attitudes and our actions. Inner attitudes always determine outward performance.

One of the defining characteristics of a Christian is to share in the concerns of Jesus, so we ought to know what His concerns are. I would suggest that you read through at least one of the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke or John -- take your pick and see what Jesus did and what He cared about. Then resolve in your heart to take one more step in being transformed into His image.

Let's take a look at the future. I believe we should look to the future with optimism and excitement. Why? Because it is an

It is inventory time, when merchants examine their stores to see what sold and what they still have left. In one sense, that's what our text is all about: *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"* (2 Corinthians 13: 5) The main purpose of an inventory is to determine whether a loss or gain has been realized. We can learn from a look at our past, our present and even our plans for the future -- and what better time than at the beginning of a New Year? So, with that in mind, let's take a look at ourselves.

Let's take a look at the past. Charles Swindoll suggests that this exercise is like "standing in front of the full-length mirror of memory." There are two ways to look at the past and both of them have great value. Count our blessings
 Health Safety

Friends Family
Material needs
Answered prayer
Spiritual progress. Since inventory involves counting, this is very appropriate. The value of counting these blessings is obvious. It makes us appreciate how well we are, it makes us more generous and it helps us to sympathize with those in need. We can use these memories when times become difficult for us and help us to turn our thoughts toward God

Let's examine the negative aspects of life: its trials and failures
 Trials—they teach us patience and compassion.
 Failures—they teach us the value of confession. Another benefit of looking at our negative past is so that we will not make the same mistakes again. As the saying goes, "Those who ignore the past are doomed to repeat it."

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unspoiled page in our book of time. It is our opportunity to practice what we've learned the past 12 months and to renew our allegiance to Christ. Change, improvement, and progress is the whole purpose of self-evaluation. It's a good thing to say, "I resolve in my heart." It's better to make resolutions and keep them for a while than never to have made them at all! The New Year also affords us an opportunity to grow in our faith and be more consistent in living it out. This kind of attitude is also expressed in a poem by Avis Christiansen, called, "Another Year."

Another year is dawning—a path
unknown, untried.

'Twould fill me with foreboding, had I no
hand to guide;

But He who walked beside me, all through
the yesteryear,

Whatever may betide me, has promised to
be near.

Another year with Jesus! Ah, then, no
dread I know;

His love is ever precious, how 'er the winds
may blow.

E'en when the storm is fiercest, in Him my
soul may rest,

And find sweet peace and comfort upon
His lovely breast.

Another year to trust Him—yes I can
trust Him still,

Who has never yet failed me—as I have
sought His will.

His rod and staff He giveth, to be my
strength and stay,

And tenderly He leadeth along the
homeward way.

As we inventory our lives, what plans do we have for the New Year? What changes? What goals? What resolutions are we going to make and keep with God's help? May God grant us to so live in this world that our neighbors, and our friends marvel and glorify God

Cyberspace News



Berty Lane called early in the month and we were able to bring each other up to date on news. Jon was in Germany, I believe, but flying on to Switzerland for another week away. They were looking forward to his being home on the 15th for a good family Christmas! Berty is carrying on the tradition Jean and I started of making sweet rolls for Christmas breakfast. All was going well with Shealyn and Scott. They are able to spend Christmas Day with Kane, Jennie and Ainsley Bege-man each year and we are all glad they have a family gathering.

Rip Ripley was a very welcomed caller a couple of days later. They are doing okay. Norma still resents his not taking her when he leaves the nursing home. He said she gets along well with her caretakers as she hands out compliments galore and blows kisses at them. It was so good to hear from him! I just now received an update in a letter from Rip, he and Norma were both hit with a virus in the middle of December. It was not a great Christmas present. Both were very weak. Rip says they are finally on the mend. Please pray for them and send a card.

The Laytons had a gathering at Karen and Mark Dorsey's for Christmas. They got to enjoy lots of little ones having fun. On Christmas Day Dorothy spent the day with her son Walter and his family.

Our Christmas Eve service outlying visitors were most welcome this year. Kay, Jim, KT and Josh Nevil drove from the other side of the state to be with us. They joined Kathy Smeltzer, Sally and Lloyd Smith to sing a beautiful Christmas song. Lloyd and Sally had made a flying trip to Tennessee to visit with their son Kenny, wife Jenny and two sweet grandchildren. Early Christmas morning they left for California to visit daughter Emily and family.

Kathleen Johnson writes: I wanted to let the newsletter readers know I had knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus. I have been off work since the end of November. I will start physical therapy next week. I would appreciate prayer for recovery. Therapists don't make the best patients (she is an occupational therapist).

This month on our picture page I am including some family pictures I took Christmas Eve and then some others. It is fun to see how the kids grow up so fast through the years.

I want to send a personal Christmas and New Year's greeting to each of you. I was simply unable to get my cards out this year but I thank you for the beautiful pictures, letters and cards. It is a wonderful way to keep in touch. God bless you and yours.



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

As the year draws to a close it's a good time to reflect on the past 12 months done in sound bites such as: "the 47 percent", the Ryan pick, Corporations are people and money is free speech, Eastwood and the empty chair, Lance Armstrong, Hurricane Sandy, Gangnam Style, 2012 Olympics, "Hunger Games," Here comes Honey Boo Boo" and "Fiscal Cliff". Just to name a few. Also, unfortunately, in spite of all our hopes and dreams "American Idol", "The Voice" and "Dancing with the Stars" will continue to air.

The weather here in Michigan is finally looking more like the winter wonderland it used to be known as. We have been blessed with a thin blanket of pristine snow to hide the muddy ruts in the road, the dormant brown grass, and the dead rotting leaves. We can now start a roaring blaze in the fireplace without sweat soaking thru our hoodies.

This month David Charles scheduled a routine outpatient surgery to repair a tear on his abdomen. After the surgery David had gone through a perfect storm of what could go wrong after a surgery. He had a reaction to the anesthesia and got very weak and was hospitalized for a week. After coming home he developed an acute infection and re-entered the hospital. He is now undergoing a battery of antibiotics. With prayers for his complete recovery he should regain his strength slowly but surely.

The same day David had his surgery Elder Moore scheduled a shoulder surgery. From the many years of preaching with dramatic gesticulations his shoulder paid the price with over use. His surgery was a success and he has to preach with one arm tied down, so he has to keep his preaching ambulation and articulation to a minimum. Slowly Elder Moore is getting all of his extremity joints reworked, so by the time he turns 70 years of age he will be a new man.

My mother, Geneva Begeman came down with a mysterious illness which made her very weak and achy. She was so weak she had to miss a few of her and Dad's weekly doctor appointments. She is slowly regaining her strength and they will be spending many hours in the optometrist's waiting room before you know it.

On the evening of the 13th we scheduled a time for all of us to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. It's fun to watch the people go by trying not to make eye contact so the guilt they feel going by without contributing is held to a minimum. Many people however, cheerfully made their way to the big red pot to deposit a generous donation.

We had the Begeman Christmas Celebration on the 16th with breakfast hosted by mom and dinner hosted by my wife Diane. Unfortunately, there was an enduring discontinuation between feedings and if it's one thing about a Begeman get together there has to be a seamless perpetual availability of sustenance. Diane provided custom made to order homemade pizzas and before it was time for the pizza assembly line to start an irascible unanimous remonstrative chant started demanding nourishment. Fortuitously, we all survived the consuming chasm when the piping hot pizzas were sliced and ready for distribution.

We had our usual Christmas Eve service this year with a luminous success. We had a full church which makes us all very grateful and thankful. Our hope and prayer is to make the best of any opportunity we are given. We started out our service with a guest singing group, The Echoes of Happiness. We followed them with a vignette depicting the scriptural story of Jesus' birth done using shadows thru an opaque screen. We had a first time debut on stage, actor named David Moore. He played several parts culminating as one of the shepherds that visited the baby Jesus. We all hope to see many more big performances from him in the future. Next, Elder Moore gave a short talk about how the story surrounding the circumstances of Jesus birth parallels current acts of violence against children. King Herod felt threatened by a newly born king and had innocent children killed. God protected Jesus until it was the right time for him to make the ultimate vicarious, substitutionary atonement. Aurine put the final touch on Elder Moore's talk with a beautiful solo entitled "All is Well". We ended the service with a humorous video skit depicting the inn keeper at Bethlehem. And as always there was a plethora of goodies partaken of afterwards.

A true friend is one who overlooks your failures and tolerates your successes.

CHURCH OF THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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12 Types of People on Facebook

All of us on Facebook have at least one of each of these types of friends on our list:

- 1) The "Rooster" -- Always tells Facebook "Good Morning" every day.
- 2) The "Lurker" -- Never posts or comments on your post, but reads everything, and might make reference to your status when seeing you in public.
- 3) The "Hyena" -- Doesn't ever really say anything, just LOLs and LMAOs at everything.
- 4) "Mr/Ms Popular" -- Has 4,367 friends for NO reason.
- 5) The "Gamer" -- Plays Words With Friends, Mafia Wars, Farmville, and Bejeweled Blitz, and bakes virtual cakes and stuff, etc. (ALL DAY).
- 6) The "Cynic" -- Hates his life, and everything in it, as evidenced by the somber tone in ALL of his status updates.
- 7) The "Collector" -- Never posts anything either, but joins every group and becomes fans of the most random stuff.
- 8) The "Promoter" -- Always sends event invitations to things that you ultimately delete or ignore.
- 9) The "Liker" -- Never actually says anything, but always clicks the "like" button.
- 10) "Drama Queen/King" -- This person always posts stuff like "I can't believe this!" or "They gonna make me snap today!" in the hopes that you will ask what happened, or what's wrong ... but then never finishes telling the story.
- 11) The "News" -- Always updates you on what they are doing and who they are doing it with, no matter how arbitrary, and lastly...
- 12) The "Thief" -- Steals status updates ... and will probably steal this one ...

FAMOUS FACES OF COLOR



Josh, Kay & KT Nevil



Carrie & Caleb DeHaan



Jon, Max & Leanne Johnson Huang



Most of the Begeman clan Thanksgiving



Kathy & Ben Smeltzer



Klohie, Riley, Jamie, Zohlie, Gabe



Casey Johnson



Erin Pat, Raegan & Ryann Gill



Jeff, Tim Begeman, David Moore, Sydney Begeman, Dave Fedor



Sydney & Tim Begeman