

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

NEW BEGINNINGS

By Jeff Sweeten

It is a fact that so many others have said so many things so much better than I ever could. Therefore, as this New Year has begun, let me encourage you with a poem from Kathleen Wheeler called "A New Leaf" and a scripture from the Apostle Paul.

He came to my desk with a quivering lip, the lesson was done.

"Have you a new sheet for me, dear teacher? I've spoiled this one."

I took his sheet, all soiled and blotted, And gave him a new one all unspotted.

And into his tired heart I cried, "Do better now, my child."

I went to the throne with a trembling heart, the day was done.

"Have you a new day for me, dear Master? I've spoiled this one."

He took my day, all soiled and blotted, and gave me a new one all unspotted.

And into my tired heart he cried, "Do better now, my child."

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

I cannot imagine anyone claiming perfection with any serious conviction. However, judging from all the excuses and rationalizations we too often bring to bear upon whatever latest failure has found itself under scrutiny, it seems we speak tomes to the contrary. We are ever ready to act like our sheet is unspoiled, unmarred and untainted, when even at a fleeting glance, the ugliness of sin scars our visage; to pretend otherwise is an insult to the intelligence. No, there is only one fix for the inherent flaws in our poor choices: Jesus.

It would seem that God has graced us with another year, or at least, another today (James 4:14- 15). So, "while it is called today" (Hebrews 3:13), "today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15). "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22). "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130