

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
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I'm sure you've heard the phrase, "Happy New Year" a lot the past few days. We've said it and others have said it to us. But what does a Happy New Year really look like?

A good job? Health for your family? Money in the bank? Clothes in your closet?

Can we wish Happy New Year to someone with cancer? Is it appropriate to wish a Happy New Year to someone going through a divorce? How hollow does "Happy New Year" sound to someone who is unemployed? Is wishing someone a Happy New Year only for those who are "blessed?"

Matt 6:31-33 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Jesus told us not to worry about food, drink, clothes, etc. He said that's what the "sinners" do. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Most people tend to seek second things first. A good job is important, but not most important. Health is important, but not most important. A good family is important, but not most important. What is most important is God, His kingdom and His righteousness.

As we enter into 2017, the most important thing in all of our lives should be Him! Not His blessings. Not a better job. Not better health. Not a closer relationship with our family. A closer relationship with Him and His will be doing in our lives.

Whether you're in a hospital bed or holding grandkids in your lap, whether you're dealing with major family issues or madly in love with your spouse, whether you find yourself all alone or surrounded by people who care about you, we must not allow second things to become first things.

Those things are good, but not best. The best thing that could happen to us in 2017 is for us to become more like Him. For us to get to know God better and to make Him known.

Life is not supposed to be all about us; it's supposed to be all about Him. This year enter the war against self-obsession. Make your focus Him instead of the things that so easily get us distracted.