

## Want to Know More?

Are you interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website for the following resources

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles

[www.jonesroadchurch.org](http://www.jonesroadchurch.org)

## Please Join us for Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

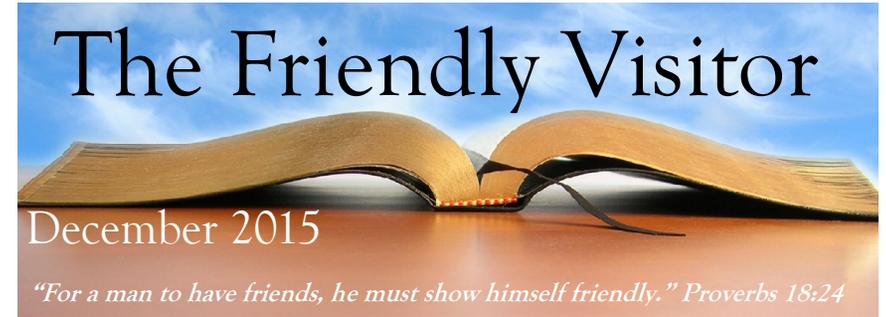
10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

## Jones Road Church of Christ

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## A New Year's Resolution

*John R. Gibson*

The end of one year and beginning of another is often used as a time to reflect on one's life and what changes might need to be made in it. Though New Year's resolutions are often dismissed as only made to be broken, there are many who do use this time of year to make some type of successful new beginning. Whether it's becoming more physically fit, more financially sound, or perhaps better organized, many will make significant, lasting changes this year. If you are trying to make such changes we certainly wish you the best in your endeavors, but more importantly we want you to consider making and carrying through on a resolution which will change your life forever. We want you to make 2016 a year of growth in the knowledge of God's word.



While increasing snugness in our clothes and ever-mounting debt may make the need for change obvious, the need for increased knowledge of the Bible doesn't manifest itself in such concrete ways, but we hope you will take a few minutes to consider some reasons 2016 needs to be the year you dedicate yourself to a deeper, life-changing knowledge of the holy Scriptures.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" Matthew 7:21). Jesus says we cannot please God without doing His will, but how can we do His will if we don't know that will? While knowing what God wants will not of itself be enough, we can't begin the neces-

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"How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
Through Your precepts I get understand-  
ing;  
Therefore I hate every false way.  
Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path."

Psalm 119:10-3-105



sary doing until we have committed ourselves to learning His will.

A similar point is made in James 1:21-22. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” Though we must not stop with being “hearers only,” it should be obvious we can’t be doers until we hear and receive the word which is able to save our souls.

In Hebrews 5:9 Jesus is called “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,” but again, how can we obey if we don’t know what He expects of us and how can we know what He expects of us without study?

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:6). Do we know the story of Jesus well enough to walk as He walked? In this coming year why not get to know Jesus better as He is revealed in Old Testament prophecies? Spend time with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as they tell the story of His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Allow the life of Jesus to be explained and interpreted by the New Testament apostles and prophets in Acts through Revelation. Do you want to walk as He walked? If so, you must be willing to dedicate yourself to learning how He walked.

While we could list many more reasons Bible study should be a key component of your life, not only this new year, but as long as you live, we will conclude with just a few more brief notes on the subject.

The word of God is vital to faith. “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

The Scriptures provide a complete guide—something no other book or source can do. “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

On at least five different occasions Jesus asked, “Have you not/never read...?” (See Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31.) Can you imagine how awful it would be to stand before Him in judgment and have Jesus ask, “Why didn’t you read?”

Because of these things, all need to heed the inspired instructions to be “as newborn babes, [and] desire the pure milk of the word, that all may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2).

If you understand the importance of making 2016 a year of growth in the word and are ready for a change, we want to help. Please don’t be em-

barrassed if you find yourself like the man in Acts 8 who was reading on his own, but when asked if he understood what he was reading responded, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” (See Acts 8:27-31.) We want to help you find that needed guidance and hope you will take advantage of these available options.

We maintain a website, [www.jonesroadchurch.org](http://www.jonesroadchurch.org), with a number of audio recordings of sermons, a study of the Sermon on the Mount, Bible study materials, and articles covering various Bible topics. Spend some time on this site and we believe you will find it helpful in your desire to learn more about God’s word. And please come back often, for this site is updated with new material on a regular basis.

In addition to the website mentioned above, you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jonesroadchurch/>, where we often post brief thoughts from Scripture, along with occasional links to sermons and articles. If you are on Facebook and haven’t already done so, please “like” our page.

Then there are our public Bible studies and worship assemblies where we open the book and seek to grow in our knowledge of Him and His will for us. Though imperfect, we strive to be welcoming to all visitors and believe those seeking to learn more will find these gathering beneficial.



We also offer the option of a personal Bible study in your home or some other convenient location. If you choose this option someone will sit down with you, open the Bible, and help you better understand God’s message. You will not be pressured into doing anything and you will be allowed to ask questions or even challenge what is being said. We realize most people are hesitant to study with someone they don’t know, but we believe that if you give us a chance you will find a home Bible study to be a very positive experience. (If uncomfortable having us in your home, we can meet in a public place, at the church’s meetinghouse, or any other place you are comfortable with.)

Options abound and we sincerely hope you will take advantage of these that you might be able to both know and do the will of God.

*All quotations from the New King James Version, copyright 1994 by Thomas Nelson Publishers*