

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Happy New Year!

“What’s new & exciting?”

- My friend always said that. It was his greeting
- I believe it was his outlook, what he was looking for in life

How about you & me?

- Have you wished anyone “Happy New Year” lately?
- Did you mean it... for yourself or them?
- If so, why? What do you expect to be happy about in 2023?

Philippians 3:12-15, “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. **All of us**, then, who are mature **should take such a view of things**. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.”

Song of Solomon, “Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, Clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners?”

- Who **looks forth as the morning** (Attitude & Outlook)
- **Fair** (Beautiful), **Clear** (Pure), **Awesome** (Powerful)

Who is she? The Bride of Christ, His Church, Us!

So, **are we...** Looking **forward**, backward or not at all?

(Person on cell phone tripping into water feature at the mall)

Is our life defined by **who God IS?**

- **Eternal** – past, present & future
- Or **the world** – temporary, fading & hopeless
- By **what God has said**
- Or those who don’t know Him

Psalm 1:1-2,

“How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path of sinners or join a group of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the LORD’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.”

Happy New Year, indeed!

Does **God define our circumstances?**

- Or do circumstances define our life?

Which occupies most of our thoughts?

- **God & what He says?**
- Or the earthly circumstances that surround us?
- **Our safe eternal relationship with God in Christ?**
- Or the risks & hazards of our godless world?
- **The certainty of God’s promises of life with Him & each other?**

- Or the hopelessness of the world racing in the wrong direction?

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"Who is she who looks forth as the morning?"

- Attitude & Outlook

Like an airplane pilot, we must choose **our "attitude"**

- **Above the horizon it flies**
 - **Below the horizon it crashes**
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For **2023** will we choose **hopeful** because of **who God is?**

Philippians 1:6 & 2:23, "I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

"For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose."

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What **good things** do you look forward to **in 2023?**

- Because of **who God is** in your life