

Food for Thought

For the week of December 28, 2014

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. The beginning of the New Year is always a great time to reflect on what has gone on in your life over the previous year. As you look back on 2014, what would you put on your top 10 list of lessons, blessings, mistakes, etc. that you need to remember in 2015?

2. This week we heard how Daniel had the authority and power to gain access to almost anything he wanted. Yet, he resolved to keep his focus not on his gain, but rather on what would please God and have eternal significance no matter what the cost. As you begin to think about the impact you will have in 2015, read Romans 12:10-20 and use it as your guide of how you could have an eternal impact in the next year.

Romans 12:10-20

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." [NIV]

Read the passage and write down the actions and/or attitudes it speaks of that can make a subtle, yet significant impact.

Go back to your list and circle 2 to 4 items you would like to make it a priority to put into action in 2015. Then think through a way you can be reminded of what you wrote down at the 3, 6, 9 & 12-month mark.

3. PRAISE AND PRAYER FOR 2015: Looking back again at 2014, what would you like to thank God for as you move toward 2015? Take some time to pray for what you want your priorities to be in 2015.