



January 2014

From the Pastor



## *What Does the New Year Hold?*

As the New Year begins you may wonder what is going to happen this year.

Am I going to have a baby?

Will we have the money for college?

Should I ask her to marry me?

What will happen when I retire?

There are all sorts of questions we face when we try to look into the future. When I think of the future, I think of a couple of passages in the Bible that tell me how to treat my attempt to control the future.

One is in the book of James; it is pretty direct in telling me how to plan.

**James 4:13-15** <sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (ESV)

It says that I am not in charge. I can plan for the future, but I must be in line with God's will. I need to be willing to have God change my plans if they don't fit with His plans for me.

Another passage is a command from Jesus who tells me not to worry about the future. It's found in the book of Matthew.

**Matthew 6:34** Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

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Barbara C. Ryberg, *Step By Step*, Dr. Paul Lee Tan, *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF 15,000 ILLUSTRATIONS: SIGNS OF THE TIMES*, Copyright © 1998 Paul Lee Tan. All rights reserved. Database © 2004 WORDsearch

# Happy New Year 2014!

Consequently, we need to put 2014 in God's hands. I found this poem by Barbara C. Ryberg that I think puts these thoughts together quite well.

### **Step By Step**

He does not lead me year by year  
Nor even day by day,  
But step by step my path unfolds;  
My Lord directs my way.  
Tomorrow's plans I do not know,  
I only know this minute;  
But He will say, "This is the way,  
By faith now walk in it."  
And I am glad that it is so,  
Today's enough to bear;  
And when tomorrow comes, His grace  
Shall far exceed its care.  
What need to worry then, or fret?  
The God who gave His Son  
Holds all my moments in His hand  
And gives them, one by one.

—Barbara C. Ryberg

Happy New Year!

In Him and for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.