

New Year Resolutions

Support the Testimony of My Church

1st Peter 3:13-16

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Introduction:

Week One

- Greek ... **Diatheke** ... (Dee-Atha-Kay) ... English – **Covenant** ... “A solemn agreement between God and man ... where the stronger sets the standards.”
- Greek - **Krino** ... English – **Resolved** ... “To judge or decide between good and evil ... and choose the action of doing good.”
- Greek - **Diakonia** ... English – **Mission** ... “Active service, done with a willing attitude ... empowered and guided by faith.”
- **John 14:15**
- How do we protect the unity here at South Fork?
 - We love one another Biblically
 - We do not gossip or take part in gossiping or divisiveness.
 - We study and examine our life according to the Word of God.
 - We follow the leaders that God has put in our life.
- The second thing we can do is – Share the responsibility of the church.
- **Genesis 2:27**
- **Matthew 18:19-20**

Week Two

- How do we share the responsibilities of the Church?
 - Pray for growth and impact.
 - Help South Fork accomplish her mission.
 - Welcome each other and our visitors warmly.

Week Three

- Serve the ministry of our church.
 - You can be a “Difference Maker.”
- How do we serve together?
 - By sharing our talents.
 - By being equipped to serve with staff and leaders.
 - By developing a servant’s heart.

This Week

- Support the testimony of our church ... but what do I mean by testimony?
- Dictionary.com ... **TESTIMONY** ... “Evidence in support of a fact or a statement ... proof.”

- Greek ... **Martyria** ... (*Mart-A-Ria*) ... “A certification or a testimony about a person or a thing.”
 - One other word we get from the Greek word Martyria ... The word **Martyr**.
 - Three areas to consider today.
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1. **By Attending Church Faithfully:**

- a. We have been indoctrinated by many sources to believe that church attendance is not that important.
- b. The shift from Biblical Truth began in our country in the late 1940's – early 1950's.
- c. This led to a moral rebellion in the 1960's.
- d. Redefining World Views come from – Movies, articles, books, educators, music, psychologists, counselors, etc.
- e. **Hebrews 10:22-25**
- f. **Romans 12:1-2**

2. **By Living a Godly Life:**

- a. We are dual natured, meaning body and soul.
- b. Greek - **Hypokrites** ... (*HIPO-CREE-TESS*) ... “To pretend ... One who pretends to be other than he is.”
- c. **1st Peter 3:13-16**
- d. A real godly life is a life that is so different from the world.
 - i. It is not that we will not make mistakes – We will!
 - ii. It is not that we do not fall down sometimes – We all do!
 - iii. When we do, we handle it in a way that still brings honor and glory to God.
- e. Are you trying to change your thinking?
- f. Do you realize how many different people are watching you?
- g. Are you able to answer where your hope lies?
- h. **2nd Peter 3:9-13**
- i. **2nd Peter 3:11**

3. **By Giving Regularly:**

- a. Malachi 3:6-12
- b. The Malachi passage is the only place that God says, “Test Me.”
- c. Is Jesus your number one priority, if not, then what is?
- d. Matthew 6:24
- e. Romans 12:1-2
- f. Our love for Jesus must be greater than our love for money.
- g. 1st Timothy 6:6-10