

To. Noel - Dec. 30 - 1973 A.M.  
76  
50  
Great Bridge Dec 29, 85 vv  
Salmon Jan 5, 86 vv  
Great Loy Jan 4, 1987 vv  
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UNHAPPY NEW YEAR

Psa. 17:15

INTRODUCTION:

Psa 17 ->

My New Year's Greeting to you today is "Unhappy New Year".

know - Wife said this ~~time~~ lets give some sensible gifts like a tie, or fur coat.

I confess, I borrowed this greeting -- (it was sent out by an executive of an insurance company) And it has a rather stunning influence because of its directness and this dynamic forceful positive sales pitch - sent out by this executive to all his salesmen and his friends. It read like this:

"I wish for you an unhappy New Year. That you will face this new year unhappy; With what you have been, and what you have done, this past year. Discontented with the achievements of yesterday, and not satisfied - and I wish for you 365 days of doing better in every way in 1970." You note this was sent out about 22 years ago by this executive. But I think that it is a good New Year's wish for us in 92. Wishing that we would be dissatisfied with what we are, what we have been, and what we have done during the past year. Unhappy with ourselves and resolving and thinking and hoping to be better in every way.

Now this is the secret key of all progress. Only because men are unhappy and dissatisfied with the situation they are in, is progress really made.

In 1967, 50 year (conference) of the American Institute of Planners was held in Washington. It was attended by 3000 of the nations leading men in the field of urban planners. There were 31 speeches by famous world figures. These were made by scientists, artists, physicians, business men, psychologists. They were looking at the man of 2017. Each trying to shape him by his own ideals.

Public Service: "Don't be a litterbird. Join Ladybug Johnson and help clean up America."

"At Sixty-Second Laundry, we don't tear your clothes by hand -- we do it carefully with a machine."

These are amusing blunders. However, Chesapeake politicians and citizens sometimes make serious blunders. A blooper carried over the airways -- never can be recalled. We cannot persuade time to run backward, neither can we stop it. It runs faithfully on, carrying all of us with it into eternity.

It will take more than Form 1040 to get us on the right road. Think of the unfinished tasks in our city -- roads, streets, highways, growth, etc. As we cross a magic dividing line between the old year and the new why not engage in the timeless wonder of some New Year's Resolutions.

Clip some of these "coupons" for redemption:

First, we need to rethink many of our pet slogans. Too often we have been satisfied with clever slogans or stock phrases. They may become veneer to cover ignorance and substitutes for action.

Second, we must rethink the attitude that says a man must be like us to be right. Just because a person was not reared in our part of the country or educated in our own school is not a sure fact that he is inferior.

Third, we need to rethink the belief that "Bigness is Best". A city is not better because it is bigger. Quantity is not better than quality. A mob is never clear in its thinking. The hope of Chesapeake depends upon quality.

## UNHAPPY NEW YEAR

In 1986 a new calendar will open with 365 clean white pages. Each one is an invitation to a fresh start and a promise of an untouched opportunity. Each suggests an exciting adventure in living. Each day is a single day and the pages are to be used one at a time. We stand on the brink of a New Year.

I wish for you an Unhappy New Year! That you will face this New Year unhappy; with what you have been and what you have done this past year. Not satisfied with the achievements of last year and I wish 365 days of doing better in every way in 1986.

Former President Harry S. Truman expressed on his seventy-sixth Birthday, "I wish I could persuade the clock to run backward and take off some of the years that have accumulated." Many of us would like to reverse some of the days in 1985. Recently I read an article about television and radio bloopers. Here are some of them:

Announcer: "Marshall Dillion preserves law and ~~order~~ tonight on Gunsmoke."

Commercial: "So try this remarkably effective cough syrup -- and we'll guarantee you'll never get any better."

In 1929 veteran radio announcer Harry Von Zell, while reporting the inauguration of President Herbert Hoover for a radio network, intoned: "ladies and gentlemen, I now give you the President of the United States Hoobert Heever." Since then no president is ever introduced by name on the air. Now, it's always Mr. President.

Here are three more bloopers:

Weathercast: "And the forecast for tomorrow is mostly Sunday."

Now the Doctor wanted him to be a healthy man. The business leader wanted him to be an economic man. The minister and the psychologist wanted him to be a happy man. And on and on these leaders went.

Now let me illustrate what they were trying to say. Centuries before our forefathers - your grandfather and mine, men carried heavy loads on their backs. One man one day became dissatisfied with this hard labor. Why not do it easier. He captured some wild animals - one of which was a horse. He domesticated the horse and trained it - and let the horse carry his burden. And then somebody else still not satisfied decided that the horse could carry more than he could carry on his back. So he made a crude drag and tied it to the horse and let him drag the load, with two poles for shaves. That way he could carry twice as much. And someone else was unhappy and dissatisfied, and made a crude sled and put runners under the drag, and they found that he could carry even more. Another man dissatisfied with that, decided to put wheels on the sled. And so he had a cart. And this man could go down the road 12 MPH with two horses pulling a fabulous load. It was not long before that cart was turned into a fancy buggy. And of course, man could travel in style. But Henry Ford was still dissatisfied and he created something that would go even faster. So he put an engine in that buggy, enabling it to roll down the highway 35-40 MPH.

But someone else was still unhappy and dissatisfied, and they put wings on the buggy. The Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, perfected the wings and flew the airplane a distance of 120 feet, for 12 seconds. And Mr. Drinkwater announced it to the world that the first airplane had taken flight. But you know, they were not satisfied, until today they have developed these commercial planes with cabins that are longer than the distance of the first flight of the Wright Brothers. Now you think of this. And following this the space ship has been developed and put men on the moon.

unhappy about our society. And we need to hope and try to do something better about the new year.

This morning I am talking about a peculiar kind of unhappiness and discontent. Now the world is full of people who are unhappy and discontented. Because there are people who sit on thrones of judgement. Who are discontented with the establishment, discontented with the institutions, and the older generation.

Now this is not what I am talking about. I am not talking about a self-righteousness that permits us to pass judgement upon others about us.

I am talking about a discontentment and unhappiness, that is directed toward ourselves. Now I cannot, and you cannot change many of the circumstances in this world, and you cannot and I cannot change any of them without first changing myself. And my wish is for you - is that you would not be dissatisfied with others. Not that you are going to be unhappy with your husband, wife, or parents - but I want you to look into that face and into your own eyes and say - I am unhappy with you. You are the problem in my life and in this New Year, I wish that you would become a better person.

Now so many times a man tries to run from God. But one must know that he must face God. Think about Psalm 139. "If I ascend up into Heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in Hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me. And thy right hand shall hold me." Now this truth makes it possible for us to discover satisfaction in life. Let us think about some of these things that we want to be unhappy about in this New Year.

V.2<sup>6-</sup>  
V.3 *Feed me - my thoughts - find No wickedness*

1- First, your thoughts. I wonder really if you are satisfied with your thoughts. I tried to think about this myself. I wonder if I am really satisfied with thought life - the way I think. I do not always think as a Christian ought to think. Thought, you know is the father of action. If you think wrong and think evil, and think bad long enough - you will start acting bad and doing wrong.

*Matt. 9:4 Jesus knowing their thoughts said Wherfore think ye Evil in your hearts*  
As I think in my heart, so shall I be. (Patsy - aris. Take up bed -)

*Job 42:2 "No thought can be withholden from thee"*

Now I am not saying that my thought life has been in the gutter. No, that is not what I mean. But I have thought about what ways I have thought about (other people). These things determine our attitudes. And they also determine our actions. The way I think about another person will determine somewhat my attitude toward that person. I wonder really if I always think about the good things in a man's life. Or am I always thinking about that little thing that I do not like about him.

For example, when I was a boy - we used to play a game called Hide and Seek. And what you really would do in that game - you would try to catch the other fellow off guard. You were supposed to count up to 10 or to 50 - and then you were to go and seek them out. And sometimes you know, it was so convenient just to rattle it off. One to ten - and just skip about half the numbers, and catch him off guard even before he got out of sight.

Too much of the time that is the way we play the game of life. A person says something hard about me, and I say - well, I'll just throw it back to you just as hard as you throw it to me. A person who expresses hostility toward me - I'll be just as hostile toward him. And I'll build up a wall and a barrier between us. So this sort of exists. And this is the way Jesus said the natural man thinks. This is the way the natural man reacts. He retaliates.

An eye for an eye - a tooth for a tooth. Give it back to them just like they give it out.

But Jesus said the Christian way is to break that attitude. With the love, an act of love. Somebody said something critical and hard about you - return it with softness with love and kindness. Jesus said, love your enemies. Do good to them that despise you and persecute you. And do all manner of evil against

*also 55:7 "let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him; and our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*  
v. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts -

So, I would like to think that in the New Year, I would like to think like a Christian. I would like for my attitudes and thoughts to be love, forgiveness, and kindness. Even toward those who might be enemies.

*Mostly with tongue - learned - "let us kind" - preacher visited - we worry, that's all Bird says - preacher, I have learnt (let us pray) - we get together - when Paul together - M. W. P. said let us kiss - Preacher - My fingers have been unwarmed -*

2 (To tongue) v. 16 Hear my speech  
Second, my (word life - my language) Neither am I satisfied with the way I speak sometimes - that's what I am talking about. I wonder if it wouldn't be a good idea if we'd have an unhappy New Year with this part, of our lives. What we say. I wonder if there haven't been some things that haven't been harsh and hurtful in this past year. v. 3. My Mouth shall Not Transgress.

I read a story the other day about an evangelist who was holding a (revival) meeting in a place. He had been visiting, praying, and talking to many people. And he felt they were coming for decisions. They came to the climax that night in the services, many who had committed themselves to make a decision that night seemed to be present. He had prepared what he thought was his best evangelistic sermon. The song service was wonderful. And as he started preaching - he could feel the spirit mounting. This is going to be a great service he said. Just then the door squeaked open and in walked a woman. She ignored the ushers who tried to stop her. She came all the way around looking for a seat. Everyone

crowd. So he finally just stopped and waited, and when she was seated - he said, you know the services are at 7:30. We have a 30 minute song service and I don't even get up to preach until 8:00. I hope everyone will make an effort to get here on time to all the services. Then he went on thinking in his mind - I got that sister told. She won't walk in on the middle of a service again. Following the service he saw her waiting along with some others that came by. He was sure he had fixed her. When everyone was gone, she came by and said - "I didn't realize I was distracting the service until I was half way down the aisle. I did not think or know what to do - I just tried to get into a seat, I was so embarrassed." The evangelistic said to her - you should have been here on time. I tried to be, she said, I came as soon as I could. My husband left us about a week ago. And we don't know where he is. I was up all night last night with the (baby) who had been sick. I thought if the baby would go to sleep, the older children could take care of him while I came to church tonight. I felt that I couldn't go through another night without coming to church and hearing the word of God. (I just had to come). "I am sorry I was late.

What could the evangelist say - he said, I'm sorry. I did not understand - forgive me.

But the words that hurt had been said. And he could not get them back. Now do you understand what we mean about the tongue being very sharp. Sometimes people excuse themselves by saying, well, you know me. I am just frank. Everybody knows me. I'm just plain spoken.

Now we are only kidding ourselves when we brag about our frankness. We are trying to cover up the fact that we have a mean, sharp, uncontrollable tongue.



Now, I am not happy with my tongue. And by the grace of God in 1974 - I really want to speak more like a Christian. I want to have a healing tongue, an encouraging tongue. A tongue that strengthens and helps people rather than a tongue that cuts and hurts, and offends.

How can you do this. This tongue that can criticize can also pass out compliments, words of encouragement. And let's make a New Year's resolution everyday - I will try to pass out at least 3 compliments to someone - a word of encouragement or praise. A word to uplift somebody - whether it is my wife, somebody in the office, or someone who is courteous to me on the street. You can say, I'm proud of you. Or that I believe in you, young lady. You can say to your Sunday School Teacher - I love you and appreciate what you mean to me this year. To someone at work, I really admire you. Just a word of encouragement and praise to lift other people, and send them on their way.

Prov. 18:21 - Death & life are in the power of thy tongue!

Rom 14:11 - For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (Give an account of himself to God)

A Congressman talking about politics once said - one of life's real problems is the psychology of how to deal with criticism. He says, if you let it get under your skin, you are wrecked. The letters that come about the wrong decisions are stacked high on every Congressman's desk. But he never gets very many that says he is right. It is human nature. So I would say, let's have an unhappy New Year about this - the use of my tongue. And try to do better in '74 in the way I talk to people.

Phil. 2:11 "and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God The Father."

3- Third, unhappy about [daily life]. I think at this point, I have wondered about my actions every day - day by day. I wonder if people look and they say, well, he doesn't act like a preacher. He doesn't dress like a preacher. He doesn't

look like a preacher, etc. Of course, I am a man like anybody else - a normal person.

✓ But I do want people saying, (he acts like a Christian). Here is one of the greatest compliments in the world. That somebody can be watching our lives and say - I have been watching you - and say, you know, you really are a Christian.

⇒ In Nashville, Tenn., several years back - two men who were lawyers and they had been partners for 30 years. One of them was a member of a church. And was very faithful to his church. His partner was not a church man. He did not profess to be a Christian. One day the Christian said to his partner - why don't you go out and listen to Billy Graham at the meetings and listen to his message. Maybe it will change your life.

The partner (replied) why don't you go out and listen to Billy Graham, maybe it will change your life.

And the Christian said, you know, I am a Christian already. I belong to the church, I am even a Deacon, Sunday School teacher.

What do you mean? The other lawyer answered - I mean you are a church man and you claim to be a Christian and I am not. We have been partners for 30 years. I have gone to the Bar Association Meetings, gone to political conventions with you, I've gone with you to the Court Room, and other outtings together - I cannot see one thing different about your life than my life. Why don't you go hear Billy Graham.

Sardis Church - A name that shows high lives - & art dead ✓

Now that is what I am talking about. I wonder can my neighbor, can the neighbor who is next door to me, tell any difference in my life than his.

Can the fellow who works at the next bench with me in the shop tell any difference in my life. Can the person I pass on the street, look at me, and say there is something different about that man.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could say unhappy New Year - I'm not satisfied with my daily life. I've been living out in public. And I want to look like a Christian, I want to act like a Christian. And I want people to see me and know that I am a Christian.

4- Fourth, our home life. <sup>V.S</sup> Now I am not really satisfied with my home life. There are lots of folks who become dissatisfied with their home life. And they go off and leave it. Now that is not what I mean. I mean, dissatisfied with myself in my relationship with my home life.

<sup>9/24</sup> During 1974, I'd like to be a better father and a better husband. I want to be a real Christian in my home.

You know, this is the hardest place in the world for a person to be a Christian perhaps.

By this I mean that people stay on their guard when they are elsewhere but in the home they let down the bars. Don't you? And you can go to the store, the office, the shop - but when you come home you can be jumpy, cross, etc. And you can't do that way out in public - you lose customers, you can't do that on your job. But at home you can be mean and cross and hostile to the children, to your wife.

There are some people who get up and they have two voices in the morning. They have a breakfast table voice and then you let the telephone ring and they have a (telephone) voice. When you come to the table, they do not want anybody to talk to them. And if anybody tries to carry on a conversation with them, they bite their heads off. Now that is your breakfast table voice. And then the phone rings - and your cordial voice - Hello there, how are you? I'm fine this morning, I feel like a million dollars.

Then you slam the phone on the receiver, and go back to the breakfast table

*D.P. Druman* voice *mine - Tell story Kennedy Man at Breakfast - Wife Never Blamed - Thin Arm, Bush Place - cluttered & Frying - Ask him what wanted? I kept one fried & one scrambled! That - Funny - fried on table - He stared at her. Now what's wrong? you scrambled the wrong egg!!*

You know, I'd like to be a better Christian at home. How about you? I wonder how you feel about that.

5 - Fifth, then my spiritual life - the part that God has a part in. *v. 115*

I am not happy to stay away from God. I do not say enough, read his word enough. ~~We~~ *went to* have tried to read the Bible through in 1973. Which we have accomplished - but I am really unhappy about this. I really believe that we'd like to do more.

Thomas Carlisle reduced the vast influence of the Bible when he wrote, What built St. Paul's Cathedral. It was the divine Hebrew book - the word of the man, Moses. A man tending sheep 4000 years ago in the wilderness. The strangest thing and yet nothing is truer. Without our Bible, our churches would vanish. And be destroyed. Christmas would disappear as would Thanksgiving. For who would there be to give thanks. The laws would disappear. Do you know that Jefferson got many of his ideas from Christianity. And where did they get the authority of human rights - accept in God.

You take away the Bible and the world had not the slightest notion of what God is like, nor his great love for man.

I would like for my life to be all for God this New Year. At 33 Augustine had known every sin and amusement of his day. The more he sought happiness in his self-indulgence - the more he received a distress. He cast himself under a tree in the garden for hours, in black despair. At last, he cried out - how long, oh Lord, how long? From somewhere a voice came to him, take read. And he got up, took his Bible and read. "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof."

Later he said, (no further did I read nor need it) For instantly at the end of this sentence a light flooded into my heart and all the darkness of doubt vanished away.

A modern day Augustine, put it, I did not want its influence in my life, so I deliberately flunked my Bible course. My parents gave me a copy for Christmas - I wanted to spit on it. I would not read it in order to escape it. I made fun of church people carrying their Bible to Sunday School. I even talked about it as "that book". The more I did this, the more it closed in on me. I had to take it as my book. It was not until then that I found God as my God. It was not until then that I escaped myself.

*Ephesians - Throw heart left Thy 1st Love!*

One dark day in the First World War, a member of the American Commission in Belgium went to consult Cardinal Mercier. He found that the Cardinal's home had been bombed - part of the roof had been blown away. Mercier was standing at the head of his stairs - tall, and with shining eyes.

His long arms outstretched in welcome. A smile of benediction on his face.

The American, sick at heart, faltered - you imminence how can you smile like this. (Your country crucified)

Sir, Mr. Cade, you forget - I am under orders to a Captain who has never been defeated

How can we smile at Christmas with all the world so often drenched in tears and blood. Because we look beyond the sky line and see a star. It points to a baby. Until his hands - with his hands, he brings this lost world back to his father.

*Phil 4:11* For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, Therewith to be content!

Christians are under order to a Captain who has never been defeated.

v. 15  
No wonder ~~Paul~~ David in the Psalm 17:15 - but as for me, my contentment is not in wealth. But in seeing you and (knowing) all is well between us. And when I awake in Heaven, I will be (fully) satisfied for I will see you face to face.

David was very unhappy with the past of his life, with the outward prosperity of his enemies. He is pleading his own dependance upon God as his portion and happiness. This is the only way that you can have a happy New Year. And David explained this so wonderfully when he said that his happiness and contentment rested upon three great blessed things, in this text. I give them very briefly --

First, the immediate vision of God in his Glory. I shall behold his face. Thy face. Not as the world - but the knowledge of God will there be perfected and enlarged, as he speaks about the resurrection. That blessedness - one thing is

The participation of his likeness. He is (going to become like him) When he shall appear - we shall be like him. We shall see him like he is.

Third, a complete and full satisfaction resulting from this. Note, I shall be satisfied abundantly. Satisfied with him.

There is no satisfaction for a soul but in God. And in his face and likeness.

David says, I shall be satisfied when I wake with his likeness. And I hope you will say that with me. By the grace of God in 1974, I will be happy only when I awake in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Now how can I do this - you say. Paul says, forgetting those things which are behind.

The old year and the old book of the past year is past. You must reach forth unto the things which are before us. We must press on to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Now, if you have set some goals like David to be like Christ, ask God to give you help to become like him and to walk in the New Year. And to achieve these resolutions and goals.

Will you join me in making this commitment That I am going to let Jesus Christ lead me this year in my thought life, in the use of my tongue, in my daily walk, in my home, and in my spiritual life. Wherever he leads me I will follow in 1974. David had not lived up to the good he knew. And he was unwilling

to go on without this worthy goal that deep in his heart - he wanted that inner peace and that he would only be satisfied with the likeness of God.



X

And they predict that the super-sonic transportation will be a reality. That a man will get up and eat his breakfast in New York. He will arrive in Honolulu before lunch. Men will travel fast. But we are unhappy with this last decade of achievement. We say that we must do better in 1970 - and we say, that we are going to travel to Mars.

This is the basis of all progress. When men become unhappy with the status quo. Unhappy with what they have achieved and done and say in their hearts, we can do better.

It was May, 1966, (one million) Chinese, - young teen-agers organized as the Red Guards conducted a rally. They began traveling throughout China, determining to destroy everything old. They demonstrated against ancestral traditions - smashed the tablets and defaced ancient temples. Three months later their number reached (22 million). One third of the nations transportation facilities were engaged in moving them about the country.

Can any people survive the destruction of all their former values. The Chinese leaders think so or else they would have allowed the youth of their nation to engage in a wild rampage of destruction. The evidence of history seems to be against them. The wisdom of the ages tell us that constant change is necessary. That total sudden change brings a people to a state of near insanity. The old values, especially those that create a climate of confidence among people - are extremely necessary for building a meaningful life.

Not all the old values should be preserved. For example, as I have illustrated with the example of transportation. There was a day when the (spinning wheel) was a practical possession. Without it, the housewife could not clothe her family. Modern industry has made the spinning wheel unnecessary.

X  
And any woman that uses a spinning wheel to provide all the cloth for her family uses today would fail in the task and destroy herself. So it is with many material values. Times change and they become empty. The value of other materials - such as, iron, water, salt never change. Unchanged also are certain spiritual values. Like love for the family - faith in God, courage to face dangers. Many of these may not be obvious.

X  
Every society earnestly believe that it's values are better than the values of others. The Amish people wear their quaint clothing which has changed little since the 15th century. They farmed their lands without modern tools. And they educate their children in their homes. And for centuries they have defended these values. Migration when necessary to escape the pressures and customs of law. They believe their values are worth defending today, unto death. Now most of us feel the same way about some of our values.

Therefore, it is important for us to have an unhappy new year - and be unhappy with some of the things of the past and want to change things for the better.

I received a letter this past week from our outreach minister - he was telling me of a trip that he and his wife had taken. They had visited Haiti and talked about the beautiful things. But he also said, there was something that impressed him, that he never would forget and that was hunger. Many of the people he said were in desperate need and needed just plain every day food.

Now as we have needs all around us, we need to see some of these things that are in our society - sickness, disease, and hunger. And we need to be

Finally, we need to rethink the platitude that we are to be tolerant. Shall we let the weeds grow in the garden? Shall we do nothing to protect the children and assist hundreds of lonely people? Certainly we will resolve not to tolerate any revolutionary groups that destroy freedom. We should never be satisfied with crime rate or lose sight of the dilemma this hour of reaching for great convictions and taking a stand against wrong.

Rethink -- unhappy New Year. That means examine closely and honestly the garments of the old year. Check into the existing concepts and possibilities of 1986. The old year is dead, you have had your troubles, disillusionments, defeats, disappointments. What of it? So have I, so has every man since the beginning of time. The past was good, the past was bad. Whatever it was, it is all over. Don't knock your brains out thinking of a few practical New Year's Resolutions!

Followers of this unhappy New Year recipe will have a guaranteed happy, prosperous, and progressive year in 1986 to enjoy.

Frank Hughes, Jr.