

The New Year and the Bible
2Timothy 2:15

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was pictured as a man with two faces, one looking backward and the other forward. New Year's Day provides a valuable time to ponder the past while anticipating the future.

As we begin to think about the new year ahead, we are reminded again of what the Bible really does for us as God's people. The Bible has a _____ ministry in all our lives. We gather at least _____ times each year just for learning what the Bible has to teach to us. We do this year in and year out and it never gets old. So, there would be no better plan for the next 365 days than to make a fresh _____ commitment to read, study, and apply the Word of God to our everyday life. Why? Because the Bible will:

- I. Provide the necessary food for spiritual survival and growth
 - A. _____ Titus 3:5-7
 - B. _____ 1 Peter 2:2-3; Hebrews 5:13
 - C. _____ John 6:51
 - D. _____ Psalm 19:9-10
 - E. _____ 1 Peter 1:23-25
- II. _____ us from the cold winds and dark nights of life
 - A. Fire Jeremiah 20:9
 - B. Lamp Psalm 119:105
 - C. Sword Hebrews 4:12
- III. Provide the necessary items for _____ a strong spiritual life
 - A. Hammer Jeremiah 23:29
 - B. Silver Psalm 12:6
- IV. Provide a tool for _____ on who we are and what we are becoming--Mirror James 1:23-25

The Bible, when we choose to read and obey it will:

- I. Point us to the _____ 2 Timothy 3:14-15; James 1:18
- II. Produce _____ growth 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- III. _____ sin from entering our life Psalm 119:11, 133; 1 Peter 1:22
- IV. Point us to the way of _____ when we do sin Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 John 1:9
- V. Protect us against _____ Matthew 4:4-10 (Christ's example)
- VI. Promote spiritual _____ Psalm 1:1-3; 19:9-11
- VII. Protect against _____ Luke 24:13-35
- VIII. Prepare us to _____ more effectively John 15:7; 14:13; 16:23

If the unbelieving world is going to accept the authority of the Scripture over their life and soul, they must first see that the Bible is the authority over and guide for the _____. God help us to be that example this year to an unbelieving world.