

EXCELLENT LOVE



**27
DECEMBER
2020**

ED. LXLVII. 12. 2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Djohan Handojo

PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan
Ps Suzana Tahir

Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

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Foreword

Congratulations! You've made it through to the last month of 2020!

It has been a tough year for everyone and many of us want this year to end soon, hoping that 2021 will be a much better year. As we enter the final month of the year, let's look back on what happened throughout the year, shall we?

We started the year with a list of resolutions, a strong motivation to be better, to start strong and to finish strong. We believed that the start of a new decade would be a fresh start. However, many unexpected things happened. In the first few days, Melbourne was covered with smoke from the bushfire. When we thought it's over, a few months into the year, we were forced to stay home because of the pandemic. We lived in isolation for two months before the restriction relaxed and we started to meet our friends again, still with a safe distance. But then the second wave started after less than two months of freedom, with another extended lockdown until recently.

Our expectations for the new decade crumbled down early in the year and we end up losing a lot of things. We may feel hopeless, lonely, and anxious. But throughout the year, I learned to change my focus. Our situation may be helpless, but it's our choice to be hopeless. We may be alone and isolated, but it's our choice to feel lonely. Our plans may not work out, but it's our choice to be anxious. The situation is far from being good, but we have a good God by our side. He is our source of hope. He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He knows our needs and He has great plans for our life.

So, whatever happens next, let's make the right choices. Let's reflect more on His goodness rather than on what we're facing and let His peace guard our hearts as we finish this tough year in His gracious, loving hands.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:6-7)

HELLO *new comers!*

Welcome to Bethany International Church Melbourne.
So glad that you are here with us. We want to help make your
first experience at BIC Melbourne a great one!



GET CONNECTED

Christian journey shouldn't be alone because it is a community project. Join our Community of Love (COOL) every Friday 7PM!

LET US CONTACT YOU



Lastly, please enjoy a cup of coffee on us! 



COOL LIST



MAIN

Canaan	Kezia, Freddie
Ephratah	Steven, Henry
Berea - Bethesda	Romy
Bethlehem	Felix, Fransisca
Jordan	Sony, Wilfred
Horeb	Ferry, Febria
Bethany	Paulus, Erina
Bethel	Christy, Elvina
Cana	Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel	Dwi, Vero
Moriah	Elve, Calista
Ephraim	Kevin L, Sonia
Ekklesia	Edo, Ica
Emmaus	Fabian, Priska
Galilee	Kevin Y, Corine
Gennesaret	Reinetta, Albert
Gilgal - Carmel	Erika, Mike
Hebron - Philippi	Yoseph, Rian
Zion	Monica, Raymond
Eden	Jennifer

FAMILY

Antioch	Andy, Iwan
Tiberias	Andre, Albert
Gethsemane	Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem	Hestu
Mt Hermon	Lily, Unggul
Phillipi	Hariyanto, Ivan
Shekinah	Alice
Tabernacle	Sandi
Westal	Michael

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Macedonia	Eric, Alicia
Shiloh	Daniel, Clarissa

NEXT GEN

Judea	Valentina, Sylvio
Judah	Aldo, Kezia M.
Israel	Catherine, Jerry
Jeremiah	Sinta, Kevin W.
Heaven	Pauline



Bible reading plan for 2021

As we are approaching 2021, we plan a lot of things in our life, perhaps we have established our resolutions. Have we ever thought about how we read the Bible next year? If not, we may want to consider that. A Bible reading plan may be the answer. But before jumping into conclusion, here are some pros and cons of using a Bible reading plan from my perspective.

Pros

- Bible reading plan helps us to be disciplined in the Word for the long term.
- It prevents us from wasting our (limited) time to decide which passage to read when we open our Bible.
- A plan navigates us to read the Bible in context of the book, instead of choosing chapter(s) that we like.

Cons

- Bible reading plan gives us an impression to focus on getting things done, rather than trying to understand and meditate the Word.
- We may lose our motivation to read the Bible when we are far behind schedule.
- Most one-year reading plans are really tight and consist of passages from multiple books in a day. It may be confusing for readers to jump around the chapters in different context and timeframe of the books.



Whatever plan we use (or don't use), may we desire our hearts, souls, and minds to be transformed by the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here are some of the famous reading plan that we may consider (there are a lot more plans online that we can find):

The Discipleship Journal Bible reading plan

<https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Discipleship-Journal-Bible-Reading-Plan-9781617479083.pdf>

Robert Murray M'Cheyne's Bible reading calendar

<https://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>

Modified M'Cheyne's plan (a two-year plan)

<https://media.thegospelcoalition.org/static-blogs/tgc/files/2010/12/TGC-Two-Year-Bible-Reading-Plan1.pdf>

Chronological Bible reading plan

<http://static.esvmedia.org/assets/pdfs/rp.chronological.pdf>

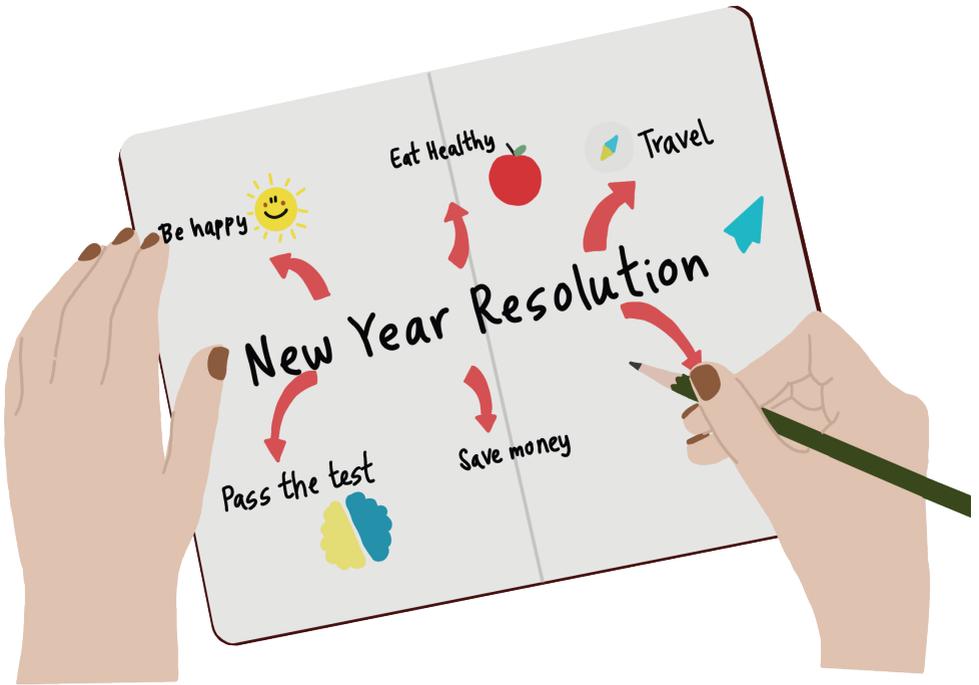
52-week genre-based reading plan

<http://www.bible-reading.com/bible-plan.pdf>



New Year Resolution - Is It Biblical?

BY NATALIA WIJAYA



Did you know that the practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians?! There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning.

When I was younger, I used to be that kind of person who made "New Year Resolution" and only managed to keep it until February, or March for best. Resolutions like "eat more fruits", "limit sugar intake", "be more patient", "be more discipline". The newness of the season soon wore out, so did my spirit in changing myself to the better.

Now I don't purposefully make such list anymore. There is no difference really, between December 31 and January 1. I realised change doesn't need a new year to begin as it can happen anytime.

The Bible doesn't discuss specifically about the practice making new year's resolution, yet it does encourage us to examine our life, and we can use new year as "tool" to encourage us to stop, and do self-reflection.

"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord" - Lamentations 3:40

What kind of resolution, then, should we make?

By far, the most common New Year's resolution is "to lose weight", other than "exercising more" and "eating more healthily". Also included in the top list, "to manage money more wisely", and "to spend more time with family". These are all good goals to set.

However, if we Christians only set resolution related to physical things (seen things) and not care for our spiritual growth (the unseen), what makes us different with the rest of the world?

1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us,
"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

We need to spend time in prayer and seek God's wills to be able to come out with God-honoring resolutions and in agreement with God's words.

Resolutions that focus on our eternal life, on our pursuit of holiness, and on our sanctification journey as we eradicate sins

and sinful habits progressively in our life.

Furthermore, many Christians who make New Year's resolutions related with their spiritual life such as to pray more, to read the Bible every day, to attend church, prayer meetings, and COOL (nowadays online, amidst the pandemic) more regularly, or to control our tongue and spoken words, also need to realize that these can also fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, *because there is no power in a New Year's resolution itself!*

There is also *no power in ourselves* to keep this resolution. Paul in Romans 7:15 said, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do".

Praise God, the Bible has a clear answer for us: our help comes from God.

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" - Psalm 121:2

We need to humbly come to our Source of help, God Himself, to empower us from within as we carry out our resolutions. None of us can produce the change and bears lasting fruits that only the Spirit of God can do.

Last but not least, if you are motivated to make New Year's Resolution (regardless whether you start from January, or begin in any month within the year):

1. Pray to God for **His wisdom**

James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you".

2. Pray to God for **His guidance** as to how to fulfil the resolutions/goals God gives us

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your path straight". Setting a timeframe, or practical directions can be helpful. For example, if you want to "finish reading the whole Bible this year", find and follow "Bible in One Year" guidelines available. Set and commit regular time (whether in the morning or evening) to read and meditate His words (turn on your alarm in your mobile phone for same time daily). It is also good to find an accountability partner who can help and support us along the way, persons who we can trust to seek more of God, such as COOL friends, our spouse, spiritual mentor/s.

3. Pray to God for **His strength** to help us

1 Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them -- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me”.

4. Pray to God for **endurance**, and to not become discouraged when we fail

2 Corinthians 12:10, “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses... For when I am weak, then I am strong”.

Our focus on growth and change is for the long run, it is a marathon, not a sprint.

5. **Give God all the glory** belongs to Him when we fulfil our resolution instead become proud of our own self

Ephesians 3:20, “Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power He can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine”.

More than merely setting goals for our own personal fulfilment, we need to remember that we are called to live according to God’s wills. May any resolution and priorities in life we make due to God’s glory, not our own.



We need to spend time in prayer and seek God’s wills to be able to come out with God-honoring resolutions and in agreement with God’s words.

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



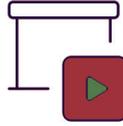
Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



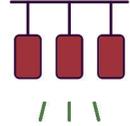
Raynaldo Ali

MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

SOUND



Steven Santika

USHER



Elbert Pranoto

TRANSLATOR



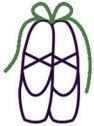
Elbert Pranoto

CARING



Felix Hariyadi

DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

DRAMA



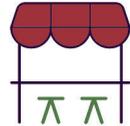
Jennifer Chandra

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

MISSION



Felix Chietra

MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

PODCAST



Ravello Satria

YOUTH



Rio Susanto

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

**We invite you to join our
online service every Sunday
from 8.30 am onwards**

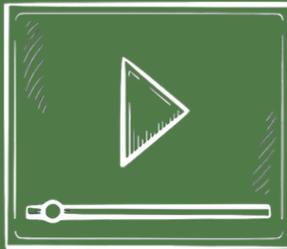
You can access it through:

Website:

<https://www.bethanymelb.org.au>

Youtube:

Bethany International Church Melbourne



**Let's celebrate the Lord's Day
together!**