

MISSION MARION

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From The Missionary's Desk

Mark 16:6-7 says, "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold, the place where they laid Him. But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there ye shall see Him, as He said unto you." This month is a month of endings and beginnings. This month we say goodbye to the old year and welcome in the new. As we reflect back over last year we can probably see many accomplishments. But we can probably see just as many, if not more, failures. To start off this new year there are some things we need to know if we are going to accomplish what God wants us to do in 2023.



1. First, Know That With Every Ending There Is A New Beginning.

Our text is on the resurrection of Christ. The ending here was of His earthly ministry and life. It had to end for the new beginning—the New Testament. Sometimes we don't understand why some good things have to end. Paul said in Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." It was a wonderful thing for Jesus to come to earth and live with man for a while, but it had to end. Jesus knew that He had come to sacrifice Himself for us so that we could have eternal life. So with this ending came a glorious new beginning—the beginning of salvation by grace through faith. Sometimes we may not understand why things happen in our lives. But if we are called according to His purpose, if we are living a holy and separate life, we can be sure it will come together for good.

2. Second, Know That No Matter How Many Times We Fail, God Will Be There For Us.

Peter has left his mark on history as the man who denied Christ. A lot of people even consider him a failure. Sure Peter failed many times, but he was no failure. The only failures are those who never try. Peter walked on water; his faith failed him, but at least he knew Who to cry out to. He denied Jesus three times, but afterward he went out and wept bitterly. Sure Peter failed in some areas but he always held on to God, and because of that he was blessed. In verse 7 the angel told the women to go tell His disciples and Peter. Through everything he had done he still received the honor of being mentioned by name, plus he received the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and preached Jesus in such a mighty way that 3,000 were saved. Do you consider yourself a failure today? If you are a Christian and believe this, then Satan

has convinced you to believe a lie. So push the failures aside, step out in faith, and claim the wonderful victory in Jesus.

3. Third, Know That New Beginnings Involve Commitment.

Abraham committed himself to God and became a great nation. Moses committed himself to God and led this great nation to the promised land. Jesus committed Himself to God and became the Savior of the world. Peter committed himself to God, shared the Gospel to the world and won many souls to God's Kingdom. What have you committed yourself to today— God or this world?

Maybe you are not very pleased with the way your life went in 2022. Maybe you had some failures and some you are ashamed of. If so, then it's time to do what Peter did. Repent and go do what Jesus has called you to do. Wallowing in the misery only brings defeat. MCBA God is calling us up out of our failures and defeats. He's calling us to begin again; to be on mission with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our communities in 2023. What will you do? Will you trust God and begin again or will you believe the lies of Satan and just stay where you are in your misery? It is my prayer this year that we become more evangelistic than ever before; that we are willing to do whatever it takes to see that people hear about our Jesus. I pray that God will bless you, your family and your church during this exciting, upcoming year.

God Bless You Always,

Bro. Keith
Phil. 4:13

MCBA Evangelism Conference

February 26, 2023

Hamilton First Baptist Church

6:00 p.m.

Speaker:

Rev. Kevin Hamm

Gardendale First Baptist



MCBA Pinewood Derby

Winfield First Baptist Church

February 26, 2023

Weigh-in 1:00 - 2:00

Races begin at 2:00



Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day (Office closed)
- 15 Wild Game Dinner Planning Meeting
- 29 State Evangelism Conference, Lakeside, Birmingham (29-30)

FEBRUARY

- 19 Wild Game Dinner Planning Meeting
- 26 Pinewood Derby, FBC Winfield
- 26 MCBA Evangelism Conference, FBC Hamilton

MARCH

- 5 Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (5-12)
- 5 Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries Conference, Shocco (5-8)
- 11 Wild Game Dinner, FBC Winfield
- 12 Executive Committee Meeting, MCBA
- 19 Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday