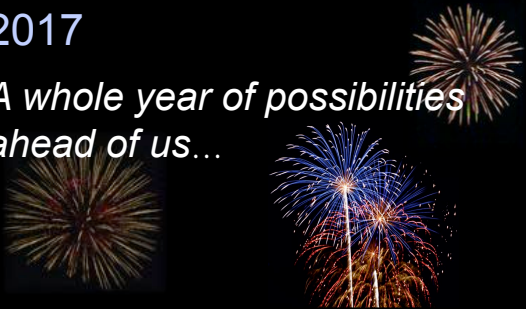


2017

*A whole year of possibilities
ahead of us...*



Romans 1:21-23 (NIV):

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

As people who know God, we:

- Stop glorifying Him
- Stop giving thanks
- Allow ourselves to go down blind alleys in our thoughts, become foolish and allow darkness into our hearts
- Start to rely on and live for worldly pleasures, approval and ambitions instead of God



Romans 1:24 (NIV):

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Romans 1:28 (NIV):

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

God responds by:

- Allowing us to act on our sinful desires
- Releasing us to indulge ourselves in the worldly lifestyles that we choose
- Allowing our sin to build up and increase

He waits patiently for us, showing us kindness so that we will repent. (Romans 2:4)

We cannot judge others for this, as we do it ourselves.

Romans 2:1 (NIV):

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 3:21-24 (NIV):

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

How do we break out of this cycle and find freedom?

By believing in Jesus.

By receiving His forgiveness.

By allowing Him to become the one we rely on.

By living for Him instead of worldly pleasures, approval and ambitions.

