

MAGAZINE SECTIONDevotional

"Another year gone. How time flies!"

"I'd like to help, but I don't have the time."

"Why don't you come to see us?"

"Sorry, we just don't seem to find the time these days."

At the year's end we become conscious of the passing of time and of the fact that it is one of the most important assets that God gives us to spend. The stewardship of time is most important - the way in which we manage our time. A Christian should know that he is answerable for the use of his time, as certainly as he must account for the use of his abilities and his financial resources.

To hear us talk, it would seem as if the earth's rotative speed had been accelerated in our generation, so that there is less time in a day than in our father's time. But are there fewer hours in the day, or are those hours shorter? Our clocks do not record any change. As a matter of fact with modern means of transportation and labour-saving equipment we actually have more free time at our disposal than has ever been the case in past history. The modern Christian must choose how he will spend his time and be the manager of it to the end that his spirit shall grow in worship and in fellowship with other people, and in helping his fellow man. He will be conscious of the fact that all his time is to be spent as "unto the Lord."

Out of this life I shall never take
Things of silver and gold I make;
All that I cherish and hoard away
After I leave, on this earth must stay.

All that I gather and all that I keep,
I must leave behind when I fall asleep
And I often wonder what I shall own
In that other life when I pass alone.

Tho' I have toiled for a painting rare,
To hang on the wall, I must leave it there.
Tho' I call it mine and boast its worth,
I must give it up when I leave the earth.

What shall they find, and what
Shall they see, in the soul that
Answers the call for me?
Shall the Great Judge learn

When my task is through
That my spirit has gathered some riches, too -
Or shall at last it be mine to find
That all I'd worked for, I'd left behind?

Prayer of Confession

Eternal Father, we bow before you seeking forgiveness for the wrongs in our lives. If we have grievances, if we are jealous, if we are resentful, Father forgive and help us. If we have gone back on our word or forgotten our promises, or have been dishonest, Father forgive and help us.

Help us to see and admit all our faults and make amends where we can, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The New Year

"Oh! for a light! a light! I cried
As I stood at the gate of the year.
The old year ended I tried and tried,
The future I face with fear.

The year before lies veiled and dark,
Its pathway all unknown.
How shall I face the future stark?
My soul within doth groan.

Then came a voice throughout the gloom,
Fear not, God lives, and He
Will guide you through the New Year's room
However dark it be.

Go take His hand; His arm secure
Will lead the unknown way,
Better than light; thou shalt endure,
He is thy Strength, thy Stay."

Rev. D. McTavish