

PRACTICAL ADVICE ON FINISHING 2024 WELL

Sunday, October 27, 2024 — CHRISTIAN LIFE — Pastor Andrew Coleman

SELECTED SCRIPTURES

English Standard Version (ESV)

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

*5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; **6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.** 7 And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

HEBREWS 12:1-2

*1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2 fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **3 For consider Him** who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

7 ...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily training is just slightly beneficial, but godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER AS CHRISTIAN IN NOV & DEC 2024:

1) Remember the INSTRUCTION and INSPIRATION of CHURCH HISTORY.

- The Lord loves, revives and sustains His people... always and forever.
- You are safest when you are IN God's Word daily.
- Trials will come to you but so will Christ.

JOHN 16:33 Jesus speaking to His disciples...

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2) Remember that Thanksgiving is about GIVING THANKS to GOD and Christian contentment.

- Because we have been greatly blessed, we should be deeply grateful.
- There is great blessing in godliness with contentment. (see 1 Timothy 6:6)
- Our gratitude should be pondered and expressed to God.

JAMES 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

3) Remember that Christ-mas is about GOD'S REDEMPTION.

- Think about the word 'holiday' --> 'holy day'.
- Think about the greatest gift ever given -- Jesus Christ. (see John 3:16)
- Think about humble selflessness and generosity of God.

1 JOHN 4:9

In this the love of God was made known among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

KEY ADVICE/EXHORTATION AS A CHRISTIAN in NOV & DEC:

→ Be MINDFUL / THOUGHTFUL / WORSHIPFUL regarding the season.

→ Be 'WISE to the LIES' of the WORLD and SATAN.

wickedness, commercialization, anxiousness/fear, selfishness

1) Concerning the Coming Election:

- There is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:8-9
- You should vote. You should vote for the lesser evil.
- You should not hope or despair in Donald Trump or Kamala Harris.

PSALM 33:20-22:

*"We put our hope in the LORD;
HE is our protector and our help.
We are glad because of HIM;
we trust in His holy name.
May Your constant love be with us, O LORD,
as we put our hope in You".*

2) Concerning Thanksgiving:

- It's not just about food or Fall or festivals or even family and friends.
- It's not about Black Friday! (FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD)
- Be a purist -- make it about God FIRST and most fundamentally.
- Read together. Pray together. Serve together. Give together.

3) Concerning Christmas:

- Realize the intensity of our commercialized culture.
- Realize the intensity of Satan's distractions.
- Realize the reversal in the minds of children.
- Give gifts! Teach giving.
- Be disciplined... don't go in debt!
- Be godly in your eating and drinking.
- Read together. Pray together. Serve together. Give together.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES for WORSHIP and SHARING CHRIST in NOV & DEC:

- Your participation with Community Group gatherings
- Your participation with Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast & Service
- Your participation with Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Your participation with Missions Offering -- to give the message of Christ around the world.