

## Clean Out the Old and Start Anew

Devotion for January 2016

Hymn: VU 562 Jesus Calls us

Scripture: Isaiah 43:18-19      2 Corinthians 5:17 & Ephesians 4: 22-24

Reflection:

In our culture January is a time to clean out the old and start anew. For some that means stuff, and for others that means turfing our old habits, old ways of thinking, resolving to kick the smoking and other various injurious habits. We are usually pretty good at this renewal stuff, at least for a few weeks and even longer, but slowly most of us usually drift back and be and act like we always have. Since there was no Christmas and no New Years as we know it, in the bible I wondered what it had to say about renewal: quite a lot as it turns out.

Discussion:

Should New Years have any special meeting for us? Why wait till Jan 1 to make changes in our lives, or is it just a human response that we pick on New Year's rather than say, our birthday or just any time we feel we need to smarten up and change?

Hymn VU 568 Dear Lord Lead me.....

Prayer:

Jesus, New Years, August or November we rely on your faith in us and your to grace to enable us to change, to live the lives we should. We thank you.

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