

**Never Again**  
Phil 3:13-14

***Introduction:***

- A. Whatever the last year means to you, it is a time for beginning again. We don't have to dread the future simply because of the past. Nor do we have to see in it an escape from burdens and despair.
- B. If you are genuinely satisfied with this past year's accomplishment, you may be a little reluctant to see 2018 end. But it could also be that if this past year has been good to you, you are probably facing the year 2019 with keen anticipation and objective joy. However, if 2018 has dealt you some experiences that have seemed harsh and cruel, your thinking may be callused enough to dread the year 2019 as simply the repetition of a hard lot in life. Whatever the New Year and a New Century means to you, it is time for beginning again!
- C. We live in a world that calculates by the calendar, so we would do well to have a balanced account with God and man every day, but especially at the New Year. Changing from 2018 to 2019 can provide a reference point for new resolves and happy challenges. These should be made up of real commitments, submissions and surrenders based not only on our strengths and determinations, but in the security of the living God (Phil. 4:19).
- D. May you, through determined resolve, have in the year 2016 the kind of spiritual experience that will prepare you for eternity. As the poet Helen Jackson wrote:  
"Only a night from old to new,  
    Only a sleep from night to morn.  
The new is but the old come true,  
    Each sunrise sees a New Year born."
- E. "Never Again" can we reclaim the past. What Mother Nature gives, Father Time takes away. Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

**I. *Never Again Will I Say "I Can't" For:***

- A. Phil 4:13
  - 1. The context stresses the value of contentment (v. 12).
  - 2. Paul asserts that he had been initiated into a knowledge of how to bear up.
- B. "Strengthen" is in the present tense, denoting continuous action - 2 Tim 4:17
  - 1. Christ empowers us i.e. He gives us the strength we need!
  - 2. This comes through the knowledge of God's Word - 2 Tim 4:17
- C. God's might to direct me,  
    God's power to protect me,  
God's wisdom for learning,  
    God's eye for discerning,  
God's ear for my hearing,  
    God's Word for my clearing.

**II. *Never Again Will I Admit Lack, For:***

- A. Phil 4:19
  - 1. Cf. James 1:17
  - 2. Matthew 6:33
- B. God created man with three basic needs:
  - 1. Physical (we are commanded to work for these - Gen 3:19; 1 Thess 4:11; 2 Thess 3:10)

- a. But God gives the increase - 1 Cor 3:6-7
- 2. Mental (mental health requires something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to).
  - a. God provides work, family & friends to love, fellowship in worship and the hope of heaven - 2 Thess 3:10; Eph 5:22-23; Psa 122:1; 2 Tim 4:6-9
- 3. Spiritual
  - a. A Savior -John 3:16
  - b. A Divine guide -2 Pet 1:2
  - c. Encouragement - Rev 22:14
- C. 2 Peter 1:3
  - 1. If my religion's not all  
That it ought to be,  
The trouble is not with God,  
The trouble's with me.

### III. *Never Again Will I Be Worried And Frustrated, For:*

- A. Phil 4:6-7
- B. God cares for me - 1 Pet 5:7
- C. Matthew 6:25
- D. One can reject anxiety and fear by:
  - 1. Believing in God's desire and ability to care for us - 1 Pet 5:6-7
  - 2. Learning to be content - Phil 4:11-12
  - 3. With God's help problems of life can be overcome - Phil 4:13
  - 4. Find strength in prayer - 1 Pet 5:6-7; Phil 4:6-7
  - 5. "Fear knocked at the door, Faith answered, No one was there" (inscription over the mantel of Hines Head Hotel, England). Fear is faithlessness!

### IV. *Never Again Will I Allow The Supremacy Of Satan Over My Life, For:*

- A. The power of God is stronger - 1 Jn 4:4
  - 1. God dwells in us - 2 Cor 6:16
  - 2. Christ dwells in us - Rom 8:10
  - 3. Holy Spirit dwells in us - 1 Cor 6:19
- B. 1 Pet 5:8-9 - We resist Satan by:
  - 1. Watchfulness and soberness - 1 Pet 5:8
  - 2. Knowledge of Scripture - Matt 4:1-11
  - 3. Armed and prepared - Eph 6:11
  - 4. Standing up for what is right - Eph 4:27
  - 5. Steadfastness - 1 Pet 5:9
- C. From his brimstone bed at the break of day,  
A-walking the Devil is gone,  
To look at his little snug farm of the world,  
And see how his stock went on...  
His coat was red and his breeches were blue,  
And there was a hole where his tail came through!  
(Robert Southey, The Devil's Walk).

***Conclusion:***

- A. Considering all that God has done for us, let us all, as we enter into the New Year, make a commitment that we will never again forsake the work that the Lord God has for us to do. And let us make the same commitment that we will never again forsake Him in our personal lives.
- B. God calls all to be what they should be in Him. He calls us through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:9). Have you responded to His call (Acts 26:19)? This is done through obedience from the heart (Romans 6:17).