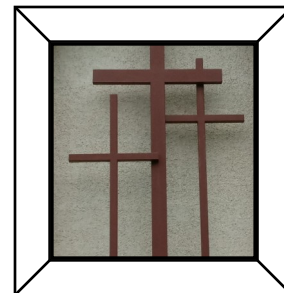


Rolling Roads Baptist Church



JANUARY 2025

Looking Over Jordan

Happy New Year! Will Jesus be Lord of our lives, our church, our own good selves in 2025? He is "Lord of Heaven and Earth!" Though the calendar changes, Jesus is Lord!

In the Gospels of Mathew, Mark, and Luke Jesus was asked about why his disciples don't fast as much as others. He answered the question by speaking about the changing of the days and ages, when the bridegroom is present and when He is absent. Jesus says that His disciples will "fast in those days" when the bridegroom is taken away from them. (Mark 2:20)

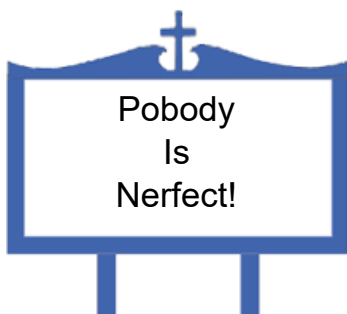
Then Jesus gave an example of how things change with time in the plan of God. He pointed out that cloth needs to be patched in the right way, not in a way that does unnecessary damage. Jesus said, *"No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old."* (Luke 5:36) He also said, *"the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made."* (Matthew 9:16)



Next, Jesus told His disciples a parable about wineskins. Wine-skins were literally bottles back then, used for storing fermenting drinks. They were used by taking animal skins and putting the new wine in them. As the wine fermented the animal skin bottle would stretch out with it and store the liquid safely. Jesus observed, *"No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."* (Mark 2:22)

We post-modern people tend to moralize everything, and make these parables about being adaptive to change, or other things like that. That is fine, but we must recognize first what the meaning of Jesus' words are before we try to find their significance for us today. What was Jesus speaking about?

He was talking about how the Kingdom of God was coming into the world, and that the old would be passing away, and the new would come. In the new and coming age, He would not be present physically with His disciples, and so they would fast. He meant that His disciples



BIRTHDAYS

COOPER JORDAN	JAN 15
STACY WEST	JAN 27
DIANE GARRETT	JAN 31

Financial Report - November

- Income: \$4714
- Expense: \$6913

Thank you for your gifts!!

must do what is appropriate for the age and time in the Kingdom of God. That is, they should not be mourning when they should be celebrating. Further, they should not try to just fix up what is broken or old or outdated by tearing up what is new and in good condition. Also, Jesus' disciples should protect what they have been given and not try to put it back where they had their old spiritual stuff was that they used up or had been in the past.

One application of this is the heart, soul, and mind of mankind. In the New Covenant Jeremiah 31:33, *"I will put my law within them and on their heart I will write it..."* and in 32:39-40 *"...I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always...I will put the fear of Me in their hearts..."* Ezekiel 11:19 *"And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God."* Ezekiel 36:26 confirms this New Covenant promise.

As the New Covenant dawned in Christ Jesus, Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* He is speaking of us, and all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus.

Colossians 3:10 reminds us that we *"have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of One who created him..."* This reminds us of the garment that Jesus spoke of. We have new lives to lead, that are not like our old lives before Christ called us.

In Ephesians 4:22-24 we read *"...lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

As the New Year begins, may we remember the new beginning that Jesus gives to all who believe and have faith in Him. Jesus is Lord in 2025!

Happy Because of Jesus,

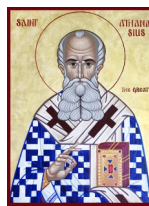
Pastor James



THIS WILL MAKE YOU SMILE

Once when I was baby-sitting, my six-year-old grandson refused to eat anything set before him. In exasperation I asked, Jonathan, you tell me you don't like beef, you don't like chicken, you don't like fish, you don't like fruit, you don't like vegetables, you don't like milk, and you don't like juice. Tell me, what do you like?" Turning his innocent blue eyes on me, He answered, I like you, Grampa!"

On January 7, 367 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria wrote a list of accepted books of the New Testament that is the same as the list we have today!



Church leaders had been making lists and trying to decide on what authority each book had in the church. But Athanasius finally arrived at a list that had wide spread acceptance with Christians everywhere. On January 7th he wrote, "These are fountains of salvation, that they who thirst may be satisfied with the living words that they contain. In these alone is proclaimed the doctrine of godliness. Let no man add to these, neither let him take anything from these."

What is Epiphany?

This is a celebration of Christ's revelation to the world! On this day through Church history we



have remembered the visit of the Three Wise Men, as they gave the baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.