

As we count the years, make them count (Luke 13:6-9) – Asaolu O.S.

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Genesis 1:14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.*

God intended for MAN to count the days, months, years, and seasons. We need to keep track of time as we have NOT entered into eternity. Thus, we need to be careful and spend our limited time on earth well. That is what Moses means with... **“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”** -Psalms 90:12. Each person has his or her own New Year or personal calendar based on time of birth. One’s years or lifespan is measured based on this –Genesis 5:2-5.

Yet we need a common framework to guide everyone generally, a generalized calendar so to speak within which to count time -Eccl 3:2. [Exodus 12:2 *This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*] The Israelites have their own Calendar based on the Jewish Passover. Since that feast and entire Mosaic Law has been abolished, AND a new one was not introduced under the New Covenant, it is NOT sinful for us to utilize the Calendar and dating of years as BC/AD introduced by the Roman Emperors.

Colossians 2:16 *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

Should one celebrate the generic New Year or even a person birthday? If one likes he may as a social not as a religious ceremony. So long he does not use it to worship a god [sun, moon or any idol] nor bind it upon others, it is permissible. [Romans 14:5 *One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.*]

Have we been fruitful to God last year? Perhaps He spared you and I to give us another chance!

James 4:13 *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

Luke 13:6 *He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down. [See 2 Pet 3:8-9]*

Conclusion: Let us commit this [new] year, ourselves and our plans into God’s mighty hands. He can guide and knows the end, the beginning and everything in between! When you are in a place that pleases the Lord, both physically and otherwise, his favour will be with you at all times –irrespective of the challenges you face you can be sure that He cares and you will triumph (a ja sope!) Make the years count, time is the most valuable currency.