

# The Terre Haute SPEAKER

*"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).*

Volume 6

January 01, 2017

Number 1

## 17 Admonitions For Christians For 2017

*John Isaac Edwards*

As we stand at the opening gates of a new year, it is a good time for us to be urged on spiritually. Here are 17 admonitions for Christians from the twelfth chapter of Paul's Roman letter.

**1) Present Your Bodies A Living Sacrifice (v. 1).** No telling how many animals were sacrificed under the Mosaical Dispensation. Today, we "offer up spiritual sacrifices" (1 Pet. 2:5). Let's put ourselves on the altar this year, spiritually!

**2) Be Not Conformed To This World: But Be Transformed (v. 2).** Don't be like the chameleon that changes his colors according to the situation, but be like the caterpillar that is changed into a beautiful butterfly in 2017!

**3) Think Soberly (v. 3).** It is important that we have the proper view of ourselves. Some think too little of themselves and others think more highly of themselves than they ought to think. Who will your thinking most resemble in the new year: the self-righteous Pharisee or the publican (Lk. 18:10-13)?

**4) Remember We Are Members One Of Another (vv.**

**4-8).** The church is set forth in the figure of a body to teach some important lessons (1 Cor. 12:12-27). As your feet, hands, eyes and ears work together for the good of the physical body, be faithful this year in doing all you can for the greater good of the spiritual body!

**5) Let Love Be Without Dissimulation (v. 9).** The Lord's people are to be a loving people. Jesus taught, "That ye love one another; as I have loved you..." (Jn. 13:34). The Lord's love was genuine; there was no pretense or hypocrisy. Peter wrote, "...unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet. 1:22).

**6) Abhor That Which Is Evil; Cleave To That Which Is Good (v. 9).** All that is in the world may be divided into two categories: good and evil. 1 Peter 3:11 teaches us to "... eschew evil, and do good..."

**7) Be Kindly Affectioned One To Another With Brotherly Love; In Honor Preferring One Another (v. 10).** Paul is a good example of this as he reminded the Thessalonians of his work among them, "So being affectionately desirous of

you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us" (1 Th. 2:8).

**8) Not Slothful In Business; Fervent In Spirit; Serving The Lord (v. 11).** To be slothful is to be lazy. Remember the field of the slothful (Prov. 24:30-34)? To be fervent is to have a passionate intensity. When it comes to our service unto the Lord in 2017, let's be enthusiastic and zealous in abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58)!

**9) Rejoicing In Hope; Patient In Tribulation (v. 12).** Paul exhorted brethren, "Rejoice in the Lord alway..." (Phil. 4:4) and "Rejoice evermore" (1 Th. 5:16). We live in the area of anguish, circle of calamity, domain of disaster, sphere of suffering and territory of tribulation (Jn. 16:33). Let us keep on keeping on, knowing that the day of great triumph is coming (2 Th. 1:6-10)!

**10) Continuing Instant In Prayer (v. 12).** "Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day...", we sing. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Th. 5:17) in 2017!

**11) Distributing To The Necessity Of Saints (v. 13).** Early Christians exemplified this, "...as distribution was made unto every man according as he had need" (Acts 4:35). This is an area in which we ought to be "liberal" (2 Cor. 9:13)!

**12) Given To Hospitality (v. 13).** Hospitality is love to strangers. It's demonstrated by the 'good Samaritan' in Luke 10:30-35. Among the qualifications of elders is "given to hospitality" (1 Tim. 3:2) and "a lover of hospitality" (Titus 1:8). Peter urged saints, "Use hospitality one to another without grudging" (1 Pet. 4:9). Such helps create a close bond among brethren that helps the church to grow!

**13) Bless Them Which Persecute You: Bless, And Curse Not (v. 14).** We can expect some persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12 says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Remember what Jesus said about such, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you, and

persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven..." (Mt. 5:44).

**14) Rejoice With Them That Do Rejoice, And Weep With Them That Weep" (v. 15).** The church ought to be a care center — "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:25-26). You have to be with the church members to know when they rejoice and weep. Are you that close to the brethren?

**15) Be Of The Same Mind One Toward Another (v. 16).** In Romans 15:5 it is written, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus." Don't be all high and mighty, show feelings of superiority, or do things in a haughty way! "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."

**16) Provide Things Honest In The Sight Of All Men (v.**

**17).** Honesty is still the best policy! When Paul wrote about the grace of giving he said, "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Cor. 8:21). It is especially important that those involved with the Lord's money be men of honesty and integrity. There have been too many cases of treasurers embezzling the Lord's money! As Malachi asked, "Will a man rob God?" (Mal. 3:8).

**17) Live Peaceably With All Men And Overcome Evil With Good (vv. 18-21).** Paul said, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (v. 18). No matter how hard you try, there are just some people who are disagreeable and difficult to get along with. Let there be peace, and let it begin with me! Should you find yourself with an enemy. Make a friend out of him. Love him (Mt. 5:44). Feed him and give him drink (Rom. 12:20). This is overcoming evil with good!

May God bless you with a spiritually successful new year!

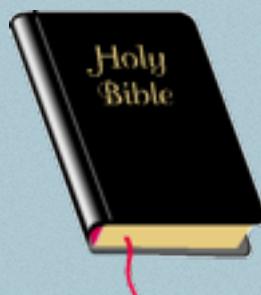
## The Terre Haute SPEAKER

is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
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**We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.**

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