

## Old and New

Recently 3 men were “prospecting” with metal detectors along the Oregon Trail in an area that was once the sight of an early military encampment. With great care and diligence they searched tens of thousands of square feet on what seemed to many an obscure and unremarkable hillside. Their diligence paid off with the discovery of dozens of bullets, numerous US marked military coat buttons and then a very rare 1838 half dime (the precursor or our modern day nickel).

What was considered simple pasture land by the owner was indeed the storehouse for hidden treasure. The items, long buried and forgotten, now once again see the light of day. The whole story reminds me of the man who found a hidden treasure and sold everything he had to buy the field, Matthew 13:44.

Two points surface. One: that which was old and original was brought to the surface to see the light and be a “treasure” to the one who found it. Two: Old things in our lives can be renewed also.

Every year a new January starts the march of days we call a year. It really is brand new, never seen or lived before. A new opportunity, a new resolution, a new, clean calendar to mark, a new appointment book to be scheduled and... a brand new year to serve God, to see His handiwork in history, to count our many blessings and “... name them one by one.”

I’m not big into New Year’s Resolutions, but I am inspired by the metaphor of the new year bringing new blessings, new opportunities and new pages on which to write our life’s story in His history. God, Himself, has divided our own personal histories into small 24-hour segments of life itself. Then days, weeks and years, marked in astronomy by the movement of the heavens and marked in our lives by the movements of His hands. Indeed, every new year marks both the passing of the old and the excitement of the new.

What are your plans for 2021? Many of us, this time, would say “Good riddance to 2020!” It was a year of Covid 19, lock downs, riots, looting, arson, sharp increase in crime in many of our cities and a general sense of doom and gloom.

But guess what, God has given His people an astounding plan for finding not buttons and coins in a field, but a plan that delivers something profound, “... the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7, KJV.

As I contemplate the new year, I find myself remembering the great joy and peace of my initial conversion to Jesus. And I realize that I have a bit of prospecting, detecting and digging to do to restore the joy that the years and storms of life have often covered.

It’s a new year, a new day and we all have a bit of buried treasure whether it be in our past or in scripture itself - a treasure worth rejigging like the old wells re-dug in Genesis 26:18. Today, and every day, regardless of the nastiness of the news, let us, as God’s children proclaim, **“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it,** Psalm 118:24.

Ray Wallace