

New Year's Day is a day that's for Why should  
 New Year's Day be important? I think that as God made the world it  
 is a very excellent thing that people think of New Years as being  
 so important. Life is in periods, and it is very easy as we look  
 back to look over a long span and forget just when things occurred  
 It is good to have demarkations of time, and it is particularly  
 good that you have a time when you think of the old year as ending  
 and the new year as beginning.

I remember back in the days of the Great Depression. At the  
 end of one of the worst years of that depression, when New Years  
 Day came everybody was celebrating it and they said, This is the  
 worst year we could have imagined, so next year has got to be  
 better than this year! So they thought it was a tremendous thing  
 to celebrate that day.

was named after

We have January that/ the old Roman god Janus that had two  
 faces-- he looked back and he looked ahead. It is a time to look  
 ahead and think of what we are going to do in the coming year.  
 It is a time to look back and think of what we have done. It  
 is a time of reappraisal. I believe it's very important we have  
 such a time.

I believe there are certain things each of us need to re-  
 appraise. What is the most important of them? The most important  
 of them is suggested right here in Exodus 12. We read that the  
 Lord said, "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of  
 this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for  
 each household. Just how fully the Israelites understood what  
 taking a lamb meant, we don't know, but we find in Rev. ch. 5  
 the answer to the problems of life was given by the Lion of the  
 Tribe of Judah. And when John looked to see the Lion of the Tribe  
 of Judah he saw a lamb that had been slain.

The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the death of the Lord  
 Jesus Christ for our sins--what is our relationship to Him? That  
 is what we should have in view in our reappraisal. Yesterday I  
 was with some people whom I have known for many years. They had  
 been together many years ago, and as we ate together they began  
 reminicing about various people they had known in college and in  
 seminary. Particularly in college. And they would say, Oh you  
 remember so and so? He's done a tremendous work. You remember so  
 and so? He's done a tremendous work! They would speak of these  
 different ones. Then they would say, There was so and so who seemed  
 so on fire for the Lord, and so active. He's dropped out of Christ-  
 ian service. He doesn't go to church any more!

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And there's so and so who was so active and seemed so interested,  
 so interested in the vital things of Christ. I hear that he and his  
 wife are not living for the Lord anymore. And as you look at any  
 group of people you wonder what is ahead. We cannot tell. But I  
 believe it's important that we make reappraisals from time to time  
 and particularly of our relationship to Christ. I think it is  
 appropriate for us to think at this time of Phil. 3:10. Paul said,  
 I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the  
 fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his  
 death.