



NEWS BULLETIN

RELEASE DATE: 8th January 2025

PASTOR TIM GAMSTON'S S NEW YEARS MESSAGE "SETTING OUR MINDS IN THE RIGHT PLACE"

C.S. Lewis wrote..."If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." Intellectually we know Lewis to be right. We know that we have been recreated through the New Birth because we are destined for another world. A world that is more wonderful than anything we could imagine. To quote Lewis again, a world that is *"chapter one of the greatest story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."*



The problem for us is that we haven't seen this world, yet! All we have known is this world that is under a curse and doesn't fully satisfy us. Yes, there are some wonderful things that we enjoy: family life, close friendships, amazing food and drink, holidays, stunning scenery, home comforts. But, deep down we long for more.

How do we take what we know intellectually into our hearts, so that we contemplate the new world in a way that fills us with anticipation?

We do what our fighter verse for the first quarter teaches. A fighter verse is a verse in the Bible that we use to demolish wrong beliefs, and help us find our ultimate joy in Christ. It's a verse that we memorise and bring out to fight against the temptation of unbelief. The verse I have chosen for us for January to March is designed to help us grasp with our hearts the reality of the world to come, the world we have been redeemed by Christ to inherit.

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4, ESV)

For many of us we are planning life events for 2025. Holidays, road trips, birthdays, family gatherings. Having planned these life events we are looking forward to them with anticipation. We joyfully think about what it will be like, and enthusiastically tell people what we're expecting. None of that is wrong, but if we are able to do it with those things that are temporary and uncertain, how much more should we do it with those things that are eternal and certain?

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Our fighter verse reminds us to take time every day to ponder the world that awaits us. The world that is currently unseen. The world where Christ is. The world that has been secured for us through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Thank you for all your prayers, fellowship and service over this last year. May you know the peace and presence of Christ during 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pastor Tim", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Tim

January 2025