

All Things New

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

~ Rev. 21:5

God is Always First

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending", saith the Lord.

~ Rev. 1:8

A NEW BEGINNING ...

This week we're sharing articles from two very respected authors: Bob Gass and Aiden Wilson Tozer.

EVERYBODY needs a new beginning. After Jonah failed and ran from the call of God, we read, "The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time" (Jonah 3:1). He's the God of the second chance! (And a third, if you need it.) When David failed so badly, he discovered there was "a fountain opened to the house of David for sin and uncleanness" (Zechariah 13: 1). The good news is *you can start again!* You can close the door on last year with all its pain and failure. The only place it can live is *in your memory*. The only power it can have over you is *the power you give it*. Paul says, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Philippians 3: 13).

If you're making resolutions, *start small!* Don't set yourself up for failure by saying "I'll pray two hours every day." My wife tells me the gym she goes to is *full* during the first week of January but almost empty by Easter. The ones who are still there will make it through the rest of the year. Staying fit isn't something you do short term, it's a daily habit and a way of life-and it's the same spiritually.

You don't need new rules. What you need is a **new relationship with God**. So why don't you make that your number one resolution for this year?

[From *The Best of The Word for Today* - Bob Gass]

GOD IS ALWAYS FIRST AND SURELY WILL BE LAST

God is always first, and God will surely be last! In the plan of God, man is never permitted to utter the first word nor the last. That is the prerogative of the Deity, and one, which He will never surrender to His creatures. Man has no say about the time or the place of his birth; God determines that without consulting the man himself. One day the little man finds himself in consciousness and accepts the fact that he is. There his volitional life begins.

Before that he had nothing to say about anything. After that he struts and boasts, and encouraged by the sound of his own voice, he may declare his independence of God.

Have your fun, little man; you are only chattering in the interim between first and last. You had no voice at the first and you will have none at the last! God reserves the right to take up at the last where He began at the first, and you are in the hands of God whether you will or not.

Adam became a living soul but that becoming was not of his own volition. It was God who willed it and who executed His will in making Adam a living soul. God was there first! And when Adam sinned and wrecked his whole life, God was there still. Adam's whole future peace lay in this-that God was still there after he had sinned.

It would be great wisdom for us to begin to live in the light of this wonderful and terrible truth: God is the first and the last!

[From *Renewed Day By Day* - A. W. Tozer]

**PLUG-IN Make a Difference!**

As you know, the fields are ripe for harvest. One of the ways you can get personally involved in evangelism is to participate in a short-term mission trip to Africa. We are now accepting applications for the Summer 2006 Mission trips to Uganda, Nigeria, Benin Republic and Sudan. The trips are scheduled for two weeks beginning July 15, 2006. The deadline for submission of applications is February 28, 2006. If you would like to receive an application form, please send an email to info@acfmissions.org with your mailing address. From our experience, we can assure you that the mission trip is more for you than for the people you will be ministering to in Africa. The benefits are limitless, therefore we urge you to prayerfully consider going on a mission trip this year. Have a blessed New Year!

Praise God for Musa and Jessica Garkida, who celebrate their 22nd Wedding Anniversary this weekend. Musa and Jessica have served with Calvary Ministries (CAPRO) as missionaries for many years and are presently based in Rwanda. Ask God to bless them and other missionaries such as Herbert & Esther Akparanta and George & Flora Dauda, who are also trusting God for Children.

"We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving."

- Alexander. Duff