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The Land Of Beginning Again

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THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

INT:

"The turning of a new year is a good time to take stock of what the past year has TAUGHT us, and to determine to use that experience for our good in the year ahead." Solid approach to 1977!

*Phil. 3:13-15a. Paul's view: Past-Future.

Most of us WISH for a world without our past mistakes and blunders. A world like Louisa Fletcher's The Land of Beginning Again:

THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

- * I wish there was some wonderful place
 Called the Land of Beginning Again,
 Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
 And all our poor selfish GRIEF
 Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the
 door,
 And never put on again!
- * I wish we could come on it--all unaware
 Like the hunter who finds a lost trail.
 And I wish that the one whom my blindness had
 done the greatest injustice of all
 Could be at the gates like an OLD FRIEND that
 waits
 For the comrade HE'S gladdest to hail.
- * We would find all the things we intended to do
 But forgot, and remembered too late,
 Like PRAISES unspoken, / a little promise broken, /
 And all the thousand and one
 Little DUTIES neglected, / that might have perfected
 The day for one, / less fortunate.
- * It wouldn't be possible / NOT to be kind /
 In the land of beginning again;
 And the ones we misjudged, / and the ones we've
 begrudged
 Their moments of VICTORY here /
 Would find in the grasp of our loving
handclasp
More than penitent lips could explain.
- * For what had been hardest we'd know had been
 best,
 And what had seemed loss would be gain;

For there isn't a sting that would not take wing
 When we've faced it and laughed it away;
 And I think that the laughter is most what
 we're after
 In the Land of Beginning Again!

- * So/ I wish there were some wonderful place
 Called the Land of Beginning Again,
 Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
 And all our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at
 the door,
 And never put on again!

* Heb. 10:9-22. Fortunately, we HAVE such a
 Land of Beginning Again with Jesus.

- I. OUR LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN MUST BEGIN WITH
 IMPROVEMENT ON SELF. Good 1977 resolutions!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Less impatient with those we deem slow;
 Less arrogant because of all that we know;
 More humility, seeing our worth is slight...
 Trivial candles compared to moon-light!

More forgiving/ and swifter to be kind
 More desirous a word of praise to find.
 More careful to speak with gentler voice;
 Praise when uttered, makes hearts rejoice.

More eagerness to UNDERSTAND one another.
 More courage to help a ship-wrecked brother.
 More real striving each task to be done;
 These-our resolutions..and God help everyone!

- * I Cor. 9:24-27. Paul fought a daily,
 personal, inner battle to bring glory to
 God through his life.

INV. HOW JESUS WANTS YOU TO ENTER INTO 1977:

1. If living in old-world of sin-guilt-anxiety and fear, He wants you to enter into the land of Beginning Again.

Entrance into this KINGDOM is through
 the New Birth. John 3:3-5. A. 22:16.

3. Start

1977 right!

Be ident-
 ified!

2. If soul is stained with guilt of sin as a child of God---I feel sorry for you--you're unhappy! God loves you! A. 8:22.