

# To Decrease or To Increase

Sunday Morning, December 30, 2012

## Thesis:

Take the Opportunity This New Year  
To Decrease Personally That He May Increase!

## Introduction:

It is that time of year when we analyze our life. Are there things we should decrease or things that we should increase in our life.

For example on Facebook you will see people saying things like:

"I need to decrease the negativity in my life. I am going to de-friend the negative people on my friends list."

Or You might analyze that you want to decrease or increase some of the following in your life:

### Decrease

Weight

Workload

Bad Habits

Spending

Chores

Stress

Waste

Regrets

### Increase

Exercise

Relaxation

Good Habits

Savings

Time with Family

Hobby Time

Recycling

Healed Relationships

## I. Our Greatest Desire Should Be Christ!

**(John 3: 22-30)**

22 After this, Jesus and His disciples went to the Judean countryside, where He spent time with them and baptized.

23 John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized,

24 since John had not yet been thrown into prison.

*(more of passage on next page)*

1

25 Then a dispute arose between John's disciples and a Jew about purification.

26 So they came to John and told him, "Rabbi, the One you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is flocking to Him."

27 John responded, "No one can receive a single thing unless it's given to him from heaven.

28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of Him.'

29 He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the groom's voice. So this joy of mine is complete.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

**John's Heart Desire: I Must Decrease, He Must Increase**

## II. To Decrease is to Increase in Christ!

**(Matthew 4: 18-22)**

18 As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen.

19 "Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!"

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them.

22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

**Left - Forsook, Omitted, Laid Aside Their Lives and...**

**Immediately - At Once, Straightaway**

**Followed - To Be in the Same Way With, Accompany as a Disciple**

**Fishers of Men = A New Heart**

**(Ezekiel 36:26)**

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

2

### III. A New Year - 8,760 Hours of Opportunity!

**(Matthew 6:33)**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things will be provided for you.

*Seek First*

**(Romans 13:12)**

The night is nearly over, and the daylight is near, so let us  
discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

*Night Spent - Day at Hand*

**(Ephesians 5: 15-17)**

15 Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise  
people but as wise—

16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

17 So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

*Walk Circumspectly*

*(careful to consider all circumstances and possible  
consequences : prudent)*

#### **Conclusion:**

*Take the Opportunity This New Year To Decrease Personally  
That He May Increase!*