

## New Year, New Challenges, Same Faithful God

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New friendships. New opportunities. New responsibilities. New goals. New recipes to try. New interests and hobbies to pursue. Newly-discovered books and authors. New trails to make through new-fallen snow. No matter what has happened in the past, no matter what we're facing in the future, God says that His mercies are new every morning. We are surrounded by newness and here we are at the beginning of a brand-spanking New Year! What are we going to do with it?

In any given new year, some of you will be entering into new relationships or welcoming new family members. Some of you will be moving into new houses or driving new cars. Some will be starting new jobs or developing new operating procedures. The newness of it all can be exciting but handling new challenges can also test our commitment or even our faith. Sometimes new things don't seem to work out. Even new tools and toys can break or disappoint and new relationships are even more fragile. New challenges may sometimes seem overwhelming. We may wonder if we've taken a wrong turn or bitten off more than we can chew. Sometimes it seems easier just to stick with the old procedures, the old systems that we have become used to, the old tools and the old patterns of life . . . and accept the same old conditions that motivated us to seek change in the first place.

When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, they were filled with expectation for the new opportunities and new prosperity God had promised them in the new land to which He was bringing them but as soon as they faced adversity they wanted to go back to the old land where they had been slaves. They would have chosen slavery rather than freedom because their faith wavered; they doubted that God could bring them through.

The Bible tells us that "a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways". If we are going to accomplish anything worthwhile in this life, it will take perseverance, even when things seem to go wrong, even when people disappoint us, even when the obstacles seem larger than the promises and block our view of the future. At such times, we need to remember that we serve a faithful God who has promised "never to leave us nor forsake us". We need to emulate the faith of Abraham who, in spite of the faith-challenging obstacles he faced, "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform".

As we enter into 2019, we in the Christian Heritage Party face many challenges, some of them new but many of them old. Our critics and mockers say we're too small to accomplish anything; they say we can't compete against the mass media and larger, tax-funded political parties. We've heard it all before. We need to face those challenges with the same confidence with which David faced Goliath. We are not alone. He who began a good work in us will complete it if we trust Him. He has already been preparing a way before us and will continue to open doors and build bridges if we will continue to follow His plans as He reveals them to us. Now is not the time to turn back but to press in and faithfully represent the King of kings in the political realm.

2018 has been an eventful year for the CHP. We have new candidates, new EDAs, new partnerships, new friends in the media. We recently won our Judicial Review case in Hamilton and established an important legal precedent regarding the rights of a political party to exercise its free speech on the issues of the day. We have conducted some advertising in every province and territory. We have begun our candidate training for 2019. We've also had some of our members elected to local councils. We have added a French page to our national website and produced membership brochures in the Chinese language. Most importantly, we have continued to boldly proclaim the truth in the public square. Our membership numbers are growing and we are excited to see potential new candidates arising across the country.

As we enter this new year of 2019, I want to thank each one of you on behalf of my wife and myself, on behalf of the national board and our local and provincial associations for your faithful friendship, prayers, and support. Without you we could not accomplish the things that God is calling us to do. In 2019, we need to continue to expand our membership base in every province and territory. We need to identify more new candidates, the individuals whom God has been preparing and calling for Election 2019. We need to strengthen our presence through both conventional and social media. We need to communicate even more effectively with Canadian citizens and voters the biblical principles that we know will benefit this nation.

With all that in mind, I call on you to take up the challenges you face in your personal lives and also as CHP members to accomplish all that God calls you to do in 2019. He is more than able to equip you to "will and to do of His good pleasure"! Help us put Life! Family! and Freedom! on the ballot in ridings across this country. Let's give as many voters as possible a pro-life, pro-family, pro-freedom candidate to vote for. Let's get the issues on the table. God is able. What is impossible with men is possible with God. I wish every one of you a Happy and Joy-filled New Year, a year of engagement in the battle for our culture and a year of personal growth. We serve a living God who is able to do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think".

This New Year is a great time to remind your family and friends of the value and importance of the Christian world view in preserving our freedoms. Invite them to join the CHP and add their voices to ours in a mighty chorus calling out to preserve our very rich Canadian Christian heritage.

May the Lord guide you all, strengthen your faith, and give you courage as we launch into the exciting new challenges of 2019 together.

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