

## ***"The Story & The New Year"***

*Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (January 5, 2014)*

Introduction: Happy New Year! I pray that we have resolutions that we will keep this year. In order to capitalize on this opportunity, and to build us up for the New Testament portion of **The Story**, we are going to address what matters in 2014. Consider Paul's words in **I Corinthians 3:1-3**. What does that mean to you? Let's study together....

Discussion:

### ***I. The Story Should Touch Our Hearts With His Story of Love***

- A. We should respond to our God (**John 3:16-17**)
- B. We should repair our relationship (**Acts 4:12**)
- C. We should receive our assurance (**Matthew 7:13-14**)

### ***II. The Story Should Train Our Hearts To Share His Story With Others***

- A. We should restore our commitment (**I Corinthians 15:58**)
- B. We should renovate our thinking (**Ephesians 1:17-19**)
- C. We should reconsider our mission (**Matthew 4:19**)

### ***III. The Story Should Transform Our Hearts to Live His Story in the World***

- A. We should renew our minds (**Romans 12:1-2**)
- B. We should revive our spirituality (**III John 2**)
- C. We should recruit our friends and family (**II Corinthians 5:18b-20**)

Conclusion: The "heart" is used in Scripture as the most comprehensive term for the authentic person. It represents the real and genuine part of a person. It is the part of our being where we desire, deliberate, and decide. When you look into your heart, what do you see? God sees someone who can do BIG things. Join us in our 40 days of prayer. Let God use this time to work on your heart. Let Him mold you into His image. Are you ready to get started on a new walk? Are you ready to get back on the right path? Are you ready to let God use you to do big things? Then take the steps of faith and start off with a clean slate today! Resolve to be the best you can be in 2014! Hold nothing back.