

Starting Out Right

1 John 2:6 and Luke 9:23

Pastor Myron Daum

January 4, 2015

With each New Year we have the privilege of starting out right. Over time, we all tend to wander off track ... so a fresh start can be really helpful. It helps us re-focus, recalibrate, and move forward rejuvenated.

As we follow Jesus into this New Year, we would be wise to start out right in a few key areas ...

Loving Jesus

1. **God's Word:** Read through half the OT in 2015.
2. **Spirit-Led Living:** Ask Him to fill you each day.
3. **Prayer:** Pray and fast each Wednesday.
4. **Worship:** Come prepared each Sunday.
5. **Stewardship:** Trust Him and give as He directs.

Growing Together

1. Plug into a **Growth Group**.
2. Prepare for **servant-leadership** roles.

Serving Our World

1. **Slow Pitches:** Ask the Lord for some each month.
2. **Local Outreach:** Make it part of your experience.
3. **Missions:** Understand your role in getting it done.

As the NMC family,
let's resolve together
to start out right in 2015!

By now you have discovered that all roads do not lead to God, and life is not as simple as you once thought. For those who are at this crossroad, the Bible offers a new direction, one filled with purpose, fulfillment, and acceptance. The steps are simple:

Recognize that you're a sinner.

You must admit your spiritual need. *"There is none righteous, no, not one."* (Romans 3:10). We can't make excuses or blame others for our actions. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23).

Recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus paid the price for your sin. The apostle Paul said, *"...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20).

Repent of your sins.

The word "repent" means "to change your direction." The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* (Acts 3:19). God commands us to repent. You must be willing to turn away from the things that displease God.

Accept Jesus as your Savior.

Jesus said, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28). It is essential to come to Jesus just as you are. Don't try to "clean up your life" before you come to God. Instead, receive Him and allow Him to do the "cleansing." Jesus said, *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, And the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."* (John 6:37).

With your smart device, scan the QR Code (image to the right) to access this week's Sermon-Based Study Questions (if available).

We encourage you to join a Growth Group to discuss SBSQ with others! Contact Pastor Scott for more information.



Download our free church app, North-Mar Church, from the App Store, Google Play, and Windows Store. An audio copy of today's worship service is available on CD by request at the table near our Welcome Center. Access sermon audios, sermon notes, Sermon-Based Study Questions, current information, event details, online registrations, contact listings, forms, and much more from our website, NorthMarChurch.com, and our church app.