



## Digital Missouri Message

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## Happy New Year!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Matthew 24:13 (NABRE) has recently been on my mind, "But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved." I found myself wondering just exactly what are the conditions of perseverance? Does it mean that you need to be the last man standing at the end – the final rat in the rat race? Or does it mean something else?

I believe that a hint can be found in the preceding verse of the Book of Matthew 24. Verse 12 (NABRE) states, "... and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold." However, the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.

Verse 12 notwithstanding, I now find myself wondering about the scope of love required to meet this requirement. Just exactly what should my love encompass? Love of what, or of whom, or how much? With this question we reach the point of this article, "What is the breadth of love you need to keep hot in your heart in order to achieve perseverance as it is described in Matthew 24:13?"

I cannot answer this open ended question for you as it is a part of your individual pilgrimage, but the verses below have helped to guide me.

- Matthew 22:36-38 (NABRE): "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment."
- Matthew 10:37 (NABRE): "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me ..."
- Matthew 22:39 (NABRE): "The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- Matthew 5:44 (NABRE): "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, ..."

As your New Year begins, remember that you need to keep the fires of Love burning in your heart despite the multiplication of wickedness.

I pray that each and every one of you will stay well. I look forward to visiting with each of you in the New Year!

### Dei Gratia - By the Grace of God!

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Commander

## **CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW YEAR**

The New Year is upon us and many of us have made resolutions that we promise to keep in the New Year. However, we find those resolutions put aside rather soon. Let us determine to make this New Year different. Let us discuss some resolutions, or commitments, that will make a radical difference in our lives. There are four commitments that God in His Word encourages us to make. I challenge you to make these four commitments for this New Year.

### **No. 1: Commit Yourself to Forget Your Failures**

We have all failed in some aspect of our lives during the past year. Those failures are painful memories that we cannot change. But more importantly, we know that we have failed God. Jesus died so we could be forgiven. When we receive Jesus in our lives we receive His forgiveness and that allows us to forgive ourselves and forget our failures.

### **No. 2: Commit Yourself to Give Up Your Grudges**

God tells us in the Bible to give up our grudges and forgive each other no matter what arguments we have with one another. The resentment caused by a grudge leads to unforgiving attitudes and unforgiving actions. Grudges are dangerous and destructive. Grudges can split groups apart. Grudges can hurt our soul. God wants us to set ourselves free and become forgiving individuals.

### **No. 3: Commit Yourself to Restore Your Relationships**

God tells us in the Bible to live peaceably with all people. We are encouraged to have positive relationships with each other. God wants us to work hard to maintain good relationships and, when possible, to restore our failed relationships. Again, God is encouraging us to be forgiving.

### **No. 4: Commit Yourself to Turn Your Back on Your Transgressions**

Jesus died to set our spirits free. The power of the Holy Spirit has given us freedom. However, many of us choose to ignore that freedom and to continue in sinful ways. This is the last and greatest challenge in our lives. God tells us in the Bible not to let sin rule our lives. God is challenging us to turn away from our transgressions and have victory over evil. The Holy Spirit can give us the power to overcome sin and evil.

Committing to these four challenges means that this New Year will be a changing event in your life. Are you willing to accept these challenges from God's Word and strive to achieve these commitments and make your life better? Forget your failures. Give up your grudges. Restore your relationships. Turn your back on your transgressions. Love God for He is everything.