

RBCC LOGO w/email address

January 12, 2024 (2nd Friday in January)

Graphic of Quitter's Day

<https://www.listofnationaldays.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Quitters-Day.jpg>

Graphic of Ditch ... Resolutions Day

<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/happy-ditch-new-years-resolutions-day-january-calendar-workplace-neon-text-effect-black-background-empty-space-text-copy-237586208.jpg>

Graphic + DIFFERENT

<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/new-year-logo-text-design-set-number-template-calendar-simple-icon-modern-abstract-banner-vector-graphic-illustration-270863988.jpg>

2 Chronicles 29:1-2

Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. ² He did what was **right in the Lord's sight** just as his ancestor David had done.

2 Chronicles 28:1-3

Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did **not** do what was right in the Lord's sight like his ancestor David, ² for he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and made cast images of the Baals. ³ He burned incense in Ben Hinnom Valley and burned his children in the fire, imitating the **detestable practices** of the nations the Lord had dispossessed before the Israelites.

1) The Difference: to **swim upstream (not going with the flow)**

2 Chronicles 29:3

In the **first year** of his reign, in the **first month**, he opened the doors of the **Lord's temple** and repaired them.

2) The Difference: to start **with God**

What about pressing problems? Pressing Needs? Pressing possibilities?

First **priority**, first **importance** and first **love** are always **first**.

Matthew 6:33a

But seek **first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness ...

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

Revelation 2:4

... I {Jesus} have *this* against you, that you have left your **first love**.

First **priority**, first **importance** and first **love** are always **first**.

The goal is NOT to try and get God on our side ...

3) The Difference: to start **immediately & specifically**

If first is always first, then we do not have to wait for a “feeling”, an “Ah Ha” moment, a crisis, a consequence or judgement.

2 Chronicles 29:4-5

Then he brought in the priests and Levites and gathered them in the eastern public square. ⁵ He said to them, “Hear me, Levites. **Consecrate** yourselves now and **consecrate** the temple of the Yahweh, the God of your ancestors. **Remove everything impure** from the holy place.

4) The Difference: to take the **path of consecration**

The path is **rigorous** because the goal is **magnificent!**

Revelation 22:11-17

Let the unrighteous go on in unrighteousness; let the filthy still be filthy; let the righteous go on in righteousness; let the holy still be holy.” ¹² “Look, I am coming soon, and **My reward** is with me ... ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to attest these things to you for the churches. **I am** the Root and descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ Both the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Let anyone who hears, say, “Come!” Let the one who is **thirsty** come. Let the one who desires **take the water of life freely**.

2 Chronicles 29:6-9

For our ancestors were unfaithful and did what is evil in the sight of the Lord our God. They **abandoned Him**, turned their faces away from the Lord’s dwelling place, and **turned their backs** on Him. ⁷ They also closed the doors of the portico, extinguished the lamps, did not burn incense, and did not offer burnt offerings in the holy place of the God of Israel. ⁸ Therefore, the **wrath** of the Lord was on Judah and Jerusalem, and He made them an object of terror, horror, and mockery, as you see with your own eyes. ⁹ Our fathers fell by the sword, and our sons, our daughters, and our wives are in captivity because of this.

Danger: Being held captive by a **lesser story.**

Some things only get dealt with when we get both **serious and intentional about the Lord.**

2 Chronicles 29:10-11

It is in my heart **now** to make a **covenant** with the Yahweh, the God of Israel so that His burning anger may turn away from us. ¹¹ My sons, **don’t be negligent now**, for the Lord has chosen you to stand in His presence, to serve Him, and to be His ministers and burners of incense.”

God’s **mercy does not lower the **standard**, but His standard does not diminish His **mercy**.**

5) The Difference: A powerful and eternal **Why ...**

I Chronicles 16:10-11

Boast in His holy name; let the hearts of those who **seek the Lord** rejoice. ¹¹ **Seek the Lord** and His strength; **seek His face** always.

A very important word: **NOW**

{use graphics as necessary and helpful to the content; similar to First WED}

Special Season of Seeking the Lord

- **Fast:** Wednesday, January 17th
- **Assembly:** January 18th & 21st Weekend

A Sacred Assembly: To seek Him

- **January 18/21** ☞ **Worship Service**
- **January 24th** ☞ **Fasting & Day of Prayer**

A Season of Preparation

- January 4/7 & January 11/14
- Unified Devotionals & Prayer Emphasis

Text "SACRED" to 888-744-0761

{come up one at a time ...}

The Hezekiah Difference:

- Let first be first ...
- To forsake what interferes with "first"
- To start now ...

I Chronicles 16:10-11

Boast in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. ¹¹ Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.