

Year Of The DOG



The year of the dog is upon us again. The dog is the eleventh animal in the Chinese zodiac, which influences East Asian cultures. While dogs are loved by many in the East, a “running dog” is a pejorative term referring to a lackey, or an unprincipled person. The Bible refers to dogs more than 30 times, comparing bad human behaviour to that of wild or stray dogs. In only one case is tame dogs referred to, in a favourable light.¹

Human beings are the highest creation of God, having the ability to reason and to understand the concept of worshipping the Creator. The first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve, went against God’s command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.² Since Adam was the representative head of the human race, all mankind sinned in him.³ Since the human race descended from Adam and Eve, we are all born with a sinful nature. We sin against God in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have two big problems which we are unable to overcome — our offence against God which must be punished with eternal damnation in hell, and our unclean hearts which cannot be cleansed by human effort.

The merciful God sent His only begotten Son to the world to take upon Himself perfect human nature, and to die on the cross for the sins of His chosen people. Jesus Christ’s death was no accident, but planned

by God to make atonement (payment and reconciliation) for their sins. His blood cleanses the hearts of those who belong to Him, who turn from their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness with God.⁴

This new year can be a new beginning for you to know the true God, through faith in the risen Christ. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

1. Matt. 15:26-27; Mark 7:27-28;
2. Gen. 3; 3. Rom. 5:12-19;
4. Rom. 5:6-11.

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