

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.

Contact:

狗 年



狗年再次来临。狗，源自于影响中华文化的十二生肖当中排名第十一的动物。狗是东方人所喜爱的，但“走狗”这词却带有贬义，指的是卑躬屈膝或没有原则的人。圣经里有三十多处提到狗，大多把糟糕的人品行为与野狗或流浪狗作比较。唯有一处经文还颇有好感地提到温驯的狗¹。

人类是神所创造的至高杰作，拥有理智并有能力理解敬拜创造主这概念。史上首位男人和女人，亚当与夏娃，违背了神说不可吃分别善恶树上的果子这命令²。亚当既是全人类的代表，众人在他里面就都犯了罪³。人类既是亚当与夏娃的后裔，我们一出生便有了罪性。我们在思想上、言语上、行为上都得罪了神。我们有两大难题是自己无法解决的 — 我们得罪了神必受在地狱里永死的惩罚，以及我们不洁净的心是非人所能洗净的。

慈爱的神差祂独生子来到世上，道成肉身成为完全人，并为着祂选民的罪钉死在十字架上。主耶稣基督的死并不是场意外，乃是

神所预备好的赎罪祭 (偿还他们的罪使他们得与神和好)。主的宝血能洗净祂选民的心，属于主的人必从罪中悔改并藉着信靠主求得神的赦免⁴。

这新的一年可以是你全新的开始，藉着在复活主基督的信心去认识真正的神。祝你新年快乐!

1. 太 15:26-27; 可 7:27-28;
2. 创 3;
3. 罗 5:12-19;
4. 罗 5:6-11.

联络: