*Introduction*

Well!, what sort of year has 2013 been for you?

As we look back over the past year there have been many high points and low points.

From an international standpoint - there has been disasters in the Philippines, USA and the ongoing wars in the Middle East, the death of Nelson Mandela.

From a national standpoint - there has been the birth of a prince to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the introduction of legislation that has caused controversy, the horrific murder in the street of soldier Lee Rigby.

From a personal standpoint - perhaps for you it has been a mediocre year, nothing much has happened, for others it has been a year with a change in direction, you have achieved your dream of studying at Cranfield, or it has culminated in the birth of a son, or perhaps you have had bad news regarding health or family.

Whatever type of year 2013 has been for you, its always good to say good bye to an old year and look forward to the new.

2013 2014

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Old | New |
| You did | Might do |
| Should have done | What you could do |
| Good points | Hope for great points |
| Past | Future |

We all want to break with the past and go forward into the new - to start afresh.

We make resolutions in the hope of becoming a new ME!

BUT - there is a problem?

BAGGAGE!

Throughout our lives, and throughout the past year we have all picked up baggage.

Things that have hurt us or affected us in a bad way that we drag around with us.

We never let it go.

But it is a choice!

I was impressed a few weeks ago to hear of the life of Nelson Mandela and how he had been treated over his life when he was imprisoned, and how when he was released, when he could of become bitter and resentful and gone after revenge, he just let if go and started reconciliation.

He chose to let it go and not drag it into the future.

Jesus, when he was nailed to the cross, for sins he DID NOT commit, said

"***Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34)***

SKIT GUYS - VIDEO

*Conclusion*

If 2014 is going to be different from 2013 we need to make a choice to let go of the baggage we are carrying, no matter how hurt we have been,

If you want revenge - let it go, God said

***ROM 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.***

If you are holding on to something when you do not have to, then it must be because you want to and the only person that will be hurt by it is you.

If we are hurt or worried about what others think about us - Don't, its what Jesus thinks of us that matters.

Remember also, two promises that the scriptures give to us who are in Christ:

***1.  And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Rom 8:28)***

2. ***And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ (Matt 28:20)***

Jesus came to give us life - abundant life! you can't have that with 'baggage'?

Give it to Him - Now.

Let us bow in prayer - quietly and just give it to him, all of it, let it all go.

Amen