

Sunday Evening Home Worship Guide

New Year's Freedoms

Open with prayer to God for wisdom.

Are we thankful for our freedom to gather with fellow Christians and worship? Suppose we lived in the early part of the second century and we were called before the Roman governor, Pliny the Younger, for gathering together to worship Christ. Pliny would have asked us if we called ourselves Christians. If we said "yes," he would have asked us two more times if we said we were Christians. All three times we would have been warned, if we did not deny our commitment to Christ, then we would be executed. Pliny executed Christians because they gathered to worship Jesus. Can you imagine how much a Christian in Pliny's time would value what we can do today? That we can come to church to worship Christ our Lord? The New Year is a time to be thankful for such freedom. Be free and be here!

Read Matthew 23:37.

Questions to prayerfully consider or discuss: Do we really value the opportunity to gather with our sisters and brothers in Christ to worship and fellowship? How may we be greater contributors to that worship and fellowship? How may we make 2016 a year of true worship to our Lord and Savior?

Close with prayer in thanks to God.