



**“THE TWO-FACED MONTH”  
JANUARY 2010**

Are you ready for a new year? For a new decade? In just a few days, it will be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The beginning of a new year is a time to look in two directions. We look back and give thanks for God’s guidance in the past. We also look ahead with hope for what the new year will bring.

Have you ever seen those ancient coins that depict two faces looking in opposite directions? The image seems strange to our modern eyes. These coins feature the image of Janus, a god in Roman mythology. To the ancient Romans, Janus was the “god of the doorway.” The two faces of Janus point in opposite directions. This mythological god was thus able to look back into the past and forward into the future. Janus symbolized change and transition. It is no surprise that the Romans named the first month of the year January in honor of Janus. January was the “door to the new year.”

Will we look in both directions on January 1<sup>st</sup>? So many of us have short memories. We forget God’s guiding hand throughout the past year. The psalmist says, “Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works that he has done.” (Psalm 105:4-5) The memory of God’s past faithfulness gives us strength and hope for the future. Paul writes, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14) For Paul, the future has possibilities and opportunities. Remember, January is the two-faced month.

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