

## What's behind? Forget it!

## What's ahead? Go for it!

We have entered a New Year, the year of our Lord 2009. We need some good advice from our heavenly Father as we enter 2009. Here it is, in Philippians 3:10-13:

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,<sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.<sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting** what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Here the Word of God is giving all of us some very practical advice and some excellent recommendations as we have entered a NEW YEAR.

When I think back over 2008 there are many things I would like to have done differently. For example I would like to have spent more time in reading and meditating on God's Word, more time in prayer, more time in witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ, more time in doing physical exercise, more time walking, more time in swimming, more time with the family, more time playing with my daughter, more time in visiting the members of Calvary Life Fellowship, more time corresponding with friends and family far away and the list goes on...

Yet there is nothing I can do about now, I cannot undo the wrongs I did in 2008 and I am also unable to do any more good in 2008. No doubt you have a long list as well.

God's Word is telling us FORGET WHAT IS BEHIND. We cannot change it, we cannot repair it, we cannot undo it, we cannot fix it.

So what is the challenge for the year 2009? "Straining toward what is ahead and I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

The Goal is to win the prize for which God has called me. So it is important to discover what God has called us to do.

No. 1 Is given in Philippians 3:10, "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in his death,<sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

**To know Christ.** How do we know Christ? By reading and meditating on His Word. To read the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and study the Life of Christ.

What was his life style? He lived a life of discipline and simplicity

What were His goals? To do the Will of His Father

How did He handle temptations? His only weapon was the Word of God.

How did He relate to others? He was a friend of sinners, he was a friend of children

**The power of His resurrection.** This means experiencing the resurrected Christ living His life in and through us.

The Fellowship of His sufferings becoming like Him in death.

Romans 6:1-4, What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life.**

**So Goal No. 1 is to know Christ better and live a new Life, HIS LIFE**

### **No. 2. Read the Bible more.**

Joshua 1:8, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

We need to pay close attention to what God is telling us.

(1) Meditate of the Word of God day and night

(2) Be careful to do everything written in it

**WHAT HAPPENS? YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE IT SEEMS SO SIMPLE  
YOU WILL BE BECOME PROSPEROUS AND SUCCESSFUL**

Who in our fellowship this morning wants to be poor and fail in everything you do in the year 2009?

I saw No hands go up! Now the next question Who in our fellowship would like to be prosperous and successful in the year 2009? I believe all of us want to be successful and prosperous in this year.

The formula is in Joshua 1:8 LET'S READ IT.

### **No. 3. Pay the Lord what belongs to Him.**

Malachi 3:8-10 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, `How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

10% of our income and offerings belong to the Lord. Imagine what happens if we steal from God!!! God's Word says we are under a curse.

**What happens when we pay to God His share?** God will pour out so much blessing that we don't have enough room for it.

Now who would like to be blessed in the year 2009?

#### **No. 4. Be faithful to the Lord**

Matthew 25:21, "His master replied, 'Well done, good and **faithful** servant! You have been **faithful** with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**What happens when we are faithful? God will put us in charge of many things.**

#### **No. 5, Live a holy life before men and God.**

Hebrews 12:14, Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to **be holy**; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

1 Peter 1:15, "But just as He who called you is holy, so **be holy** in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "**Be holy**, because I am holy."

What happens when we live holy lives? WE WILL SEE THE LORD.

#### **No. 6. Forgive people who sin against you.**

Matthew 6:14, "For if you **forgive** men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also **forgive** you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not **forgive** men their sins, your Father will not **forgive** your sins."

**No. 7.** 1 Thessalonians 5:16, **Be joyful always;** <sup>17</sup> **pray continually;** <sup>18</sup> **give thanks** in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

#### **No. 8. Pray continually. Communication with our Father**

**No. 9, Give thanks in all things. The language of obedience.**

**No. 10. Test everything 1 Thessalonians 5:21 The standard is the Word of God.**