

HOW TO MAKE 2009 THE BEST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE

Message Number Two

Last week we brought the first message in a series on "Making 2009 the Best Year of Your life."

Let's take a moment or two to review some of the things we said last week.

Not Trouble Free

When I speak of the best year of your life I did not mean it will be the best year of your life because you won't have any trials, heartache, or pain. You can have the best year of your life in spite of the trials, heartaches and pains.

Keith Family

Speaking of trials and troubles, let me tell you what has happened in my family since we met last Sunday.

Last Wednesday Night, my grandchildren, Will and Liz had a fire that burned down their home completely.

They moved into a double-wide in which Will's grandparents had lived in.

Late last night they were all in bed when Liz smelled smoke. She woke Will up, got the kids out and ran down to her brother Bill's house and woke him up. A fire had started somewhere above the ceilings and the entire house burned down. They got out just in time.

This time it was worse! They not only lost everything but the clothes they were wearing, the Yearty family lost all of their family's papers, pictures, documents, and things that should have been in a

museum somewhere.

Everything burned up this time. In the last fire, Liz's camera, computer, and hard drive were in the car and they were saved. This time they lost everything, including her purse and Will's new guitar.

Their Response

Did Will and Liz lie down and give up? Did they get mad at God and quit going to church? No! They played in the Praise Band in both services today in Otter Creek and they will play and sing here next week.

Put God First

My messages are a "How To" series on Matthew 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

HOW DOES A PERSON PUT GOD FIRST?

1. First, that person must be saved. You trust Jesus as Savior and Lord.
2. Second, you give God the First Part of every day.
3. Third, you give God the First Day of every week.
4. Fourth, you give God the First Dime out of every dollar.

**LAST WEEK
GIVE GOD THE FIRST PART OF
EVERY DAY**

1. Thirty minutes a day. Early morning is best.

2. The Right Tools: A notebook, a pen or pencil, and a Bible you are comfortable with.

3. Prayer and Read your Bible

Last week we focused on how to pray effectively and intelligently. Today we will focus on reading your Bible. For a quick review let me go down the list.

- Praise
- Thanksgiving
- Confession
- Intercession
- Petition

HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE

Now that you have finished praying, it is time to read from God's Word and write down the things the Holy Spirit teaches you.

1. Decide How Much to Read

The first thing you should do is to decide, in advance, how much you plan to read each day. Here are some suggestions:

- Read the verses for the day suggested in the Daily Bread. Today's verse are 2 Timothy 3:10-17.
- Or you may decide to read the entire Bible through this year. If that is the case, you will read: Genesis 10-12 and Matthew 4.

- Or, you may choose to read one book of the Bible. If you do, read a little every day and don't stop until you've read that entire book.

2. Take Notes.

It's important to memorize Scripture. Hide I in your year. But it's also important to write things down when God teaches you something.

SUGGESTED NOTES

1. What Brand New Thought did I learn from these verses today? Write it down and save it.

2. Is there a Sin did mentioned in today's reading I should avoid?

3. Is there a Command in today's reading God expects me to obey?

4. Is there a Question in today's reading that was answered today?

- Do souls sleep or do they know what's going on? (Luke 16)
- Do people go to heaven or hell immediately or do they spend time in purgatory first?
- Will Jesus return before He sets up His Kingdom or will the church be successful and set it up and then He will come and reign?
- Did God cast Israel away because they rejected Christ or does God have a plan for Israel in the latter days?

- Will there ever be peace on earth?
- Should Christians be involved in politics?
- Is it alright to have sex before marriage if you are engaged or really love each other?
- Were there ever cave men and dinosaurs on earth?
- Is it alright for a Black person to marry a White person?

Did you know that Moses married a Black woman? Yes! And his sister and brother were upset and "got all over Moses." Did you know what God did to them? He gave Miriam leprosy. God didn't give Aaron leprosy because, if He had, Aaron was the High Priest and he would have been banned from the priesthood.

5. Is there a subject in today's reading that I would like to know more about?

The most interesting notes you will have are the new thoughts God teaches you as you read His Word

1. You will grow spiritually.
2. God's Word will purify your life. **(Psalm 119:9)** "How will a young man stay pure? By reading your Word and following it's rules." (LB)
3. God's Word will make you wise.

4. God's Word will make you strong (Psalm 1)

1. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful .

2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away .

5. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

6. IS THERE A PROMISE I CAN CLAIM? (This was left out Sunday and it is one of the most important points).

There are more than 3,000 promises from God to His children, found in the Bible. As you read God's Word daily you will discover them. Write them down and remind God that you believe Him.

This message was preached by Pastor Gene Keith on January 4, 2009 in the Countryside Baptist Church of Gainesville, Florida. You may correspond with Gene by calling (352) 332-1493 or by Email @ gk122532@bellsouth.net. You may also visit our church website: cbcgainesville.net and get a PDF copy of this message.
