

WHAT DOES THE NEW YEAR HOLD?

(Scripture: James 4:13-15)

Today is January 1st, 2012.
The year 2011 is gone forever.

Some may be wondering, “What will the new year hold for us?”

Will there be weddings?

Will there be funerals?

Will there be births?

Will there be good times?

Will there be bad times?

Will there be changes that we don’t like?

Will there be changes that are good?

For man, the future is completely unpredictable;
and while we can expect some things to happen,
we really don’t know what is going to happen,
and we should not spend our time worrying about what **might** happen
(Matt. 6:34) *“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow
shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the
evil thereof”*;

but we should always say,

“If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that” (James 4:15).

So what will the New Year hold, if the Lord wills?

The New Year holds TIME!

Not counting today, we have before us

12 months,

52 weeks,

365 days,

8,760 hours,

525,600 minutes, and
31,536,000 seconds.

Anyway you look at it, we have time given to us.
We can only live that time one moment at a time.

Each moment is precious, priceless, and loaded with potential for us to do that which is good and right, pure and holy.

But, there is also the potential for us to use our time to do that which is evil and wrong, rotten and defiled.

How will we use our time in 2012?

Let us not give our time to Satan, but redeem each moment doing the Lord's will (Eph. 5:16)!

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Meaning:

We need to walk wisely (live wisely).

We need to use our time wisely.

Read: Eph. 5:15

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise"

"Walk Circumspectly"

Meaning:

We need to walk carefully.

We need to use our time carefully.

We need to manage our time wisely.

The New Year holds OPPORTUNITY!

We should pray for opportunity,

but we should also pray for the resources to be able to take advantage of the opportunities we have!

Health, family, friends, fellow Christians, financial means, talents, and many other things are all resources that we all need to make the most of our opportunities.

We can take appropriate advantage of those resources for good or we can neglect them.

We also need to pray for the ability to recognize the presence of an opportunity.

Many times when opportunity knocks, we don't hear it.

And even though we hear it, we become passive and hesitate to open the door.

Let's be on the alert for ways in which we can do that which is good toward all men (Gal. 6:10).

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

As there is a proper season for reaping, there is likewise a proper season for sowing.

So, as this year 2012 comes to us, let us sow to the Spirit by doing good.

The New Year holds OPTIMISM!

A new year is not a time to be pessimistic and think of all the terrible things that **could** happen to us.

Rather, it is a time for us to think positive! BE OPTIMISTIC!

Out of all of the people on the earth, the Christian has the knowledge to be optimistic. THINK POSITIVE!

We know that Jesus was raised from the dead.

We know that the life of the Christian is the best life one could live.

We know that one day Jesus will come again!

The faithful child of God has every reason to rejoice and nothing which to worry about (Phil. 4:4-8) ⁴*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.* ⁵*Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is*

at hand. ⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

The New Year holds WORK!

Since God created man, God has expected man to work to some degree. Man's first job was to tend and keep the garden (Gen. 2:15) “*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*”.

Today we have a God-given work as well.

Jesus has exemplified this work for us in his mission to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10) “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*”.

The church has the same work today.

We must use the year 2012 fulfilling the mission that Jesus has for His body, the church.

We can fulfill this mission through our works of

benevolence for the needy,

edification of the saved, and

evangelism for the lost.

If we plant and water it, then God will give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6) “*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.!*”

Each day that passes in this New Year, let us consider how we can be involved in this great work!

The New Year holds so much more than what we have set forth here, but these four things are definite starting points for us to make this New Year a great one.

So what will the New Year hold, if the Lord wills?

The New Year holds **time, opportunity, optimism, and work.**

These four things are starting points for us to make this New Year a great one.

Let us therefore put our hands to the **WORK**,
with an **OPTIMISTIC** attitude,
using our **TIME** wisely to serve the Lord and
looking for those **OPPORTUNITIES** ever before us!

May God bless this New Year for the church of Christ at Golden Gate!