



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

When you look in the mirror, what do you think of yourself? Everyone must face himself/herself. Unfortunately, some people do not enjoy the companionship of self. They dislike themselves, even to the point of self directed hostility. There are about four ways a person can handle one's self.

First, if I do not like myself, I can commit suicide. Each year, tens of thousands of Americans write themselves a one-way ticket to the cemetery. Many more thousands try. Others settle for a living oblivion via drugs and alcohol.

A second way to handle myself is selfish rebellion. If I can't have what I want, neither will you. So, I make life a hell for others as I take out my resentment by robbing, killing, raping or intimidation. I'm not happy and you're not going to be either!

Third, I can choose self-resignation. At best, this is a passive and slavish submission to the status quo. It becomes a whining acquiescence to "what is to be will be".

Hopefully, most of us will opt for the best alternative of self-acceptance. Not a blind submission to fate, but a willingness to fight today's battles with today's resources. A willingness to accept responsibility for ourselves and not squander our lives trying to place blame on someone else.

I think this must have been what Alfred Lord Tennyson had in mind when he wrote the words: "***God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference between the two.***"

This prayer is a really good perspective with which to begin the new year. Do what you can and then have the confidence that you can leave everything else in God's hands!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

As the Year of Our Lord 1642 rolled around, some big changes were underway in England. That year, with the king and Parliament at odds with one another, Parliament did away with the longstanding Episcopal system of government in the Church of England. Over a period of six years, an assembly of ministers and laymen, what we know as the Westminster Assembly, in the face of opposition by the king, produced a catechism that is still in use to this day. The first principle in the Westminster Shorter Catechism reads, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." Whatever that historic assembly got wrong, it got that one thing very right. To glorify God is to enjoy God, and to do both fulfills man's ultimate purpose in life.

As we start a new year, perhaps this is a good time to examine ourselves and identify any areas that are not glorifying to God and that we are not enjoying. We should make it our resolution to glorify God and enjoy Him all year long in every area of our lives.

The RBC Men's Group will meet for breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, January 21. Be there at 7:30 AM and we'll feed your body and spirit. See you then!



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jeanne Fruh

"Lord, when I am hungry, give me someone needing food. When I am thirsty, send me someone needing a drink. When I am cold, send me someone to warm. When I am grieved, send me someone to console. When my cross grows heavy, let me carry another's cross, too. When I am poor, send me someone in need. When I have no time, give me someone I can help a little while. When I am humiliated, let me have someone to praise. When I am dishonored, send me someone to cheer. When I need understanding, give me someone who needs more. When I need to be looked after, give me someone to care for. When I think only of myself, draw my thoughts to another." (Quote taken from *Prayer Vitals*, author unknown.)



YOUTH NOTES

Radu Pasca

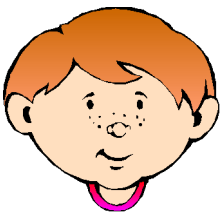
I don't make New Year's resolutions. However I do think about how the previous year went and what I desire to see in the new year. Hoping that I have learned something in 2011 and assuming I may be a little wiser, I pondered about what would help me in my spiritual life as well as in my family life. There are three things I believe will bring quality to my 2012.

First, I want to live / practice what I already know about God. Certainly I hope I'll know more about God, but I'm beginning to believe that God is more interested that I apply to my living what I already know about Him.

Secondly, I purpose to say "NO" more often. It seems we are so busy, we don't have time to just sit in the grass and notice the bugs and the flowers. Overcommitted people do not have time to notice the needs and the beauty that God has placed around them. Also, I want to say "NO" to self. Just because we CAN have something does not mean we need it or have to have it. Self-control is the fruit of the spirit after all.

Finally, I want to make a conscious effort to view each day as a special gift from God. The younger one is, the less likely he will appreciate the gift of time. The truth is, no one knows the number of days God gave to each one of us as a gift. In the light of this, I conclude that people (relationships) are more precious than things (money). The time we have with our families is very precious.

May your 2012 be better than ever, and may you be more like Jesus Christ.



KIDSTUFF Kathy Sanders

Happy New Year! I am so looking forward to what the new year holds in store for our

children's ministry here at Redeemer. Whether you make a resolution or not, the first of the year always holds the promise of new beginnings. Is God leading you to become more involved in the ministries of our church? Do you have a concern and love for our little ones? We would love to provide YOU the opportunity to work with our children - be it nursery, children's church, AWANAs, Sunday evening program - whatever! Contact myself or Marla DeZern and we will help you get "plugged in".

Got something brand new on the horizon to share with you. Cheryl England and her helpers are going to work with our children during the children's church hour (during AM worship) on an Easter play entitled Its All Because of Jesus. The Real Story of Easter and Why it Matters. Cheryl will present a Bible lesson during this time, as well as helping the kids learn their parts and songs. They will present the play during AM worship on Palm Sunday, April 8. I am so excited about this prospect - the first time in my memory that we've done an Easter program. It will be a great experience - a learning experience - and you are going to want your child to participate. Plan on perfect attendance during the 11 o'clock hour on Sunday mornings as well as a couple of Saturday rehearsals. The reward will be great!



2012 is now upon us and we are excited to see just what the Lord has in store for us this new year! Parents/Kids remember to invite your friends and neighbors to Awana. The great thing about this ministry

is that you can join any time, the material is self-paced, so you will never really feel that you are ever behind everyone else. Now for some great, exciting news.....Later this month we will be having our First Annual Awana Grand Prix!!....What is that you say?.... it is a pinewood derby style outreach event that began in 1964 primarily geared to fathers to draw them to Awana Club to hear the Gospel. We will be part of approximately 200,000 boys and girls that compete annually in more than 5,000 Grand Prix events nationwide! The Awana Grand Prix is a family oriented affair that allows the clubbers to express their ingenuity in creating, building and racing their own wooden cars. Awards are given for both design and speed. We will be holding our very first Grand Prix on Saturday, January 28th. at 2 PM. Prior to that on Saturday the 21st. we will be having a "Grand Prix Construction Workshop" right after the Men's Breakfast. Some of the guys will stay to help anyone that still may need help working on their cars. You will see more information about this and other events on the bulletin board located by the sanctuary. Keep our Awana club in your prayers as we begin this new year and continue to seek ways to reach out to the community.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY Julie Zgorzynski

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012!! May your New Year start out fresh with new beginnings.

January 14 will be our "Refreshing Moments" massage time. Sign ups are January 1 and 8th. Activity is from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 14th. Neck/Shoulder and/or feet massages are being offered. We will also be offering Jamba Juices but please remember your orders. They'll be labeled with your name in the refrigerator. There will be childcare offered BUT YOU MUST CALL JULIE 303-617-1484 TO GET SIGNED UP!!

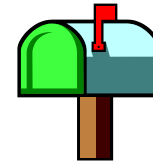
SECOR's Food Closet item for the month is "boxed meals".

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Redeemer Reflections

A Newsletter of Redeemer Baptist Church
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TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS

In preparing to write this column, I have been looking at the pages of my monthly calendar for last year. It has been a bitter/sweet time for our fellowship. We saw some record numbers in VBS and youth events. Babies were added to our nursery and we had four weddings. We mourned the loss of two teenagers and one young adult in death. Our ministry was extended through a Builders for Christ mission trip and a VBS mission trip by our youth. The economy took its toll on our finances, but we met our obligations and managed to end the year with a surplus of \$1,125! Our fellowship is sweet, with a real spirit of service!

It's much easier to look back and see what was than it is to look to the future and see what might be. In looking back, we can see the power and provision of God in our ministry, SO, we can look to the future and know that the same will be true. God does not change and as long as we seek to make His lordship our priority, He will always provide, preside and protect! As the old song says, *"many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand."*

What a tremendous sense of peace that assurance brings! The God who reigns from the throne of heaven to the pit of hell holds my hand! Nothing ever takes Him by surprise! I will never experience anything that He hasn't already overcome! I will never walk anywhere that He hasn't already been! *"The light of His presence with me doth continually dwell!"*

The Redeemer fellowship wishes to claim this sense of peace and security for all of you dear "out-of-towners". Your willingness to walk with us makes us a most blessed family. We don't ever want to take our relationship with you for granted! God bless you in all your efforts, wherever you are! We love you!!