

New Years Eve's Eve

12-30-09

“What If? A Challenge to Christians in 2010”

I. **INTRO:**

A. David Pham told me his kids call this evening, “*New Years Adam*”. That is, the night before *New Years Eve* (cuz **Adam** came before Eve). So welcome to “*New Years Adam*”!

B. Communion Companion:

1. You could say Jesus died to become your companion!
2. Because the word **companion** literally means, *1 with whom bread is shared* (*com* with + *pani* bread).
3. He desires to share His bread with you, a meal with you, fellowship with you, but 1st...His life with you!
4. Child of God, Jesus has an invitation for us, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will **sup**(eat) with him, and he with me.” Rev. 3:20
 - a) You are welcome at *anytime during worship* to come up & take your communion back to your seat, & partake on your own.

C. Let's start w/a 4 minute video called “*Did You Know?*” [I saw ACSI; friend of Jen Wagner]

1. Dan.12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase**.

II. **WHAT IF? A Challenge to Christians in 2010!**

A. *What If* are to be words of **Adventure & Faith**.

B. **A Challenge to...**

C. *A challenge to live* not only a **Personal** & Transforming relationship with **God**, but a **Public** & Transforming relationship with **the world**.

D. *A challenge to not just believe*, but **love** your neighbors, & even our enemies.

E. *A challenge to go be* the Good News!

1. James 2:18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith **by my works**.
2. True Religion is a religion w/feet!

F. *A challenge to make* your faith public.

G. *A challenge to see life* as so much more than God & yourself (i.e. the world).

H. *A challenge to Live in High Definition...*

1. Jazz musician, *George Benson* entitled a song, “*Living in High Definition*”.

2. High Definition is a High Resolution, speaking of the **detail** an image holds.
3. **Are you living out your spiritual life in:** Grainy black & white? **Technicolor?** HD? or **Blue Ray?** (standard DVD uses a 650 nanometer **red laser** to read the disk; Blu-ray uses a shorter wavelength, a 400 nanometer **blue laser**, allows for almost **10 x's** more data storage)

I. **Resolutions are Biblical!**

J. Rom.14:13 **Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.**

K. **David** resolved regarding God's word: **See** Ps.119:15,16

1. **I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate**(look into) **Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.**

L. **Daniel** resolved to live a clean life: **See** Dan.1:8

1. But Daniel **purposed** in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
2. He proved that even as a small minority in a foreign land, he could still **trust & serve** the Lord w/**integrity & faith** in a world of compromise & fear & **so can we!**
3. **News Flash: "It is possible to serve God in Babylon!"**
 - a) So Daniel, the Jewish teenager was deported to Babylon.
 - b) He would be trained in *Chaldean Philosophy & language*.
 - c) Chaldeans were the learned class of their day. They were educated in Science; Mathematical Astronomy; Astrology, Divination, & Rituals.
4. **Q: How do you protect your mind from *Babylonian Brainwashing*?**
 - a) Keep your **Heart washed**, prevents **Brain-wash!**
 - b) Prov. 4:23 **Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.**
5. **Nothing should shake our faith! - Not a New Home; New Knowledge; New Diet; nor a New name!**
 - a) We must Confront our Culture with Convictions!
6. Daniel showed not only how to **serve** God in Babylon **but** how to **abound** in Babylon.
 - a) **As Joseph served in Egypt; Esther in Persia; & The young Jewish maiden under Naaman in Syria.** [It's **doable** no mater how bad our government gets; no matter how much in debt our country goes; etc.] (oh, it scares me but...)

M. I'll tell you what I'm tired of in 2009:

1. I'm tired of **Obama** conspiracy theories; I'm tired of hearing from our pulpits that **politics** is the answer (i.e. If we only had a Christian government); I'm tired of living for self; I'm tired of the idea that Christianity is all about North American Christians (& if 90% of our church finances are spent on us, that's where our heart is also); I'm tired of pointing our finger at other Christians, other churches, other denominations; I'm tired of finding the *1 thing* I can disagree with, rather than *the many* points we agree on.

N. **Turning Over a New Leaf!**

O. In the Feeding of the 5000 in all 4 gospels, they are told to *gather the fragments!*

1. Jn.6:12 **Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.**

P. **Ok, why gather the fragments?**

1. So we don't presume on miraculous interventions?
2. If God sends us an **overage & we waste part**, maybe He may not intervene to supply us the next time we are in need?
3. Do not despise **economy** amid **plenty**?
4. **Application:** Gather up the fragments of *spiritual lessons learned* in 2009, don't waste them.
 - a) Take time to access: *"What you learned?" "What He showed you?"*

Q. Ps.90:12 **So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

R. **What If 2010 is the year that you...Turned over a new leaf!**

1. **Means?** Leaf = page; where we get loose-leaf.
2. **So turn over a new page.** [White, clean, fresh, new]
 - a) Such potential, such possibilities, such hope.
 - b) *No matter what a man's past may have been, his future is spotless.* John R. Rice

S. **What If 2010 is the year that you...Stopped looking back and started look up to Jesus.**

1. Eccl.7:10 **Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.**
 - a) **Oh, the Good ol' days!** - It has been said, "the good old days are the combination of a **bad memory & a good imagination!**"
 - b) Don't live in the **past**, decide to live for **today!**

T. **What If 2010 is the year that you...Returned to your first love!**

U. **What If 2010 is the year that you...Conquer your negative attitude!**

V. **What If 2010 is the year that God...Restores your marriage!**

- W. What If 2010 is the year that you... Live a life that **matters**, a life that **counts**!
- X. What If 2010 is the year that you... Enjoy once again, **personal witnessing**!
- Y. What If 2010 is the year that we... “Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” Is.1:17
- Z. What If 2010 is the year that we... Help the poorest people in our world who suffer from hunger, homelessness, illiteracy & sickness. **By responding with food, shelter, education, & medicine.**
- AA. What If 2010 is the year that we take a stand against... Human trafficking; children exploited in the sex trade; child soldiers; the 27 million who live enslaved every year.