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January 2008!!

Welcome 2008!! Perhaps now at this time of the year more than any, are we reminded of the passing of time. Whenever we are called upon to write the date, we are confronted with the fact that 2007 is gone and now it's 2008. Like the waters of the mighty Mississippi that continue to flow past our cities and towns, so also does time continue to flow. As you stand and watch the water of a river or stream pass by, remember this, that same patch of water will never pass by there again. So it is with time, each second, minute, hour, day, or year that passes by is gone forever. That is a very sobering thought when we consider the time that God has given us to reach a lost world. The time that we have with strangers, our loved ones, co-workers, friends, or our church family will never pass by this way again. Each and every one of us has been given an amount of time; let's not waste the time that's been given to us. Ephesians 5: 15 & 16 says, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." To walk circumspectly means to conduct ourselves in a way that is discreet, or watchful with attention to danger and the means of safety. Is it not dangerous to live in disobedience to God, knowing that one day we will stand before Him? A preacher told of a time when he visited another preacher who was on his deathbed. The preacher that was about to die had a fearful look about him that puzzled the visiting preacher. The dying preacher was known for his many faithful years of service to the Lord. That night, the visiting preacher prayed and asked God why the old preacher was afraid to die? The answer came almost immediately, the reason he was afraid to meet his maker was not because of what he had done, but rather because of what he had not done; and now it was too late.

Let us therefore be wise with the time that we have left. In John 9:4 Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

In 2008, let us use the time to do what God wants us to do, because as Jesus said there will come a time when we won't be able to do it. "The night cometh, when no man can work."

If you need to forgive someone, then do it. If you need forgiveness, then ask for it. If you don't tithe, then start tithing. If you are suppose to give, then give. If you don't pray, then start praying today. It's never too late to begin doing the will of God. Remember the story Jesus told in Matthew 20: 1-16. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven was like a man that hired laborers to work in his vineyard. He hired workers in the morning, at noon, in the afternoon, and then finally in the last hour of the day. All were paid the same wage, it didn't matter when they

had begun working, what mattered was that they were employed and working when time was over. This is not an excuse to delay in doing what God has called us to do, but rather a warning that we must be doing the work of God when time is over, or we will receive no pay at all and none of us knows when our time is up.

2008 is here; let us devote our time to God and His will because King Jesus Is Returning.

God Bless,
Michael Wortman

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.

Dear God, I have a problem, it's Me.

There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.

Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.

Do the math....count your blessings.

Faith is the ability to not panic.

If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.

As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.

Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.

The most important things in your house are the people.

When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

He who dies with the most toys is still dead.

Happy New Year