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January 2011

2011 will give us many opportunities to walk in Christ or in this world's system. In Matthew 21:28-31 Jesus tells us of a certain man that had two sons and asked them to go work in his vineyard. The first son said, "I will not but later repented and went." The second son said, "I will go but never did." Jesus asked which son did his father's will and the answer was, the first son. As we look at that story, we see God wants a response from the heart and not the mouth from His people. How many Christians live their life as the second son? They say one thing and do something totally opposite. In Luke 15:11-32 there is a story of a father that had two sons also. We call this story the story of the prodigal son. The first son was the youngest and one day he asked his father for his inheritance. The father divided the inheritance between the two sons. Not long after that the

youngest son went into a far country and spent all he had on wild living. Soon he found himself homeless, hungry and naked. He came to himself and went home to his father and told him he was so sorry and repented of his ways. Just make me one of your hired servants he said to his father. The father was so glad that his son had returned home he gave him a welcome home party. The father put a robe on him and a ring on his finger and killed the fatted calf for the party. Now the eldest son was in the field working and when he came in he heard the sound of singing. What is all of this he asks? They told him his brother had come home and his father is giving him a welcome home party. The eldest son was so angry that he wouldn't go into the party. His father came out to talk with him to get him to come in. Here are the words of the eldest son. These many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment and yet

thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends, but as soon as this thy son was come which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. Now here is the father's response. Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was right that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again, and was lost and is found.

The eldest son is like so many Christians today. They serve God under a cloud working in the field, obeying every command but never able to enjoy the Lord and His provision. The eldest son served his father grudgingly (to be envious or discontented). This son was given the same inheritance as the youngest but never enjoyed the blessings of it.

Pastor Kenny Continues.....

The father told him, you could have had a feast for you and your friends at any time but you didn't. In essence the father was saying you are the one that has made being my son a joyless experience. Serving Christ should be the most joyful and fulfilling experience of our lives. Too many Christians are driven trying to please God.

We can only please God when we put our trust, hope and faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. Christ is all in all. He is all peace, all joy, and all righteousness. As we trust in Him, we will walk in obedience to His will for our lives. If you are a child of God, then all that is His is yours. You can enjoy the Lord, His presence and peace. You don't have to work like He is an evil master and you are His slave. Part of walking in faith is the knowledge that I am accepted in Christ.

Colossians 3:2-4 set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God 4) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him glory.

Our prayer for you this year is that you will walk with Christ in all He has given to the Church (His Bride) and walk in Victory.

*In Christ,
Pastor Ken Geisendorfer*

Help us reach our Monthly Goal by remembering to fulfill your pledge to
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***What Will You Do
With This Year That's So New?***

As we start a new year
untouched and unmarred,
Unblemished and flawless,
unscratched and unscarred,
May we try to do better and accomplish much more
And be kinder and wiser
than in the year gone before ~
Let us wipe our slates clean
and start over again,

For God gives this privilege to all sincere men
Who will humbly admit they have failed many ways
But are willing to try and improve these "new days"

By asking God's help in all that they do
And counting on Him to refresh and renew
Their courage and faith when things go wrong
And the way seems dark
and the road rough and long ~

*What Will You Do
With This Year That's So New???*
The choice is yours ~ God leaves that to You!

...choose you this day whom ye will serve...
Joshua 24:15

