

Brushy Fork Baptist Church

A Light to the Counties and to the World

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome 2012

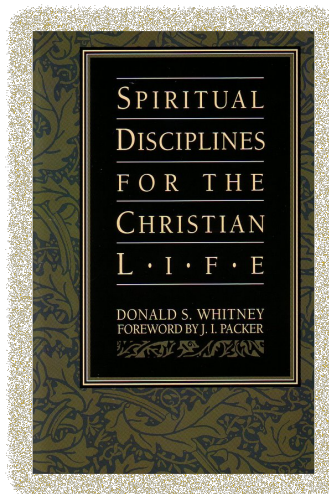
Our Greatest Need in 2012

“You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16) is a command that I wish inspired me, but all too often it just brings guilt. In this verse, Peter is calling his audience to follow Jesus and to use his life as an example for proper conduct. Paul in much the same vein says, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). He is calling the believers in Corinth to follow his example as he in turn follows Christ’s example.

As I look at both Peter and Paul’s words recorded in Scripture and I look forward to a new year, I am reminded that I need to be ever more diligent in disciplining myself for godliness. God has given me, in fact God has given his church, the responsibility to take the gospel to people that do not know him. The most important way that we can prepare ourselves for taking the gospel to a lost and dying world is through disciplining ourselves for godliness. But, what does it mean to discipline yourself for godliness? And, how does one go about doing it?

Paul is the one that commanded Timothy to discipline himself for godliness (1 Tim. 4:7). Since, this command is not just meant for Timothy but for the whole church. We cannot ignore it, but what does it mean? Donald Whitney has written a very helpful book titled *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, and he has compiled 10 ways that believers throughout history have sought to follow Paul’s command to Timothy.

1. Bible Intake
2. Prayer
3. Worship



4. Evangelism
5. Serving
6. Stewardship
7. Fasting
8. Silence and Solitude
9. Journaling
10. Learning

I plan to re-read this book over the next 13 weeks (the book has 13 chapters), and try to implement these means of discipline, so that I can be more faithful in my obedience to Christ this year. I encourage you to pick up this book at your local Bible book store or let me know and I can get one for you. I

pray that we will take Paul’s advice to Timothy and discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness. If we do, I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us in 2012.

written by Chris Clemans



Missionary Stories

John Philip (1775-1851) was a missionary to South Africa during the 19th century. His story is an example of God’s providence and the effects that one man can have over a whole country. God’s hand of providence can be seen by the way that God placed Philip in the exact right place at the exact right time. He was born in Scotland to a heirloom weaver who was making a move from the lower to upper middle class in Scottish society. What had happened in Scotland was that Adam Smith’s laissez-faire economics had taken root and Scotland was seeing the disappearance of the lowest class if they were

willing to work hard. Philip's father was able to make this jump from the lower to upper middle class and Philip never forgot the economic principles that advanced his family.

While he was a young man, Philip was powerfully converted by the gospel. He then dedicated his life to the Lord's service. Since the economy was moving in the right direction, Philip was able to go to London and study religion at Huxton. He graduated and took a church back in Scotland, but the Lord did not leave him there. Instead, the Lord called him to South Africa as a missionary. Specifically, he was the Director of the London Missionary Society in South Africa.

As Philip worked amongst the missionaries and the natives of South Africa, the abuses of the natives by the colonial settlers and the government deeply concerned him. He sought to win their freedom (they were enslaved in their own native land), and he was able to secure the freedom of those who lived within the boundaries of the colony of Cape Town, South Africa. Yet, he was unable to secure the freedom and protection of those outside the boundaries of the colony. It was this last fight that would send Philip to his grave with many regrets. He was unable to sway the colonial government to protect the natives outside of the colony, and it was these later abuses that propelled South Africa into what we know as apartheid (a formal policy of both political and economic discrimination against non-European races in South Africa).

Even though Philip was ultimately unsuccessful in winning the total freedom of the natives of South Africa,

we still see a man that was totally committed to the Word of God and the equality of every human being. He fought for the underdog and he sought to promote government policies that would aid all men governed by the colonial government. He is a true missionary and a true spiritual hero.

written by Chris Clemans

Youth Shout Out

Happy New Year!

First of all, I can't thank everyone enough for all the prayers and encouragement throughout all of 2011.

You have been such a blessing to me, and I can't express my thanks enough.

That being said, there is still much work to do. Continued prayer is needed. Pray that we would be able to reach young people for Christ in the coming year. I am in need of contact information so if you know any youth then please pass their name and at least their phone number on to me. You can also invite them to come out to our Wednesday and Sunday youth services.

Our first event this year is called Disciple Now. It is an overnight event of intense Bible study with a lot of fun and food. The highlight will be a snow tubing trip to Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg. \$20 + the cost of a fast food meal will cover the entire weekend. You can't beat that!

I pray 2012 is a great year for all!

written by Josh McClure



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