

Sunday Evening: January 2, 2011
Luke 10

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THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT: STRENGTH

*Copies of today's messages are available through the church office
and may be ordered by calling 526-7108

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Monday

Phil. 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Paul writes these words to the church in Philippi, and I am confident that the same is true for you. God does not start a work to leave it incomplete. And YOU ARE A WORK OF GOD'S GRACE. Know therefore that this will be a year of wonderful opportunity and growth for you. Such growth may not always be comfortable. Remember that God is always more interested in character than comfort. Understand that your path will be in accord with His omniscience not your limited sight. Trust Him and walk confident of His presence and purposes.

Tuesday

2Tim. 1:9 God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

"Full of meaning" and "packed with purpose": these words describe your life and calling from God. Do not think that God has a special purpose for others but not for you. He is using and will use you in His kingdom. Indeed, you have been providentially placed because of the impact God knows that you can have for His kingdom. Don't waste your time waiting for God's call or looking for a 'greater opportunity'. God has already called you, placed you, and opened to you doors of service. See your placement as God's placement of you. Now serve Him today.

Wednesday

2Tim. 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

So you choose. You can focus upon the difficulties of the trial or the purposes of your calling. Soldiers are called for battle, not for recreation. You have desired God's call and purpose. Don't now despise the place of testing and the discomfort of battle. This world is fallen. You live in it and are not immune to its hardships or the sinful behavior of others. But you are different from those who suffer its difficulties without purpose. You are trained by God, strengthened by God, and used by God in the midst of the battle. This year, 2011, will not find you immune to life's inherent struggles, but it can find you victorious in life, victorious in Jesus.

Thursday

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.

Prov. 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

Faith is not an emotion. Neither is it a secret word to a smooth life of riches, health, and un-pitted paths. Faith is a confident reliance upon God, no matter the circumstances or the emotions. Faith says, "God I release my life and my day into your hands, trusting that you love me and know me best." Faith does not demand, "God I am wiser than you! Do it my way!" Therefore, trust in the Lord, not yourself or your circumstances. Acknowledge that He is at work in your life, no matter where He leads you. Trust Him to keep His promises and direct your steps.

Friday

Rom. 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

God is pleased to make you look like Jesus. That is His purpose and plan for you. He wants to work out your life so that you bear the very character, faith, and grace of Jesus in your life. This is not a work to be done by you, but a work to be allowed by you to be done by Jesus. Relax! This is not a demand upon you but a promise to you. Do not fret looking for a greater purpose. Rest in God's daily purpose of grace. Give yourself today to Him and to His plan.