

Fresh Oil



January 2012

Dear Fellow Servants,

At the first of the year people are often talking about “new year’s resolutions” and what they will do to keep them. I prefer to talk about setting goals and what **I need to do, with the Lord’s help, to accomplish** them. Have you given much thought to this yet so far in 2012? I wonder if taking the example of Enoch from the Old Testament wouldn’t be a great place to start. Look at what it says in Hebrews 11:5:

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”

Tell me something: is that an observation you’d like others to make of you at the end of your life? **I can’t think of a better compliment from someone than that they knew I was a person who pleased God.** When you think of it, this is something that should be said of every single Christian out there, bar none. It **shouldn’t be a high water mark separating** the chosen few. The question begs, **what does one need to do to be pleasing to God? Let’s start with the only other** time this key Greek word is used in the New Testament, in Hebrews 13:16:

*“And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices **God is pleased.**”*

Let’s make a simple bucket list to work on in 2012:

- walking in love and forgiveness
- spending daily time in prayer and the Word
- being regular in worship
- considering the needs of others before myself
- being a team player
- focused on giving instead of taking

I hope you will get off to a great start in 2012 and this small list is a terrific way to help make that happen. Hop to it!

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10



Your fellow servant,

Pastor Brian