

How To Leave An Old Year

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Sermon Title: How To Leave An Old Year

1. Release it & release yourself from it.

(Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Illustration: Imagine a trapeze artist swinging from one swing to another, high above the ground with no net under him. As he reaches out to the next swing, what must he do? He must let go of the one he is on. If he refuses to let go of the swing he is on, will he ever be able to go to the next swing? Absolutely not! And in the same way, we must let go of our old year before we can go purposefully into the new year.

- A. **By faith. Story of man falling over the Grand Canyon**
- B. **Each year God gives us the gift of January**

2. Forgive 2011 and all you had an issue with (situations, people, personal failures)

(Col 3:13 KJV) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **(Important)**

Illustration: On the last day of the year old Chinese custom of sweeping everything in the house out it to the streets. It was thought that in doing so all the bad luck of the old year was removed and the house was ready for good luck in the new year. We are not cleaning out our house for luck but for the blessings of God.

- A. **Leaven or yeast was a type of sin in the scriptures.**
- B. **Let us purge our lives and homes as we enter into 2012**

3. Take only the good from 2011

(Phil 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,

whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Take only what is necessary for the big picture in your life. Some things need to die.

What you have learned from the good and the bad?

Use Phil 4:8 as the security checkpoint in your life. Nothing can pass this point that is not true, honest, pure, lovely, good report.

4. Put 2011 in its place (the past)

It has no place in the future

(Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those **things which are behind**, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

5. Don't try and repeat it. God has plans for you in 2012.

A. Even its successes belong in the past. Great ones belong to the future.

B. God is going to increase His anointing in all areas of our lives. Discount negative reports and believe the Word of God!

(Jeremiah 29:11(KJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

(James 4:15 KJV) For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

6. Thank God for 2011 – Go out a worshipper!

(1 Th 5:18 KJV) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

A. Bad days or bad situations should not cause us to curse a year

7. Don't leave 2011 as a whiner, a victim! Go out a worshipper.

A. 2012 is in God's hand's not man's!

B. God has heard the prayers and repentance of His people.