

Happy new year everyone! I hope this year brings you peace and joy as we say goodbye to the first decade in the twenty first century. At our new year's eve fellowship that we hold each year a member of our congregation asked me to think back over the last ten years of my life and reflect. At the time he asked me to do so, I had just arrived to the festivities and really didn't take the time to do that at that time. Later on that evening I retired to my office to take a little time to reflect what the last ten years had brought me in my life.

In the last ten years I and my wife have been blessed with three beautiful girls. In the last ten years I have been blessed with the opportunity to preach the gospel and to be a part of a loving congregation that is like family. In the last ten years I have been blessed with wonderful friends and new family members. In the last ten years I have also experienced sorrows. My mother-in-law lost her battle with cancer and several long time members of our congregation also went to be with the Lord. In the last ten years I have said good bye to life long friends and hello to new ones. Friends, to sum up the last ten years of my life would take up many pages; however, I can say that the last ten years have been wonderful.

I was then asked to think about the next ten years of my life in the future. What would be my goals and what where would I like to see myself in the next ten years? While I could write many, many things I would like to do or see; I believe I can sum it up with one phrase. I still want to be serving the Lord in whatever way He see's fit for me to serve. What about you?

Will you look at the last ten years of your life? Will you set goals and try to reach them? I pray you will and I pray that serving God and glorifying Him each day is at the top of your list. As I thought about the next ten years my mind goes back to two verses from Paul's letters to the Philippians and to the Corinthians. Philippians 4:13 states that, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I Corinthians 10:31 states, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Those two small verses speak volumes. In those two verses I see the next ten years of my life.

I want to receive strength from the never ending source of courage and strength—Jesus Christ and I want to glorify my Father in heaven in whatever it is I am doing. May 2011 bring you into a closer relationship with the Father. If there is need to get your prayer life right, make it right. If there is need to be more servant like, do it. Whatever you do all to glorify God in 2011.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes