

This will be our last bulletin article for the year 2011. It has been a year with many battles won and, yes, some battles that were lost. Without attempting to wax poetic about the ending of one year and the beginning of another; the fact remains that when one year ends another begins—it simply affects us all differently. Some look with great anticipation, while for some, it's just a matter of relative indifference. And still for others it is a matter of sober awareness. Reflect with me if you will over the past 363 days. What was the best decision you made? What was the best act of friendship you performed? What was the kind thing you did that no one knows about except you and God? What was the wisest choice you made about your personal life? We can flip the coin on those questions as well. What was the most hurtful thing you did to a meaningful relationship? What opportunities for good did you allow to pass by?

Read what Paul told the Colossians in Colossians 3:8-11, “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.” Reader, I want to challenge and encourage you to be different from the world in 2012. Have the courage to let God change you as person. That means changing the way you think and feel. You can't control another person. The only person you can ultimately control is...YOU. The real issue here is: What kind of person do you really want to be?

In Christ,  
Joe Rhodes