

Camp Hill Church of Christ 2012 New Year's Day Sermon

By Doug Hamilton

Our God stands outside of time.

God reiterated a promise to Abraham.

- Genesis 17:7–8 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. ⁸ “I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

The promise referred to the spiritual descendants, not the physical.

- Galatians 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.
- Romans 4:16–17 For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

He can make eternal promises because He is an eternal God.

- Titus 1:2 “...in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal...”
- Psalm 90:1–2 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
- Simply put, God invented time for us to experience Him eternally. We are truly creatures of the dimension of TIME.

Our whole existence is defined through events of time.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

3 A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

4 A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

5 A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

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Reflection on 2011

Often it is necessary to reflect over the past year in order to truly understand how busy we were. The following are the highlights for 2011.

New Families:

- The Upgraded Probst Family
- Bill and Linda Hickman
- Jason Collette
- Renee Raven
- Robert and Jill Pomeroy
- Dillon Haigh
- Miss Coriander Johnson
- Miss Phyllis Clark
- The Chapmans

Relocated Families:

- Greg and Magda Koskey
- Ben Alexander
- Mike Green Family*
- Earl and Diane Wilbourn Family*
- Delonne and Loren Wilbourn Family*
- Ty and Stacy Burns Family*
- Miss Flossie*
- Wanda Jackson*
- Carl and Trudy Brooks*

*indicates move for new church plant

Births:

- Evangeline –Gaskins
- Amelia –Chris and Sarah Deitch
- Lucy –Dave and Tracy Nicks
- Delonne Jr. -Delonne and Lauren Wilbourn

Baptisms:

- Kelly Hamilton
- Pat and Laurie Woodward
- Serena Fry
- Robert and Jill Pomeroy
- Valerie Green
- Stephen Buck

Marriages:

- Tracy and Jackie Probst

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- Richard and Anita Clark
- Robert and Jill Pomeroy
- Josh and Khristian Decker

High School and College Graduates:

- Aaron Zimmerman
- Kali McCullough
- Kiara Allen
- Raul Ortega
- Natalie Hamilton
- Anastasia Yoder
- Jenean Radczenko
- Zack Cantrell
- Jon Yoder

Ministries:

- Small Groups
 - The congregation held many hundreds of small group home Bible studies in dozens of homes over a 40 mile radius from the church building.
- Car ministry
 - Tens of thousands of dollars saved once again in the last year for members and friends of the members of the congregation.
- Veterans Ministry
 - Facebook Page
 - Gift boxes and cards
- Soup and Gift Card Ministry
 - Margaret Pownell and others have distributed many quarts of delicious soup for the hurting and hungry.
 - Many hundreds of dollars of grocery and gas cards distributed to those inside and outside of the church family.
- Internet Ministry
 - Broadcasting the live services
 - Radio broadcast for the hearing impaired
 - Skyping some of the classes including Broad Top
 - Upgrade in the audio system.

Missions:

- Broad Top -Congregational
- Adam Smith –China
- Ashley Dowler –Zambia
- Jacob Dowler –Honduras
- Natalie Kridlo -Jamaica

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Major Memories of 2011

- George Carmen from Project Northeast spoke on Church Growth
- Sarah Blaine accident and recovery
- Won Junior High Bible Bowl for the first time in decades
- Mid-South Tour that went to four brotherhood colleges for our youth
- Services in the Dark following the hurricane of late summer
- Death of Paul Cantrell

Upcoming for 2012

- Possible Mission Trip to Ghana in August to September
- New Format for Sunday Nights in February: Service-based (Elderly, Military? Single mothers? battered women?)
- Evangelism Committee: This is an extremely organized series of small groups studies designed to convert your friends and relatives to Christ.
- We will be the sponsoring congregation for Wissam attending Sunset International Bible Institute.

God's Greatest Vision for Our Time on Earth

- Jer 29:11-13 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ¹² 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ 'And you will seek Me and find {Me,} when you search for Me with all your heart.