

# Year End Message

Title: “Looking Ahead to 2012”

1 Timothy ~ January 1, 2012

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**OBJECTIVE:** To cast a vision, purpose, and passion for ministry in 2012.

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## Announcements

- Welcome / guests
- Offering envelopes for 2012
- Prayer gathering – next Sunday @ 6 p.m.
- 2011 budget – praise!

Opening prayer

Top 10 Google searches in 2011 -

[http://www.googlezeitgeist.com/?utm\\_campaign=en&utm\\_medium=HA&utm\\_source=en-ha-na-us-sk\\_zg11&utm\\_term=%2B2011%20%2Bnews#en/](http://www.googlezeitgeist.com/?utm_campaign=en&utm_medium=HA&utm_source=en-ha-na-us-sk_zg11&utm_term=%2B2011%20%2Bnews#en/)

10 – iPad 2

9 – Steve Jobs

8 – TEPCO Nuclear Plant, Japan

7 – Adele (*singer*)

6 – iPhone 5

5 – Battlefield 3

4 – Casey Anthony

3 – Ryan Dunn (*actor who died in a car crash*)

2 – Google +

1 – Rebecca Black (*‘singer’*)

As you look back at 2011, what stands out over the past year?

Throughout the world, 2011 has been a year of turmoil and upheaval...some good...some bad.

The financial markets around the world continue to be unstable – political instability and unrest continues throughout the Middle East – the U.S. economy continues to struggle with high unemployment. Some criminals were arrested...others have yet to face justice. Some innovative and inspirational people died in 2011 – and our lives have been changed due to their life's work

When you watch the news on a regular basis, it's easy to become full of anxiety about the future – and what the coming years will hold.

But God is not confined by the world's "temperature". He does some of His best work when all the indicators are down!

This past year has been one of the best years here at CDOBC. In the midst of a difficult economy, we had our best giving year ever!

People have come to know Christ –

We have been able to help people in very tangible ways throughout the year –

Ministry has continued to move forward, and the spirit of unity, peace, and love for the truth is present here!

I believe this is why God has blessed us so much in 2011 – we have been faithful in these areas!

2012 - As we enter another year, it's important for us – for this church – to remain solid and steady.

Each Sunday – when the sermon is done – no matter how good / bad it was...the clock starts ticking toward next Sunday's sermon!

In like manner...2011 has been a great year for our church...but as we've turned the calendar over to January 1, 2012, we have a new challenge before us!

We need to have our 'feet' firmly planted in the truth of God – and we need to make sure our ministry is in-line with His Word.

It would be easy for us to get distracted from the Great Commission and from the Great Commandment – but we must remain faithful – even in the midst of a chaotic world.

**Mission statement** – is a purpose statement – it's a statement as to why we exist – what our main task is. Our statement is taken directly from the Great Commission Jesus gave His followers in Mathew 28.

*Canyon Del Oro Baptist Church is committed to helping people become mature followers of Jesus - Matthew 28:19-20*

Our **Vision statement** is rooted in the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22 – and in the other N.T. passages that speak about relationships and ministry within the church. The Vision statement is a description of *how* we will accomplish our mission. It's how we *envision* the work of the church taking place.

*Canyon Del Oro Baptist Church will be a church that is caring, biblical and gracious as we minister to our members and the community*  
Matt. 22:34-40; Eph. 5:19-20; 1 Tim. 4:1-16; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 12

Turn to 1 Timothy – Today I hope to “*recalibrate our compass*”. Every organization (a church is no exception) has a tendency to make things more complicated and complex as time goes by. Usually, things that are good – but not the primary mission are added, and the organization's focus is blurred.

This morning I want to make sure our focus is sharp and crisp – that we clearly understand why we are here – and what we need to focus our energies and resources on.

Timothy was a fellow worker with the Apostle Paul, and when Paul left the church in Ephesus, he left Timothy there to carry on the work. Paul wrote to Timothy to give him instructions on how to lead the church – to tell him the things that were the most important for him to focus on.

With that context, I want us to look at 1 Timothy and see what important things we need to be focused on in 2012.

**Teach the truth of God** *1:3; 8; 4:1, 6, 11, 15-16*

Paul ministered in a time where false teachers were a ‘dime a dozen’. Remember – they didn’t have numerous copies of God’s Word for the people to read for themselves, so the leaders – like Timothy – had to be very vigilant to make sure what was taught was the truth.

Paul tells Timothy to: “...stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer...”

Then in vs. 8 he says: “We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.”

We are committed at this church to teaching God’s Word without distortion. We are committed to teaching it as clearly as we can – and to make sure the truth of God is taught along with the grace of God.

Paul’s comment about the Law being good “if one uses it properly” points out that the Law of God has often been used in a harsh

manner – in a legalistic manner. As a result, many view the Law of God as a bad thing – as a painful thing.

But David said that the Law of the Lord was “perfect” – and it is “...sweeter than honey” (Ps. 19:7, 10).

False teaching has not gone away in the last two-thousand years. It’s still an issue we need to be aware of – and make sure it doesn’t creep into the church.

Avoiding false teaching is done most effectively by teaching the truth – by teaching and preaching what Scripture says.

This is what we’ve been committed to – and we will continue in 2012.

### **Enjoy and share the grace of God** 1:14-15; 2:4

Never forget your need for God’s grace. Even though Paul was the leader over many, he never forgot his own sinfulness, and that without the grace of God, he would be damned.

Notice his emphasis on the action of God in his salvation! The Lord gave grace, faith and love to Paul in abundance.

Greek – *hyperpleonazo*

*Huper* = beyond / more than

*Pleonazo* = many, great in number

Translations: ‘abundant’ NIV / ‘exceeding abundant’ KJV / ‘more than abundant’ NASB / ‘overflowed for me’ ESV

Keeping this truth in the forefront of his mind led him to praise God for his salvation because he deserved the wrath of God, but received the grace of God instead. This truth also kept him humble in his faith. No matter what ‘heights’ Paul would reach in the leadership of the church, he knew the depravity of

his own sinfulness – he had learned to develop a “*poor self-image*”.

**Illus. – ‘The Reason for God’ by Tim Keller – AA group and young man who blamed everyone else for his problems.**

Matt. 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

When we speak of the grace of God, we naturally think about the Gospel – the ‘good news’ about Christ.

This past June, after a great deal of thought and preparation, we introduced the Oikos focus / philosophy to help us share Christ more consistently and to bring some purpose or intentionality to our Christian life.

Oikos is the Greek word for “household” – and in the first century, a household was not only your immediate family, but those who worked in your home, and your circle of friends and neighbors. In every culture – in every era, each person has an average of 8-15 people in their *Oikos* – their circle of influence, and God has supernaturally put you in a position to share Christ with them.

1 Tim. 2:3-4 “This is good, and pleases God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

John 3:17 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

When we realize our own need for God’s grace – and we’re thankful for His grace, we can share God’s grace with others more naturally – more sincerely.

Enjoy and share the grace of God.

**Be devoted to Biblical prayer and worship 2:1; 8**

“Biblical” – see the focus in vs. 3 & 4

I want to thank our choir, musicians, praise team, tech team, and Pastor Joseph for the great job they do each week.

Planning our worship to make sure it’s Biblical – Christ exalting – and fits with the theme of each sermon is the template Joseph uses each week.

**Maintain a high standard for leadership 3:1-13**

The church leadership – pastors / elders / deacons / deaconess / teachers – must maintain lives of holiness that reflect the truth and grace of God.

**Ministry to those in need 5:3-16**

In the first century – in the churches – widows were some of the poorest and neediest members of the church/community. Paul gives some very detailed instructions in these verses on how to minister to the widows – and how not to minister to them – but the overriding principle is: We (the church) should come alongside those with legitimate needs – and help.

This has proved to be a huge challenge for us. Over the past few years we have tried to launch two ministries that our community has some tremendous need – step-family and grief support. They never gained any traction, so we’re back to the drawing board...back to seeking God’s direction.

*Joan McGee – Nursing home ministry*

**Application**

Pray – For your Oikos, for those who are suffering/ill, for the leadership of the church, for the ministry of the church.

Pursue the truth and grace of God in 2012

Read books grounded in God’s truth, Attend S.S. or a small group, serve and minister in the church, pray as a family, and pray with us at the monthly prayer gathering.

Put your trust in Christ

For your salvation

For your daily life

Close in prayer – transition to communion