

"Are You Ready for the New Year?"

Scripture: Philippians 4:6-9
(12-28-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

Are you ready for the new year? It's almost here. Some may be excited ... very much looking forward to what's to come. Others may be fearful with the unknowns and uncertainties. God has a message for us all.

To be ready: Worry about nothing; Pray about everything; Thank God in all things; and, Think (keep our mind) on the right things. What's the result of doing these things? God promises in 4:7 "*... the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*" God says when I trust Him, He puts a guard on my mind. He keeps me at peace when everything else wants to make me stressed out. What a promise!

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What were Paul's circumstances while writing the letter to the Philippians (1:13-14)? How do you think Paul discovered 'the secret of contentment' while in his difficult situation?
2. Paul says "in everything ... pray" Not just some things but everything you can pray about it. Some people think God only cares about religious things: God cares about how many people I talk to about Christ or how many people I invite to church, my giving. Is God interested with your home? work?
3. Paul says "Give thanks IN circumstance," not "FOR." In every circumstance, no matter how bad it is, you can give thanks to God because (a) we know He has a purpose bigger than the problem; (b) He will give us the power to overcome the problem; and (c) we will grow through the experience if I allow it. Can you see the difference?
4. What do you think about most? dominates your mind? Whatever you think the most is what you're becoming. If you want to become like Christ, think about Him. Fill your mind with His Word. It says think about the things that are true, noble, right, lovely, admirable. Does that describe your typical movie? TV show?