

“An Open Door for the New Year”

The great Houdini, a fabulous locksmith as well as a master magician, bragged that he could escape from any jail cell in the world in less than an hour, provided he could go into the cell dressed in his street clothes.

The people of a small town in the British Isles were proud of the new jail they had built, and they issued Houdini a challenge. “Come and give our new jail a try,” they said. Houdini loved the publicity, and they had offered him good money, so he accepted the city’s challenge. By the time he arrived excitement was at a high pitch. He rode triumphantly into town and walked into the jail cell.

Confidence oozed from him as the door was closed behind him. Hidden in his belt was a flexible, tough, ten-inch piece of steel which he used to work on the lock. At the end of thirty minutes his confidence was draining away. At the end of an hour he was drenched with perspiration, and after two hours Houdini literally collapsed against the door – which simply swung open right before his eyes. The cell’s door had never been locked except in Houdini’s mind! And, as it turned out, that had made it as firmly locked as if hundreds of locksmiths had put their best locks on it.

Life can be like that, especially as we stand on the brink of a New Year. We may see only closed, locked doors, when we should be seeing them as open and accessible doors.

In one of His “Letters to the Churches” in Revelation, Jesus said, “Look, I set before you an open door that no one can shut.” That is still His promise to us, His faithful people.

The open door that Jesus sets before us provides access to two destinations. The first is fellowship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. In that regard, Jesus, who gave Himself to be the world’s Savior said, “I am the Door. Whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pastures.” No one can close that door to keep you or me from enjoying the “green pastures” of salvation to which it leads – no one, that is, but our self. Pass through the door in faith and St. Paul assures us, “Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

The second destination is really a process. The open door leads to a daily walk with Christ that is abundant with opportunity. It offers peace as you “cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for us.” It produces confidence as you learn to “test and approve what God’s will is for you – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” It leads to life’s greatest satisfactions as you learn to “love and serve because God first loved you.”

Jesus Christ, the Door, has unlocked this door once and for all. Don’t let it remain closed in your mind. Make it your prime resolution for 2013 to walk through that door of Jesus Christ. You will experience for yourself the eternal blessings that await you.

Your Pastor Jim

Walk Through the Bible Class

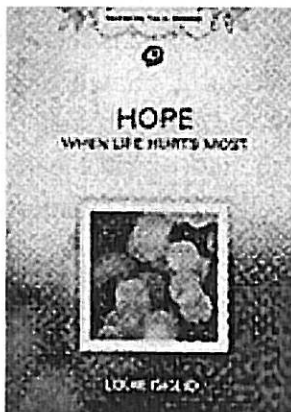
Pastor Jim's Walk Through the Bible Class begins again in the New Year on Tuesday, January 8th at either 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM. We will continue our Study of the Book of Joshua, which we started in December.

We average about 30 people total in the two classes on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. This New Year, why not make a resolution to join in this class and sit at the feet of the best Bible class teacher we have at St. John Lutheran Church.

Coming Teaching Events

Passion Series with Louie Giglio

"Hope: When Life Hurts Most"



Sunday
January 13th
7 pm

Life isn't easy! We experience problems and setbacks every day. But during the hardest parts of life, when the bottom seems to fall out, where do we turn for peace? God offers Himself and His cross as an anchor of hope no matter what we face in life. The hope we find in Him allows us to leverage our darkest moments for His glory.