

From Pastor Jim's Desk

## Finding Security for the New Year

I love the painting "Rock of Ages" (see right). It wonderfully expresses Christian security, now and for the future. The painting shows a woman in the midst of a terrible storm, firmly clinging to the Cross. I think her face attests to the fact that she knows the cross will hold her securely in spite of the violent sea around her.

We all experience cataclysmic events in our families, our jobs and school and in our country. I am not telling you anything you don't already know, but we are living in a world of almost unbelievable change. Old values and old truths are not only being challenged, they are being uprooted and discarded. The family structure is being tossed about on a surging sea of uncertainty. We are suffering more mental disorders, nervous breakdowns and frightening stress, with the result that there are more suicides every year.

What can you hold on to in time of stress? Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul. In spite of opposition, persecution, afflictions, he was able to write his young understudy, Timothy: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day." And he encouraged Timothy to "hold fast the true words I taught you, as the example for you to follow, and stay in the faith and love that are ours in union with Christ Jesus."

Notice the pronouns that Paul used. He does not say, "I know what I have believed," but rather "I know whom I have believed." The supreme object of Paul's faith was Jesus Christ! He entrusted his life to the Good Shepherd, whom he knew and loved as the One who "laid down His life for the sheep." He could say with even greater confidence than David, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall want nothing." He knew the Shepherd's promise: "My sheep shall never perish, neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

We too can be calm and confident in the midst of the calamities and troubles of the coming New Year. We can entrust ourselves to the Lord, who said, "I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you belong to Me." And so, in every circumstance, we may say with St. Paul, "I know WHOM I have believed."

Behind that pronoun "Whom" stands the power, the love, and the mercy of Him who has promised to see us through whatever life may hold in store for us. Behind that pronoun stands the Almighty God, Himself, "with WHOM nothing is impossible." He has pledged Himself to be with us all the way. You can't find a greater source of security than that!

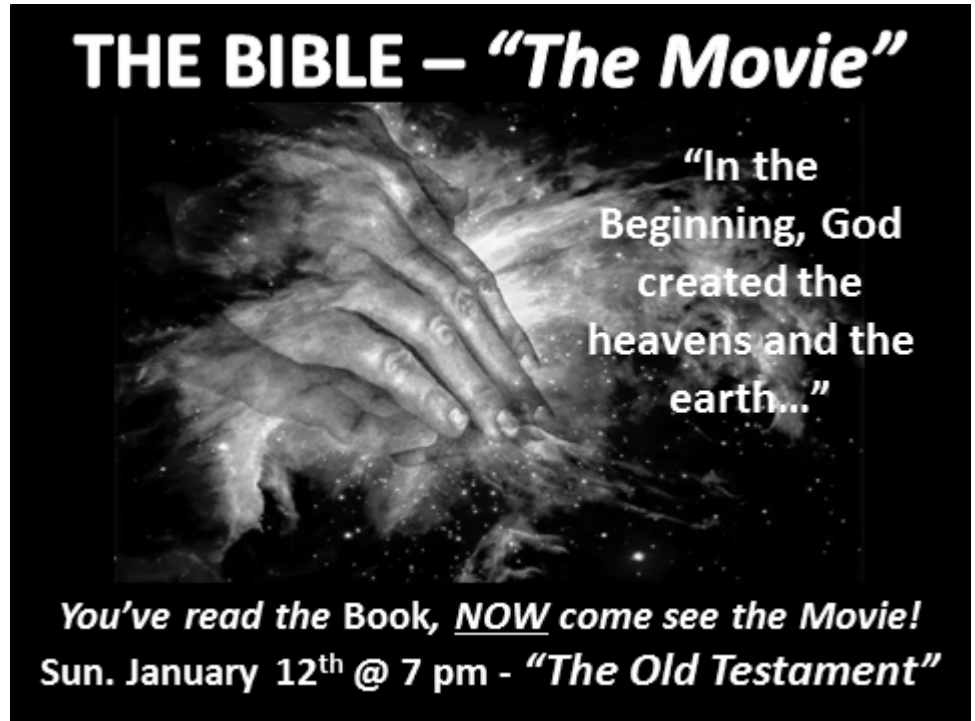
You Pastor Jim



## Teaching Events for the New Year

See the Old Testament come alive on the big screen, as seemingly only Hollywood can do. Start with creation, the fall into sin, the worldwide flood, the call of Abraham, the dramatic rescue from slavery in Egypt and the giving of the Ten Commands.

Come and enjoy some popcorn and let's go to the movies together.



**THE BIBLE – “The Movie”**

“In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...”

*You’ve read the Book, NOW come see the Movie!*  
Sun. January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm - “The Old Testament”

The Beloved Psalm Brought to Life for Today’s Readers

## Psalm 23

**New Date!**

On Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM  
We will study what you think you know, but...  
**You will be surprised!**

Psalm 23 is probably the most beloved Psalm of them all. But caring for sheep forms the background for the words of this Psalm, and how many of us have ever tended sheep? No one!

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Jim will give you the background to this beloved Psalm and you will be amazed!