

Slogans aren't the word of God; they can't save us. However, they **can** serve to remind us and prod us, unconsciously, to observe important **spiritual** matters—if we'll keep them in mind! Which is why we make them short and sweet.

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IN 2009** - reminded us that we all preach to others by our example: that it needed to be good, and that we had a duty to do so.

**OUT WITH SIN IN 2010** – reminded us that purging sin from our lives and adding the holy, spiritual things of God should be our priority.

**2 Timothy 2:19-21** *“And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. ... If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”*

Sermons don't just have one goal. There are many:

- Improve spiritual sight
- Urge people to action
- Encourage people to keep on and not be discouraged
- Build a faith in God's word in people so that's there they first turn
- Help people to teach others the truth
- Encourage people to be more loving

A slogan is just a real short sermon. One that we'll see and hear time and again till it's ingrained in us. It should be one that will help the church (all of us) to grow in love and spirituality as God wants. Brevity is usually good. You don't have much time to make a point, and you want it to stick.

When I speak to people I may never meet again, like in Russia, or prisons, one point I always try to get across is that the Bible is God's word – it's the only place we need to go to get the answers we need regarding God and what he wants from us.

The sermons and slogans and teaching we do are all to help us fulfill God's will for the church, which is:

**Ephesians 4:11,13** *“And He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”*

This year's slogan is **EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011**

Its scriptural basis is:

**Colossians 3:1,2** - *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

The goal of this, what we'll attain if we do it, is given in the same passage:

**Colossians 3:4** *“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”*

Why would keeping our eyes on Heaven help us?

Many reasons, but I'll give us three:

**ONE:** That's where our treasure is:

**Matthew 6:20-23** *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. <sup>22</sup>The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

Do you see what it says about our eye – it is the light of the body. It's what lets the light in. If our eyes are focused on heaven, only the right things, the good things, “the light” will get in. Which is good because in the next verse God warns us:

**Matthew 6:24** <sup>24</sup>*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

Keep it simple – one set of eyes – one goal – focus on it! Exclude all others.

**TWO:** Because we don't want to go back. Back to what? Back to what we were before we set our sights on heaven. Can this happen? You betcha! In Hebrews 11 it talks of men and women of faith – ones that pleased God. It also contains a warning to us.

**Hebrews 11:15,16** *“And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. <sup>16</sup>But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”*

Do you see the warning there for us? Remember Lot's wife.

God took the Israelites out of Egypt with a powerful hand, yet what did some say when thing got difficult in the wilderness:

**Exodus 16:3** *“And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh*

*pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”*

They weren't focused on the promised land and wanted to go back to slavery, or even die.

**Finally, the third reason** - What's the best advice for playing Ping Pong successfully? And lots of other sports too when a ball is the object of the game? **Keep your eye on the ball!**

**That's what God tells us here:**

**2 Cor 11:2,3** “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup>But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

God does not want us deceived.  
WE don't want to be deceived!!!

Who is the great deceiver? – Satan, the serpent as He says here.  
How do we deal with Satan, how do we keep from being deceived?  
God has told us here. Do you see it? No?

**KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!**

That's what God is telling us here.  
The serpent beguiled Eve, corrupted her mind, took her mind off something  
“FROM THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST”  
Simplicity – a lack of complexity, the quality of SINGLENESSE – 1 moving part  
– CHRIST!

Christ and Heaven are what we need to keep our eyes – our mind – on!  
We have many concerns. The Lord knows this.  
What is the most important one?  
Where does he tell us to set our hearts?

**Col 3:1,2** ” If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

How do we know Jesus? Through his messengers – the Apostles who brought His WORD to us.  
But Satan wants to deceive us, take our hearts somewhere else.  
How can we know this? What will tell us? Again the Lord tells us:

**2 Cor 11:4** “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.”

Another Jesus whom we have not preached – different from the words of the Apostles.

Another Spirit – different from the word

Another Gospel – different from the word.

How can we be warned? How can we tell? Because they are taking our eyes off the ball and we should know it!

**Deuteronomy 18:1-4** *“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup>And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; <sup>3</sup>Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup>Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.”*

We can tell if Satan tries to deceive us by taking our eyes off heaven – but only if we are FAMILIER with heavenly things so we can tell the difference.

The Ephesians were commended by Jesus:

**Rev 2:2** , “and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:”

How did they do this? Compared what they said to what the real apostles said, the one proved by signs and wonders and miracles.

Yes, Satan will have false apostles, those who say things CONTRARY to God’s word.

You don’t think so? Think all these supposed preachers are good, we’re all going to heaven, just by different roads, in different churches?

**2 Cor 11:13** “For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”

Deceitful – can NOT WORK THE WORKS OF GOD.

What was Satan’s lie to Eve? You shall NOT surely die – Contradicted God.

What must we do then? Must we do anything?  
Here’s what Jesus said:

**Luke 12:37** “Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching:”

What about those NOT watching? Will they be blessed also? NO !!!  
Remember, “Keep your eye on the ball” – WATCHING!!

Watching what? Heaven, comparing ourselves to it, the church, our brethren –  
WATCHING THE WORD!

Studying it continually so you'll KNOW when others say something that  
contradicts it!

Is this your responsibility? Remember this saying of Jesus:

**Matt 18:6** “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me,  
it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he  
were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

He was talking of those which teach error. But what do you think offend  
means? To cause to stumble. What happened to THAT little one?

These are some good reasons to have our slogan for this year be:

**EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011**

But are you one of those that BELIEVE in Jesus?

Do you think you are ok? Have you obeyed him?  
Are you thinking, “What’s obedience have to do with it?”

**John 14:15** “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

Or, have you listened to a false apostle, a liar, a servant of Satan who has  
preached a false Gospel.

Remember, “corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” IN Christ.  
Are you IN CHRIST? You need to be:

**Ephesians 1:3** ” Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who  
hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.”

How do you get IN CHRIST? Pray, believe, say the Sinner’s prayer?  
How do tell false apostles? By comparing what they say to God’s word!  
Here’s how God has said we get in Christ:

**Romans 6:3** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus  
Christ were baptized into his death?”

Are you in Christ by Faith? YOU BETCHA!

**Gal 3:26,27** “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.  
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

What if you have NOT been baptized into Christ? Think you’re ok? Who told  
you that!

Keep your eye on the ball – on heaven – on Christ!