

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby

International Bible Teaching Ministry Update



2010 Issue 1

2012, the End of the World, and the Start of 2010

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

All newsletters available at the main website, douglasjacoby.com. This website contains over 8000 pages of (free) material. The second (subscription) website contains advanced N.T. studies as well as weekly O.T. podcasts. That address is jacobypremium.com.

6 January 2010

Dear All,

Brrrr...

Happy New Year from *frosty* Atlanta! I know we're in the South, but the mercury has been below freezing lately. On my prayer walks I'm even wearing hats now, not just coat and gloves. There is, after all, significant thermal conductance through the top of my calvous head. I confess the photo at the top of this page, now 6 years old, minimizes how thermally challenged I can be in subfreezing situations.

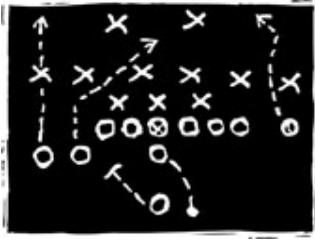


Which reminds me a bit of global warming and the ever-shrinking polar ice caps. Not that this has much to do with the January update, though it is sort of related to the *second* thing I wanted to share with you. But *first*...

Do you have a plan?

It's 2010. It's a new year. How "new" depends a lot on our attitude, and especially how much we depend on the Lord. The holiday season may have been a really busy time, whichever country you live in. Maybe it still is! You may live in Russia or the Ukraine, and *today* is (Orthodox) Christmas. Or you are in Malaysia, Singapore, or China, and Chinese New Year is fast approaching. It's easy to get distracted, or to fall into the "holiday paradox": Even though we've

taken time off work, are eating better and perhaps sleeping more, we actually find *less* time to devote to prayer and the Word.



To keep our eye on the ball, we need a strategy. It's so easy to drift into the New Year without a well thought out plan. Do you want a winning strategy? I'd like to make a suggestion. In 2008 the international teaching ministry produced daily Bible studies through every chapter of the New Testament. Each day has a reading, either a chapter or part of a chapter, followed by notes, then advanced notes, and finally some thought questions.

Many followed this plan when it came out, and in 2009 hundreds more made this par of their daily routine. Please consider going through the 350 New Testament studies at our second website. Each one will give you lots to think about, and can easily be studied in 20-30 minutes. So if you want to go through the New Testament this year, [click here](#).

The End Draweth Nigh?

On a more esoteric note, what about 2012? Or, as someone once put it, "What's all the hubbub about, bub?" Could it be that we have only -- as one website I visited yesterday claimed -- 1079 days before the end of the world? Did the ancient Mayans predict the apocalypse?



Our new podcast series -- 5 hot topics -- starts with a lesson entitled **2010, 2012, and the End of the World**. You can listen to it (for free) if you click [HERE](#). (Not to give it away, but my take is that the world will probably *not* end on 21 December 2012. Listen and see if you think I've been fair with the "evidence.")

Maybe the world won't end in 2012, but we can certainly do our part to make a better world in 2010. By keeping our eye on the ball, and not getting drawn into the speculative vortex, even if it is in vogue. The next lesson is on ***The Rapture & the Tribulation***.

Actually, I may even squeeze in an extra lesson before next week. Vicki and I have been talking a lot about the needy, and what the scriptures say. I've been talking with my brother Steve and his wife Sandy, too. And a lot more readers of this bulletin. Look for an extra lesson on *Serving the Poor* at the premium site. It's already been fleshed out, and in fact will appear in the fifth edition of *Shining Like Stars* (our evangelism handbook) in a few weeks. This extra podcast is available for everybody, whether or not you are a premium subscriber.

Florida x 3

A lot of my teaching is international. Okay, *most* of it is international. Followed by teaching at the North River Church of Christ. But the start of this year is different: three trips to Florida. No, this isn't vacation. (Florida isn't that warm these days, anyway!) It's all preaching and teaching. Which I love.

Jacksonville

On January 2nd my son and I drove to Jacksonville, the city where I was born. I visited my mother (hand-delivering those delayed Christmas presents), and after church the next day dropped our son

off at the University of Florida, where he is currently in his final semester. If all goes well (as prayerfully it will), James will emerge with a BA in Classics (Latin and Greek), a BS in Chemistry, and a minor in Physics. (I know, I know; he isn't that bright. ☺)

Anyway, our sister church invited me to take the pulpit. (The regular guy was watching buffalo in Colorado.) I preached from John 5, the man at the pool. (If you're new to the Bible, no, it wasn't a lifeguard.) An appropriate text at the start of 2010, since it deals with motivation, and motivation is an issue for all of us, regardless of our age, experience, condition, or challenges.

After thanking the Jax church for its warmth and support (my first time to visit there was in 1978, and many of the oldtimers were fairly young in the faith when we first met), I showed them the black trousers I was wearing. Or just barely wearing. When I was getting dressed in the morning, I stepped into trousers that were not mine. I am a 36x36. These were 36x30. That is, the inseam was 6 inches too short! Humorous! (More to me or to the audience?) The message went well, and the fellowship afterwards was great. If you want, you can "listen in." Click on the name of the sermon, which is [Get Up!](#)



South Florida

The next Florida trip will be to the Miami area. Besides preaching to the church, the purpose is to instruct Latin American leaders. The topic: Old Testament. I guess this will be one teacher teaching other teachers, some coming from as far away as Brazil and Paraguay. The church website is southfloridachurch.org, and we are grateful to the leaders who extended the invitation to be part of their new preacher training school.

Orlando

Finally, in early February Vicki and I head to Orlando. An exciting series has been planned on *Learning from the Past*. Lessons include *Learning from the Early Church*, *Learning from the Medieval Church*, *Learning from the Restoration Movement*, and *Learning from (our) Immediate Past*. A lot of church history, which offers its many lessons for free to those who are patient. (In essence, one of the main themes here is "Why reinvent the wheel?")

I'll also teach at a special dinner on *Archaeology & the Bible* (speaking of the past!), and deliver a Sunday sermon on *Learning from God's Work in My Life*, followed by a leaders' meeting on *Learning from Jesus to be a Good Shepherd*. We have many friends in Orlando, and are happy for the excellent fellowship this trip will afford.

Until February

Next month the teaching ministry will take me to Mexico, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Special thanks to those whose financial support makes these tours possible. (You modest brothers and sisters know who you are; your generosity is much appreciated.)

One last thing. During 2010 please expect the newsletters to come on a *monthly* basis. Hopefully these will encourage you in your walk with the Lord.

Happy New Year! May we all grow even stronger, and dig deeper, than we did in 2009.

Yours in Him,

Douglas

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