

12/22/2011

Brothers and Sisters,

Another year has passed and Christmas 2011 is 3 days away and for those of the Jewish faith we are a couple of days into Hanukkah, which I must admit I don't know very much about. **But I wish you all Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.** I hope and pray this was a good year for you, filled with everything the Lord has provided. I know for some of you this was a year of loss, yet I pray this time of the year will find you thankful for all the years of blessing you had before and for the blessings to come.

In Hebrew, the word Hanukkah means dedication. I am told it is the celebration of the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem which was desecrated in 165 BC. **Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ who came to save the world from sin.** It is a time of new beginnings and hope that Christ will be born anew in your heart this year. That is where we get the term "Born Again". Jesus told Nicodemus in **John 3:3 "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."** In fact the Bible speaks regarding this mystery when it says in **Colossians 1:27b "... Christ in you, the hope of glory".** NIV **We each celebrate the Holidays in our own way.** For some it is a time of spending and giving; some love the parties and drinking; for others it is a time of reflection and connection to a Holy God. I pray it will be a time of dedication and a new beginning, filled with the gift of God's Blessings for you and yours.

I want to give you a gift that I hope will make 2012 a wonderful year. During our Sunday night Service at Robert Russell, I spent 30 weeks this year completing a series I called **"The 25 Secret Keys That Open the Door to God's Blessings"**. It was an amazing time of connecting to God in a real and personal way and it had a profound impact on my life and many others as well. I have a stack of sermon notes about 6" thick and God willing it is my plan to write it into a book. I have compiled a summary of the 25 secret keys and I have attached a copy for you. *(in Letter size or Legal size)* These keys come directly from God's Holy Word. Each day decide to use one of the keys. Read the Scripture and then ask the Holy Spirit to help you find the blessing God has promised by putting the concept into practice. I believe it will change your life.

The Master's Community Church is planning for a wonderful 2012. **Here is what we have now:** Sunday Night Service at Robert Russell, Wednesday Night Bible Study at Robert Russell and Tuesday afternoon Men's Discipleship Study at Panera Bread. **In addition to the above, here is what we have on the drawing board for 2012:** Women's Discipleship Study, Sunday Morning Service in a Masonic Lodge, creation of a web site, development of a Masonic Marriage Conference and the video recording of our weekly services and posting them to the web. There are many Masons and Eastern Star members who are unable to attend our functions because of where they live and/or physical limitations. We want to serve them and include them in all that we do; video recording and online streaming can make that possible. We need help to make all this happen, we simply do not have the required resources we will need. I ask you to pray and ask God how you can be part of His plan.

I pray God will bless you and yours,

Rev. Steve Schroeder PM

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