

## A “Bold” New Year 2005

What if we could see into the future? What if I knew every physical injury I will sustain in the year 2005? What if I knew every emotional pain that I will face in 2005? What if I knew all my successes and failures that I will face in 2005? What if I was able to see a picture of the church at Floral Heights at the end of 2005? The fact of the matter is, I don't know the physical and emotional pain that awaits me. I don't know what success or failures face me and I don't know what the church will look like at the end of 2005. What I do know is that God commands me to approach the coming days of my life with “*boldness*.”

### **Boldness in the Scriptures**

To be a child of God is to be “*bold*.” The lexicons define the word “*bold*” (*parrhesia*) as “freespokenness, openness, frankness” (LS 611). “Confidence, assurance” (Moulton 311). The scriptures are not advocating a manner of arrogance, cocky, overconfident, and conceited personality but a disposition that says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel...” The word *parrhesia* is found 31 times in the NT and appears to uniformly indicate one who speaks and approaches life in such a way of confidence that says “I have nothing to hide.” Sometimes people are hasty with their confidence in a man, a corporation, or a sports team. When these entities falter, such a one is left in shame. The child of God confidently approaches life with hope because, unlike these worldly entities, God will not fail him.

### **Precise areas of boldness revealed in the Scriptures**

- The Christian is bold in the hope of salvation through Christ (Heb. 3:5-6).
- The Christian is bold to approach God in prayer knowing that He hears and understands our pleas (Heb. 4:16; I Jn. 5:14).
- The Christian is bold to approach God in fellowship now and into eternity because our sins are forgiven (Heb. 10:19).
- The Christian will have boldness to face Jesus when He comes again rather than being filled with shame (I Jn. 2:28).
- The Christian is not ashamed of the gospel message nor of Christ (Eph. 6:19; Phil. 1:20).
- Without shame or fear the Christian boldly proclaims the gospel message (Acts 4:31; 28:31; II Cor. 3:12).
- The Christian is bold (confident) in fellow Christian's faith (II Cor. 7:4).
- The Christian faces those who would treat us shamefully for our faith with boldness (Heb. 10:32-35).

## **Where will boldness lead the Christian in 2005?**

Preaching a message without fear, shame, or favor of men will lead the Christian to be persecuted by the world (Jn. 7:7; I Thess. 3:3; Heb. 10:32ff). The confident message of hope will make its way to thirsty and hungry souls; however, because the faithful child of God will unashamedly preach. No matter what awaits us in 2005, God tells us to approach every day with boldness. Let us not be fearful of failures, pain, nor strife but let us boldly preach the gospel message.

*John C. Robertson*