

2 January 2011 - Preached by Elder John Leong

Message Topic: **A Happy New Year**

Scripture Text: Philippians 4: 11-13

1. When we wish each other happy or blessed new year at the start of this new year 2011, do we understand what is our wish for each other? If happiness means everything in life is going to be smooth and riches abound, then we know our new year wish will not happen.
2. We know from God's Word that the year ahead of us will be one filled with both state of being abased and abound. True happiness for the year means we learn to be contented whether we are abased or we abound.
3. The first thing we notice in Phil. 4:11 is that we must learn such contentment. It does not come naturally. There will be struggles and failures and the need to be discipline to learn this spiritual grace in our lives.
4. To have a happy contented new year, we must learn how to be abased or brought low. It could be a decline in our health, or a struggle at work or study or even a relationship failure. We learn to thank God for such low and down situations and still trust God to lead us forward.
5. To have a happy contented new year, we must also learn how to abound. When we are blessed with worldly goods and riches, we must never focus on them. We must also learn to share our blessings to the needy. Also, when we have grown spiritually and matured in our faith, we must never despise others.