



and that's...
The Gospel Truth!!
with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

What a joy this Christmas season has been for us in The Corn Crib. I can't remember a more relaxed time during Christmas. Now we look forward to the new year of 2006, and as usual, the anticipation come with resolutions and planning. As I reflect on 2005 I can see God's hand moving us in directions that I could have never imagined. He brought new people into our live that have been a royal blessing. He brought into our lives new challenges of life and ministry and has proven Himself to be all He said He would be in his provision.

As I look at the highlights of 2005, I realize that I had not planned for any of them. My little world planned for what I thought that I should accomplish during the year through my efforts and renewed disciplines. What I envisioned for 2005 was quite far removed from what my heavenly Father had planned. Who would have thought that The Smoky Mountain Cowboy Church would even exist? Who would have thought that SMCC would reach 250 million worldwide listeners each week through its radio broadcast from the Sunday morning outreach at The American Jukebox Theater? Who would think that I would have the opportunity to preach and teach the Word of God to so many around the world? Who would think that after years of dedicating my life to the performance and teaching of the dynamics of praise and worship that I would have the opportunity to blend that knowledge with the country and R&B sounds that I have enjoyed performing for so long? Who would think that I would have to opportunity to enjoy the Christian brotherhood of so much fine talent as is found in the dedicated, selfless musicians at SMCC? SMCC is only one aspect of the phenomenal things that He has done in my life and the life of my family in 2005. I have to thank Billy Anderson for carrying the vision that God gave him to Pigeon Forge and sharing it with our Smoky Mountain communities.

These questions could go on for pages but the question remains, "Who would have thought....?" Only one answer, "God did!" God planned it all. And can you believe He did it without my help? I just can't believe that He didn't to check with me first to see if I thought it would work! No input from me at all.

I wonder then if New Year's resolutions are really worth the mental effort to conceive and achieve. Absolutely! I figure it this way. If I concern myself with what I perceive my

areas of improvement and achievement to be, I'll probably stay out of His way a little better and the Father can engineer the greater blessings of His plans for my life with minimal interference from me. He promises in His Word that if I "delight my self in Him" He will give me the desires of my heart" (Psalm 34:7). The most important thing I can do is to obey the greatest commandment of all, "to love the Lord my God with all of my heart, mind, and soul" (Matthew 22:35-37). That one project alone is more than enough for me to concern myself with achieving. If I spend my time in fostering a deeper sense of worship daily, I will have more than enough to deal with. The beauty of loving Him so much will spill out on to every aspect of my life fulfilling His desire that I should "love one another". The natural by product of loving Him is fulfillment in every facet of my life.

Of course we humans do need a plan or protocol to keep us on track. I believe I have found the "perfect one" to grow in relationship with "Perfect One"...Colossians 3:12-17

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

and that's....The Gospel Truth!!! Happy New Year!!!