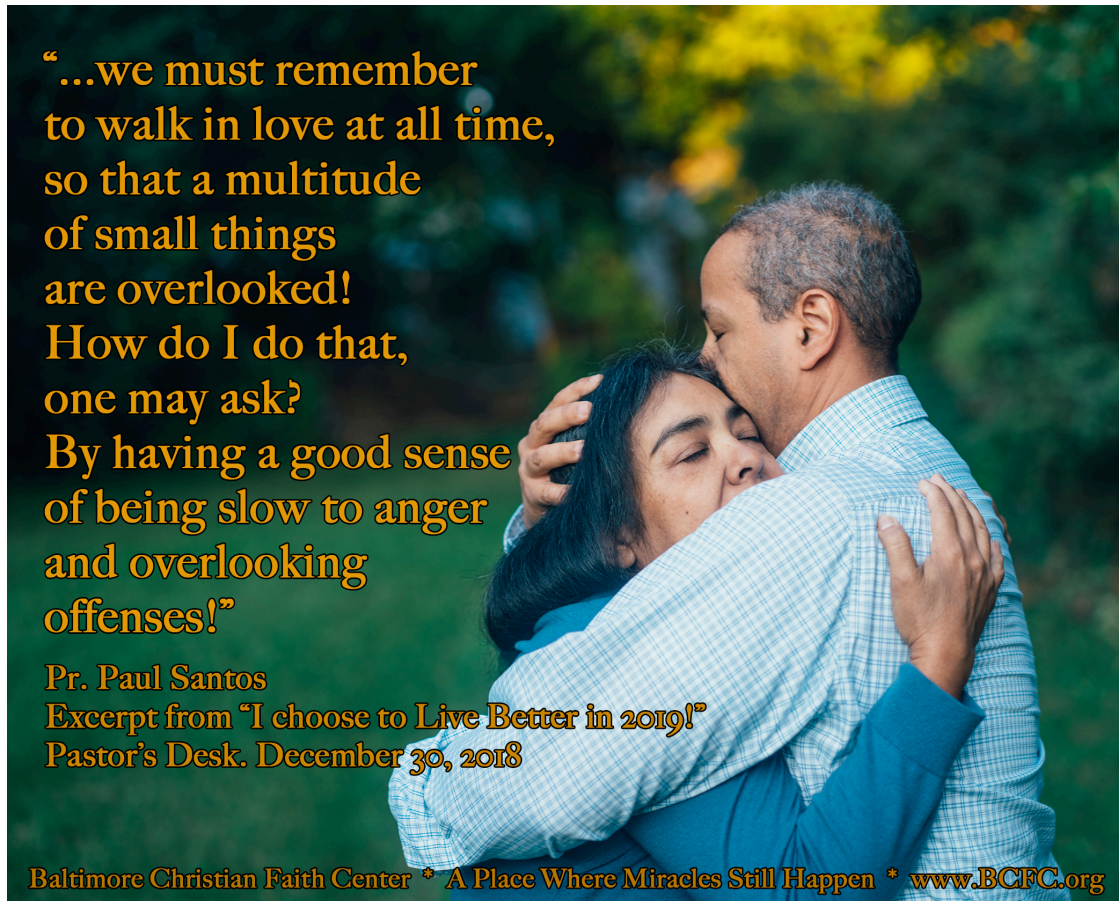


I Choose to Live Better in 2019!

Pastor's Desk – December 30, 2018



If we earnestly want to live better and be in fellowship with God our Father, our big brother Jesus Christ and the precious companion and friend the Holy Spirit, I think we need to break the habit, the vicious cycle of being easily offended! We need to confront this significant sin that many times is overlooked. Many little things can easily hurt someone who has not yet been healed of rejection. Worst of all, these little hurts may quickly turn to bitterness!

We read in Proverbs 19:11 "People with good sense are slow to anger, and it is their glory to overlook an offense." In the life of any congregation, people who are easily hurt also become offended on behalf of others. That could lead to factions based on their mutual hurts. Through such a bitter pool, many can become polluted. The Bible shows us two ways to avoid this and thus live better.

First, we must deal with those who have hurt us, according to the instructions given by our Lord in Mathew 18. Begin by addressing the problem alone, then with one or two if there are no results and still no changes, we are to approach the entire congregation, always keeping in mind the advice of Proverbs 19:11!

Second, we must remember to walk in love at all time, so that a multitude of small things are overlooked! How do I do that, one may ask? By having a good sense of being slow to anger and overlooking offenses! And all that is possible my friends, when we know the Lord and identify with the pain of His crucifixion and the victory of His resurrection. Maybe the time has arrived for us to start choosing to live better by being slow to anger and beginning to overlook offenses that sometimes are so insignificant! This is a choice that nobody can make for us, but we, ourselves. Let's make the decision and commitment that in 2019, we will not be easily offended by our brothers and sisters; it's a sign of good sense and wisdom, and it will undoubtedly help us to live better lives.

Have a blessed, powerful, and successful New Year!
Pr. Paul Santos