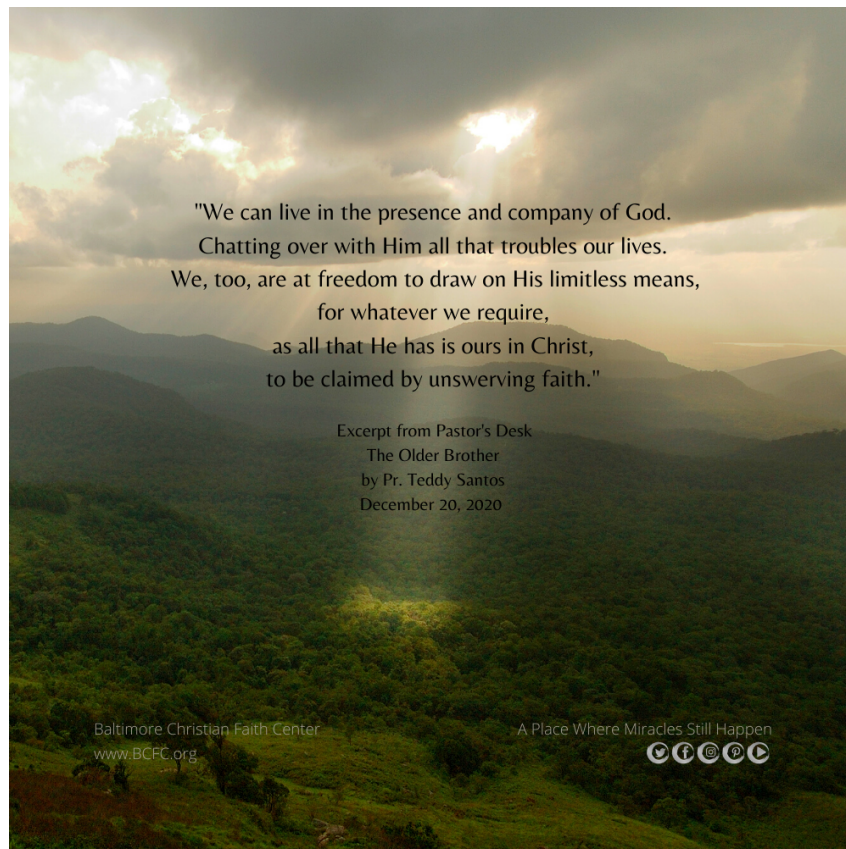


THE OLDER BROTHER

Pastor's Desk – December 20, 2020



Luke 15:28-31 *28 "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' 31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.*

From these two, I think the prodigal draws more attention and affection than his older brother. Esau appears a more attractive character than Jacob, the publican over the Pharisee, who celebrates that he is not as others! Presumably, we are conscious of a closer inclination to the life of sense and passion than outward dignity and integrity.

The older son had a stellar inheritance. He continually had his Father's companionship. He had the satisfying confidence that he never had at any time, disobeyed the direction his Father gave. He was at freedom to help himself, not only to a share of all that his Father owned but to it all - ***"all that I have is yours."***

This is our inheritance also, as daughters and sons of the Lord God Almighty. We can live in the presence and company of God. Chatting over with Him all that troubles our lives. We, too, are at freedom to draw on His limitless means, for whatever we require, as all that He has is ours in Christ, to be claimed by unswerving faith.

Ask yourself this: Can the Lord our Father address us in such words as these? Could we be honored with His grace and heavenly benediction, the daughters and son of God without rebuke? If not, we are as prodigals as this fellow, for we are tossing away opportunities that angels covet. Let us awake and return to our Father. Enter into His joy; let His joy invade our hearts, that we may make merry and be glad.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos