

## *Donna's Devotional*

### **Gain Christ in the New Year**

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.—Philippians 3:8*

I hope you are beginning this New Year with great anticipation. We look forward to many victories, many successes, and answers to prayers during the coming year. In the past years you may have experienced losses: loss of loved ones, loss of income, loss of influence, loss of health, or loss of material goods. Paul puts losses and gains into a Biblical perspective. (Martyred missionary Jim Elliot did the same when he said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose").

The excellence of the knowledge of Christ means more than just knowing about Christ. It means knowing Him in a personal way. Paul gave up what this world says is important to put his energy into his relationship with his Lord. He is one of the greatest examples of one who gave up a position of power and influence to follow Christ.

Paul counted all he had in the way of material possessions, influence, and prestige as dung: simply rubbish. He believed that the only thing worth dedicating his life to was to gain Christ.

Let us follow Paul's example and set our goal for the New Year to set aside the things that get in the way of our relationship with the Lord. Yes, consider them rubbish and dedicate ourselves to gains in our intimate knowledge of Christ and a closer relationship with our Lord.