

Sermon Notes

A New Beginning - Phil 3:12-18

January 17, 2021

I. Introduction

- a. so glad to be done with 2020... on to excitement of 2021... pray...
1Cor 2:2... “decided I would forget everything except Jesus and Him crucified...”
Phil 3:12-18... “not that I have already reached the goal... but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ... this one thing I do... forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead...”

II. A New Beginning

- a. can't tell you for sure what's ahead of us in 2021... but can tell you what AL is planning on doing... helping people find Family, find Jesus, find Grace...
John 4:26-30... “woman left jar... ran to village... telling everyone about Jesus...”
Rom 10:14-17... “how can they believe without hearing... unless someone tells...”
1Cor 1:21-31... “God used our foolish preaching to save those who believe...”
2Cor 5:17-21... “God has given us this task... gave us this wonderful message...”
- b. we will continue to be a place of encouragement... even in difficult times...
Rom 1:12... “when we get together... encourage and be encouraged... in faith...”
1Thess 4... “encourage, encourage, encourage others... do this even more...”
2Tim 4:2... “preach the Word... rebuke, correct, encourage with great patience...”
Heb 3:13... “encourage each other daily... while it is still called today...”
- c. we will be a fearless church... guided by faith... not ashamed of Gospel... sharing Jesus with others... even when not popular or being persecuted or ridiculed...
Rom 1:16... “not ashamed of Gospel... the power of salvation... all who believe...”
Acts 5:29... “stop talking about Jesus... we must obey God rather than people...”
Gal 1:10... “not trying to win approval of people, but God...”
1Thess 2:4... “entrusted with Gospel... speak, not to please people, but God...”
1Pet 3:15-16... “always be ready to explain your hope... gently and respectfully...”
- d. we will be a giving church... a church who shares blessings even in the midst of famine... when others might hold back... we will open the floodgates (AL tithe)...
1Chron 29:10-20... “we have only given what comes from Your hand...”
Psa 37:19... “righteous not disgraced in hard times... in famine they prosper...”
Prov 11:24... “give freely, gain more... stingy, become poor... generous prosper...”
Mal 3:9-10... “open heaven... pour out so much blessing... not room to store it...”
Luke 6:38... “give and you will receive... giving determines what you get back...”
2Cor 8, 9... “plant generously, get generous crop... God will provide all needs...”
- e. we will be a church of disciples... learners, pupils, students... who refuse to stand still and be complacent... but continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus...
Luke 2:52... “Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, favor with God and people...”
1Cor 8:2... “if anyone thinks he knows anything... does not know it as he ought...”
Col 1:9-10... “live a life worthy of the Lord... growing in the knowledge of God...”
1Pet 2:2... “like babies... desire pure milk of Word... grow into full salvation...”
2Pet 3:18... “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior...”

- f. we will open our arms to the sinner... but never celebrate the sin... we will stand strong against evil and darkness and expose it no matter the consequences...
Isa 5:20... “what sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil...”
Rom 6:23... “wages of sin is death... but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus...”
Gal 6:7-10... “harvest what you plant... if satisfy sin, harvest decay and death...”
Eph 5:11... “take no part in worthless deeds of evil and darkness... expose them...”
- g. not real love to keep mouth shut when someone is about to walk off cliff... sin only produces death... not about going to heaven... about power, life on earth... speak out against all sin... worry, fear, doubt... not just *popular* ones...
Rom 5:12... “death spread to all men because all sinned...”
Rom 6:23... “wages of sin is death... but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus...”
Rom 7:4-6... “sinful passions bear fruit for death...”
James 1:15... “lust gives birth to sin... sin brings forth death...”
thanatos... future misery which begins on earth, increases in hell; all miseries from sin...
1Cor 6:8-11... “sexual sin, thieves, greedy, cheaters... not inherit kingdom...”
Gal 5:19-21... “immorality, idolatry, strife, jealousy, envy... not inherit kingdom...”
Eph 5:5... “immoral, impure, greedy, idolator... no inheritance in kingdom...”
basileia... not actual kingdom; royal power, authority; right to rule...
- h. we will be a church whose foundation is Jesus...
Matt 7:24-29... “house won't collapse because foundation is on the rock...”
Matt 16:13-20... “You are the Messiah... upon this rock I will build My church...”
1Cor 3:10-12... “by grace, laid foundation... foundation is Jesus Christ...”
Eph 2:19-22... “God's family... cornerstone of foundation is Christ Jesus...”
- i. we will only use His Word to build on that foundation... not etp...
Psa 119:9... “how can a young man keep his way pure... by keeping your word...”
Psa 119:11... “treasured your word in my heart... so I may not sin against you...”
Psa 119:25... “give me life thru your word...”
Psa 119:28... “I am weary from grief... strengthen me thru your word...”
Psa 119:49... “you have given me hope thru your word...”
Psa 119:105... “your word is a lamp for my feet... a light on my path...”
Psa 119:107... “I am severely afflicted... give me life according to your word...”
Psa 119:160... “the entirety of your word is truth...”
Psa 119:169... “give me understanding according to your word...”
- j. we are a Spirit-filled church and use His gifts and power at every opportunity...
Mark 16:17-18... “signs will accompany believers... speak in new tongues...”
Luke 10:19... “I give you power and authority over all the ability of the enemy...”
Acts 1:8... “you will receive power when HS comes on you...”
Acts 10:38... “God anointed Jesus with the HS and with power...”
- k. we will equip and train God's people to find their purpose and serve others...
Gal 5:13... “serve one another humbly in love...”
Eph 4:11-16... “pastors' responsibility... equip God's people to do the work...”
2Tim 2:2... “teach these things to others... who will be able to pass them on...”
1Pet 4:10... “use whatever gift you have received to serve others...”
- l. not planning on looking back... at failure or success... but forward... focusing on Jesus the entire way... encourage you to do the same... pray...
Isa 26:3... “keep in perfect peace... all who trust in you... thoughts fixed on you...”
Heb 12:1-3... “run the race... keeping eyes on Jesus from start to finish...”
1Tim 4:8... “physical training is good... but spiritual training is much better...”

Sermon Notes Extra
A Fearless Church
January 17, 2021

No Fear

Josh 1:9... “have I not commanded you... be strong and courageous... do not be afraid, do not be discouraged... your God will be with you...”
Psa 27:1... “the Lord is my light and salvation... whom shall I fear...”
Psa 34:4... “I sought the Lord... He delivered me from all my fears...”
Psa 118:6... “the Lord is with me... I will not be afraid... what can mere mortals do to me...”
Isa 35:4... “say to those with fearful hearts... be strong, do not fear, your God will come... He will come to save you...”
Isa 43:1... “this is what the Lord says... do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine...”
Rom 8:15... “you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear... instead, you received the Spirit of adoption... you cry out *Abba, Father...*”
2Tim 1:7... “God has not given us a spirit of fear... but power and love...”
1John 4:18... “there is no fear in love... perfect love drives out fear...”

Health

Exo 15:26... “I will not inflict any illnesses... I am the God who heals...”
Exo 23:25... “worship the Lord... I will take away sickness from you...”
Psa 30:2... “I called to you for help, and you healed me...”
Psa 103:1-3... “He forgave all my sins... heals all my diseases...”
Isa 53:3-5... “He took our pain, suffering, sicknesses... punishment for our peace was on Him... by His wounds we are healed...”
Isa 57:18-19... “I have seen their ways, but I will heal them... I will guide them and restore comfort... peace, peace, peace... I will heal...”
Jer 17:14... “heal me and I will be healed... you are the One I praise...”
Jer 30:17... “I will bring you health and will heal you of your wounds...”
Jer 33:6... “I will bring health and healing... I will heal my people...”
Matt 4:23-24... “all who were ill came to Him... He healed them...”
Matt 10:1-8... “gave His disciples authority to heal every disease...”
Luke 5:15... “they came to hear Him and be healed of their sickness...”
3John 2... “wish above all things... you prosper and be in good health...”

Provision

Psa 23:1... “the Lord is my shepherd... I lack nothing...”
Psa 34:10... “those who seek the Lord will lack no good thing...”
Psa 37:19-25... “even in famine, the righteous will prosper... I have never seen the righteous begging for bread...”
Matt 6:25-34... “seek first His righteousness... all other things added...”
Matt 7:11... “if you know how to give good gifts to your children... how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask...”
Rom 8:32... “will He not graciously give us all things...”
2Cor 9:8... “God is able to bless you abundantly... so that in all things... having all you need... you will abound in every good work...”
Phil 4:19... “my God will meet all your needs in Christ Jesus...”

Peace

Num 6:26... “may the Lord look upon you and give you peace...”
Num 25:12... “I grant him my covenant of peace...”
Judges 6:24... “Gideon built an altar... called it *The Lord is Peace...*”
Psa 4:8... “I will both lie down and sleep in peace... for you alone, Lord, make me live in safety...”
Psa 29:11... “the Lord blesses His people with peace...”
Isa 9:6... “a child will be born to us... His name is Prince of Peace...”
Isa 26:3... “you will keep the mind fixed on you in perfect peace...”
Isa 32:17... “the result of righteousness will be peace, quiet confidence...”
John 14:27... “peace I leave with you... My peace I give to you...”
John 16:33... “told you these things so in Me you may have peace...”
Rom 1:7... “grace and peace to you from God and our Lord Jesus...”
Rom 8:6-11... “mindset of the Spirit is life and peace...”
Gal 5:22-23... “the fruit of the Spirit is... love, joy, peace, patience...”
Eph 2:14-17... “He is our peace... He proclaimed good news of peace...”

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Psa 119... “how can a young man keep his way pure, by keeping your word... I have treasured your word in my heart, so I may not sin against you... give me life thru your word... I am weary with grief, strengthen me thru your word... you have given me hope thru your word... your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path... I am severely afflicted, give me life thru according to your word... the entirety of your word is truth... give me understanding according to your word...”

Inner Confusion

Psa 42:1-7... *put your hope in God... I will still praise Him...*

Sermon Study

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An inner breakdown has taken place. Said an international thinker, *it is manifest that the breakdown in social harmony is not solely due to economic and political causes.* The breakdown is due to something behind the economic and the political, a **breakdown in the spiritual**.

Something has collapsed there, and the outer collapse is simply an outer expression of a **more serious inner collapse**. The outer arrangements of people are awry (*away from correct course*) because the inner arrangements of people are awry. For the whole of the outer arrangements of life rests upon the inner. People **cannot get along with others** because they **cannot get along with themselves**, and they cannot get along with themselves because they **cannot get along with God**.

Perhaps you have the rather appalling sense that you are **not on *The Way***. You are out of joint with the nature of reality. You feel that the nature of things is not sustaining, backing, and approving your way of life. You have a sense of uncertainty about the outcome of it all, for you are uncertain about the present. There is a sense of **futility**, of **not getting anywhere**, of being up against it. You **cannot advance** in life with any buoyancy unless you are sure you are on *The Way*.

Why are we so faded, a youth asked his mother. People are *faded* because they haven't the red blood of an inner certainty coursing thru them. The colors in which they have dyed life have run. They were not fast colors. In the downpour of calamity and the stress of human living, the **colors of life have faded to a sickly gray**.

If people are to get a **sparkle**, a **buoyancy**, a **gaiety** back into life, they can **get it only** as they are sure they are on *The Way*. Then, they go singing down thru life. Till then? Life simply won't sing. Our souls are song-less until we get a bath that cleanses away all fears, all uncertainties, all guilts... all sense of not being **on *The Way***. Until then, the soul will not sing.

Can we get that cleansing bath from all doubts that there is a Way and that we are upon it? **O God, if you are, then there must be a Way**, yes, *The Way*. For that Way would be Your Way. My ways don't lead me anywhere except to dead ends. I'm starting the quest for *The Way*. Help me to *The Way*.

E. Stanley Jones **The Way Devotional - Week 1, Sunday**

1. What was the **worst** thing about 2020? What was the **best**? How would God want you to **respond** to last year? Read **1Cor 2:2** and **Phil 3:12-18**. What are you **looking forward** to most in 2021?
2. What's your **favorite thing** about Abundant Life? What can you do to help people find family, find Jesus, and find grace? Read **John 4:26-30... Rom 10:14-17... 1Cor 1:21-31... 2Cor 5:17-21**.
3. Read **Rom 1:12... 1Thess 4... 2Tim 4:2... Heb 3:13**. How well do you do at **encouraging** people? How can that change in 2021?
4. Was 2020 a **year of giving** for you? Why or why not? Read **1Chron 29:10-20... Psa 37:19... Prov 11:24... Luke 6:38**.
5. Read **Luke 2:52... 1Cor 8:2... Col 1:9-10... 1Pet 2:2... 2Pet 3:18**. Are you a **disciple** (*learner, follower, student*)? Explain.
6. Read **Psa 119:9, 11, 25, 28, 49, 105, 107, 160, 169**. How much do you **rely on** the Word of God for **life decisions**?
7. Read **Isa 26:3... Heb 12:1-3... 1Tim 4:8**. How are you planning to make a **new beginning** in 2021?

We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors... and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience. **George Washington**

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past. **Thomas Jefferson**