

CTW: Psalm 90

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5

AGD: As we start a New Year its worth considering that time was God's idea. And while we pass through it we cannot hold it. And while there is a past and a future we only have contact with the now. So it's worth thinking about how to make the most of our time.

The Bible says, "teach us to number our days that we might have a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12)

- Recognize that we are temporarily on this earth
- Make the most of the limited time we have
- Wisdom leads to a life well lived

In our text Paul talks about our earthly dwelling and an eternal home God has made for us.

1. Tent—groan, pain, suffering (and temporary)

We don't want to get rid of the body entirely but that it would be "Swallowed up by life"

2. The presence of the Spirit is the beginning of something new (and eternal!)

A transformation has already taken place

3. We are qualified and called to "persuade others"

We know "we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ"—both our works and their salvation

We should tune into what the Word says about old and new or the Before and After

- Before/Old self/nature. Sinful
- After/New self/nature. Christ like
- Old method was to trust in human abilities
- Spirit led life is to lean on God

We stand at the threshold of a New Year. In some ways it will be just like any other time period. But there are some things to do to make the transition more like a transformation

- Let some things die
  - Resentments—let no bitterness or forgiveness follow you into the New Year---that was before
  - And this includes accepting God's forgiveness
  - Maybe even sinful habits or fears
- Hold onto what is good
  - God has been being gracious to you and more of it is to come
  - Walk in the forgiveness you've received.
  -
- Set your mind on Christ
  - God is creative. Try new things with God.
  - Determine that more than ever you're are going to tune into God's Spirit
  - Be more loving in 2017 than ever
  - In Christ, God reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
    - There is nothing better you could do in 2017 than working to reconcile others to God

CLOSE

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old has passed away; look around! the new has come."

Leave the Before. Embrace the After.

Look at the new! God has worked to bring you here and God is with you now.

Time is temporary but it is a gift of God that allows us to change, heal and grow. Time can simply be passed through. Or it can be harnessed to transform our lives.

- If we were to be wise with our days then we would begin 2017 by leaving the past behind
- We would daily-walk in the Spirit throughout the year. We would participate with what God is doing to reconcile us and others to Himself.
- Then we would end 2017 more like Christ than ever before.
- That would be an amazing transformation.