

"STEWARDED GOD'S MISSING GIFT"

Sunday, January 1, 2017

MAKE A COMMITMENT: WILL YOU COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER GOD WILL SAY TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE?

Introduction: A new year is upon us. This is always a great time to reflect upon our lives and evaluate them considering needed change.

As we look back on this past year I trust that you can see ways in which God has blessed you and your family. I trust that you can see how God has drawn you closer to Himself. I trust that you can look back on specific moments and see God's hand guiding you through.

Q: What does the Lord have in store for you in this new year?

Q: What does the Lord have in store for us as a church family in this new year?

Q: What is the role that God is calling you to play here in this ministry?

Q: How is God going to use you to accomplish His purpose?

† **Stewarding God's Missing Gift**

Consider your stewardship of Christ in this New Year. At times, we can become so busy with life that He becomes the *"missing Gift."* Commit to pursuing a year of faithful stewardship of this greatest Gift.

"Amazingly, many people who receive Christ, and who claim to believe He is all to them, soon live life without thinking of Him."—Paul Chappell

I. Why does this Gift goes Missing?

"It is **never true** that the Lord Jesus Christ leaves those whom He has saved by His grace. It is **never true** that, having taken anyone up in His loving-kindness, He later forsakes them, but it is sadly true that Christians may go on taking it for granted that they are in fellowship with Him when in actuality they have drifted away from Him in heart. They are not enjoying His presence, and they hardly realize their loss. I wonder if there are not some of us here today who have had that experience. It is so easy to go on in an outward form of religiousness and not really enjoy the presence of Christ. It is possible to sit at the table of the Lord and to be conducting services for the Lord, and yet not have the presence of the Lord with us, and it is possible to go on, day by day, thinking everything is all right when in reality things are very, very wrong because we are out of touch with Him."—Harry Ironside

Christ becomes this “*missing* Gift” when lose sight of Him in our daily lives and in turn live in such a way that He is not on full display in our lives.

Consider with me to main reasons why Christ becomes this *missing* Gift.

A. Because of Our _____ (Luke 2:43)

In Biblical times, all Jewish men were required by the Law to go to three feasts in Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16-17).

Q: What happens when we become preoccupied with the busyness of our schedules—our responsibilities? What happens when our focus shifts to *productivity* instead of *priorities*?

Three key priorities suffer when we become too preoccupied with productivity.

1. **Skipping time in God’s _____**
2. **Skipping time in _____**
3. **Skipping time with God’s _____**

B. Because of Our _____ (Luke 2:44)

This word, “*supposing*” carries the idea of assuming something to be true.

II. How can I keep this Gift from going Missing?

It comes down to a matter of influence.

Q: What are you allowing to influence your life?

Q: What are the greatest influences in your life?

We pursue what we love!

Our devotion to God is displayed in our obedience to Him (John 14:15).

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the **Lord** thy **God** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

- We are to love “*God with all thy heart*”—exclusively
 - We are to love “*God with all thy soul*”—completely
 - We are to love “*God with all thy mind*”—dependently
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Cf. Matthew 6:33

Philippians 1:21 vs. 2:21

**A. Resolve to spend daily time in the _____ of God
(Colossians 3:16)**

**1. There needs to be intentional _____
(James 1:21-25)**

“whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty” – There is an *activity* that we must be involved in—that is seen in the word “looketh.”

As you open the Word, cry out to the Lord, “*show me what You want me to know about You!*” James tells us, “*if you want to be a doer of the Word, and not just a hearer, you must diligently look into the perfect Law of liberty.*”

2. There needs to be intentional meditation (Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:15)

Cf. Proverbs 13:20

3. There needs to be intentional _____
(Psalm 119:11)

B. Resolve to led by the _____ of God (Galatians 5:16)

To “*walk in the Spirit*” is to be Spirit-filled or controlled as a habitual lifestyle. It is to be led by the Spirit of God, submitting to His control by responding in obedience to the simple commands of Scripture.

C. Resolve to spend weekly time with the _____ of God
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Cf. Philippians 2:3

What is my next step?



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