

# REDEMPTION CHURCH

## New Years Eve Service | Be Prepared

### 2 TIMOTHY 2:21-3:1

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. <sup>22</sup>So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup>Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup>And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup>correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

**Godlessness in the Last Days**  
<sup>1</sup>But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

Sunday Steven talked about how to get prepared for the word ahead. Whenever we start out on a new year, a new journey, a new mission –or even when we are in the process of continuing one; it is always good to stop and evaluate.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Midway through his second letter to Timothy we read the key passage from Paul, who has this say to the young pastor (2 Timothy 2:21-3:1).

### Notes:

Verses 20-21 teach us that **we need to get ready for THE work**, how do we do that? It goes on to say that we need to do so in three ways:

#### #1: Flee Youthful Passions.

**Sin** - This one is the most obvious, if you want to walk in the fullness of what God has for you, flee from sin and pursue holiness. This doesn't have to be hard or over-complicated. [Hebrews 12:1-3](#)

**Stop List** - Take time to make a list of things/attitudes/behaviors that you want to stop in order to enter the new year better prepared *for every good work*. Ask yourself some hard questions, and be honest with yourself as you answer. Invite the Holy Spirit to convict you in areas you might have a blindspot.

#### Am I...:

- wasting too much time (sports, social media, TV)?
- starting something new to the detriment of finishing what has already been started?
- Holding on to that thing I know I've needed to

## 2 Corinthians 4:2-3

.....  
*But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.*

## Ephesians 3:14-21

.....  
*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

- stop forever because it isn't a part of my future?
- spending money like I'm 16? ([Luke 16:10-13](#))

**Start List** - Now, on the flip-side, make a list of things/attitudes/behaviors that you want to commit to moving forward into the new year. Here's a good place to begin:

- Getting in community
- Reading your Bible
  - Daily Dig (sign up [HERE](#))
  - Sermon Notes
  - Redemption Recap (watch [HERE](#))
- Serving the body ([Ephesians 4:9-16](#))
- Budgeting (EveryDollar)
  - If you didn't receive the access code yesterday, email [jamey@experienceredemption.com](mailto:jamey@experienceredemption.com).

### #2: Don't argue over stupid things.

Three foolish ignorant conversations to avoid in 2024:

- **Doctrinal Division** (ie: Calvinism / Eschatology)  
We elevate and unify around core doctrine, and discuss (not divide) the rest.
- **Doctrinal Extremism**  
In summary, if your perspective of the Bible alienates 90% of other Bible-believing, core-doctrine testifying believers...it's a bit extreme (ie: Jewish roots movement, hyper reformed circles).
- **Church Legalism**  
If you don't \_\_\_\_\_, then you can't \_\_\_\_\_.  
(ie: *If you don't take communion every week you aren't a real church; or, if you celebrate Christmas you are endorsing paganism.*)

**\*Note that it is not the belief itself that is the problem, but when it alienates others and causes division.**

### #3: Understand the times.

We are called to discern the time we are living in, to not be deceived, and to communicate clear truth to a lost world.

- **2 Timothy 3:1** *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.*
- See also [1 Chronicles 12:32](#); [Luke 12:54-56](#); [Romans 13:11-14](#)
- Get your **Clear Truth Conference** tickets [HERE!](#)