

“DON’T LOOK BACK”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe
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December 30, 2018

Sermon Notes

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:10-14

Let’s Press into the New Year LOOKING FORWARD NOT LOOKING BACK

I. Acts 9:1-19

...¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

To Press Forward into the New Year WE NEED A VISION AND A CALL WORTH DYING FOR

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Matthew 16:24-25

II. Isaiah 57:14-15

¹⁴ And it will be said: “Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.” ¹⁵ For this is what the high and exalted One says — he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

To Press Forward into the New Year WE MUST CLEAR AWAY THE OBSTACLES AND REVIVE HOPE

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

III. James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

To Press Forward into the New Year WE MUST MAKE A DECISION AND A PLAN

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. Proverbs 16:9

IV. Luke 9:61-62

⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” ⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

To Press Forward into the New Year WE MUST START AND RESTART AS NEEDED

Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Proverbs 4:26