



THE

Fullness OF Time

But in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son... Galatians 4:4

January 3, 2021

BE READY

We are all ready to turn the page on 2020, hoping and praying that 2021 will be a better year! But with so many things out of our control, is there anything we can do to ensure that 2021 is a better year? Join us online for the last sermon in The Fullness of Time series where Pastor Gary Webber will share three examples that twelve-year-old Jesus set for us that are sure to make this a year that makes us more like Him!

Passage: Luke 2:41-52

What can we do to make 2021 a better year?

1. Show up (Luke 2:49; John 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Three reasons why you need to be more connected to the church:

1. Living in community with God's people helps you stay connected to God.
2. Living like Jesus is hard, but it is possible when we do it together.
3. We are better together.

2. Speak up (Luke 2:46-47)

3. Grow up (Luke 2:52; Luke 2:40; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:17-18)

Daily Readings:

Many people use the new year as a time to set goals and establish new habits. As we make lists of goals and plans for 2021, it is important to ask ourselves what kind of spiritual goals we might set. The Bible contains many "lists" of quality and character traits believers should strive for as we seek to be more like Jesus. As you read each day's passage, prayerfully consider the goal of each list. Ask yourself what you can learn from that list as you plan for the new year. Spend time in prayer asking God to give you what you need in order to be transformed more into the image of Jesus in 2021.

Day 1: Romans 12

Day 2: Philippians 2

Day 3: Galatians 5

Day 4: James 3

Day 5: Matthew 5

Day 6: 1 Timothy 3

Day 7: 1 Corinthians 13

Suggested Resources:

Books:

The Mind of Christ, by T. W. Hunt and Claude King

Other sermon series at ssbc.org:

The Disciple's Journey (2018)

Beautiful Feet (2014)

Walk This Way (2019)

Small Group Questions

January 3, 2021

Use this outline for personal reflection, as a couples or family devotion, or with a small group.

Hangout (warming up to the topic):

1. What is your opinion of New Years' Resolutions? In your experience, are they helpful? Why or why not?

2. A "Rule of Life" is a written plan for growing in Christlikeness. The word "rule" doesn't refer to the law, but rather to the idea of a structure or system. Think of a trellis used to train a vine. One example from a rule of life might be to read one chapter of the bible each morning. Another example would be to pray for 10 minutes every day during a lunch break. If you were going to develop a rule of life for 2021, what elements might you include? Why?

Hear (listening to God through Scripture):

3. Read Philippians 2:1-18.

- If every member of your family was able to live out Philippians 2:1-4 perfectly, what would be different? What would be different if every member of our church did this?
- Based on this passage, what does it mean to "have the mind of Christ"?
- Paul says to "work out your salvation," but also says that it is "God who works in you to will and to work for His good pleasure" (2:12-13). How do you understand these verses? What can/should we do and what can only God do as it relates to our salvation and discipleship?

4. Read Romans 12:1-21.

- What does it mean to be "conformed to the pattern of this world"? How do you recognize when this has happened to you? Can you give an example?
- What does it mean to be "transformed by the renewal of your mind"? How does this relate to Philippians 2:5?
- What effect do verses 3-4 have on renewing and transforming our minds? What role does the church play in renewing our minds?

5. Read each passage of scripture and then answer these questions for each passage. Galatians 5:18-26; James 3:13-18; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- What on this list immediately stands out to you? Why?
- If you had to pick one thing on this list that you hope to see realized in your life in 2021, what would it be? Why? What could you develop a rule of life around that concept in 2021?
- What on this list seems the most difficult and out of reach to you right now? How can you pray for/about that?

Huddle (making it personal and praying together - in huddles):

6. What are your spiritual goals for becoming more like Jesus in 2021? What do you need to do this year that you didn't do in 2020? What do you need to stop doing? What is it that only God can do this year to make you more like Jesus? Invite accountability and pray together.