

5 D's for the new year

Phillipians 3:12-16

Introduction:

Every year we start setting goals. I want to challenge you this year to take steps that will change your year and change your Christian walk.

Scripture:

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Key Points:

1. We must be dissatisfied
2. We must be devoted
3. We must change direction
4. We must be determined
5. We must be disciplined

Outline:

1. We must be dissatisfied
 - a. "Not as though I had already attained"
 - i. The apostle Paul was satisfied with his savior Jesus Christ but not with his Christian life.
 - ii. Just like Paul we need to be dissatisfied with where we are in our walk with Christ Jesus.
 - iii. If we are dissatisfied with where we are then we will strive for a closer relationship with the Father.
 - b. The only comparing that should happen is with ourselves and Jesus Christ.
 - i. What I mean by that is how does our life look last year compared to the year before and how is our life this year going to look compared to last year. But most importantly how does my life look compared to Jesus?
2. We must be devoted
 - a. Our dissatisfaction will lead us to a deeper devotion.
 - b. What is devotion?
 - i. love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause.
 - c. We must be devoted to one thing and that is Jesus Christ.
 - d. If we are devoted to Jesus Christ and our walk with HIM all other things will fall into place.

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- i. My devotion isn't to this church. It is to Jesus Christ and because of that HE will do what is best for HIS church.
 - ii. JESUS CHRIST MUST BE FIRST.
- 3. We must change direction
 - a. Through devotion comes new direction.
 - b. When we are devoted fully to Christ Jesus there is no more looking back/
 - c. We are to look forward to the future of what Christ Jesus will do through us as individuals and collectively as a the body of Christ.
 - d. Where the head is looking is the direction the body is going.
 - e. "Forgetting what is behind" this doesn't mean we are to forget about it because the truth is we wont.
 - i. To forget means to no longer be influenced by it.
 - (1) WE ARE NOT TO BE CONTROLLED BY OUR PAST BECAUSE IF WE ARE WE WILL MISS THE PRESENT AND HAVE NO FUTURE.
- 4. We must be determined
 - a. In order to continue in the new direction we need determination.
 - b. "I press" or translated follow after
 - i. We need to follow after God.
 - ii. Its not up to God to do it all and its not up to us to do it all.
 - iii. God desires to work through us but we got to be where HE is in order to be used
 - iv. ARE YOU DETERMINED TO BE IN A POSITION TO BE USED OF GOD?
 - v. I AM DETERMINED TO LET GOD USE ME TO EXPAND HIS CHURCH
 - vi. I AM DETERMINED TO LET GOD USE ME IN A GREAT AND MIGHTY WAY IN THE NEW YEAR, CAN YOU SAY THE SAME THING?
- 5. We must be disciplined
 - a. Determination is nothing without discipline.
 - i. "The same mind"
 - ii. To be disciplined means to be unified.
 - iii. We need to be unified as a church a house divided will not stand.
 - iv. In order for us to remain unified we must continue to follow the word of God.
 - v. Every ministry must be based on the word of God, every sermon, every bible study, every Sunday school lesson must come from and stand on the word of God.

Conclusion:

Are you ready to have the best year of your life? Let today be the day that your future changes.

