



Neighbors meeting Neighbors!



***How are you going to choose
your #1 New Year's Goal?***

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Pastor Jerry

- How should we choose...?
- ... pick a goal that is meaningful...
- a chance to achieve
- <>
- Something that helps us in some way...
- Our health... in our relationships...
- Our job, or school... our finances...

- We are in the most divisive time in our country's recent history...
- Can we adopt a goal to help our country?
- How does God speak to us in this time?
- <>
- Our goals > internal... > focused > ourselves...
- External > focused > something/someone else
- <>
- When considering...
- What is happening?

- Our country...
- Consider our new President's speech...
- !! I am not promoting one preference for political views versus another!!
- What I heard was a sincere desire to heal our country...
- To pull people together...
- To talk through... work through...
- Our differences of viewpoint, experiences...
- Because we are all different...
- We will always have differences!

- Maybe > our #1 N Y Goal should focus on something about our country... community...
- <>
- How does God speak to us?
- Is there wisdom we can gain from peoples' experiences - in the Bible?
- Did Jesus say or do things which might help us for our N Y Goals?
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- I dug into the Bible and found some pretty interesting tidbits...
- Ones that I would like to share...

- **Point 1: God has a plan for us - intends that we grow and move forward**
- The first verse goes all the way back to creation!
- <slide-Genesis 1:27-31 >> explain...
- Many facets to this passage -
- Again... God intends for us to progress and move forward...

Genesis 1:27-31 (portions)

- So God created humankind...
- “Be fruitful and multiply...
- ... have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”
 - every plant...
- ... every tree with seed in its fruit;
- ... everything that has the breath of life

- **Point 2: Be careful and intentional**
- <slide-Ephesians 5:15-20 > >> explain...
- Reinforces our need to think...
- Consider the good/bad...
- Be productive with our time and skills
- And strive to be filled with the peace and spirit of Jesus...

Ephesians 5:15-20 (portions)

- **Be careful then how you live**
- **not as unwise people but as wise,
making the most of your time**
 - **So do not be foolish...**
- **understand the will of the Lord**
 - **Do not get drunk with wine**
- **but be filled with the Spirit of God**

- **Point 2 > continued**
- <slide-Romans 12:2-5 > >> explain...
- Says it a different way...
- Renew - or rebuild our mind > in wise ways...
- >>> pick good N Y Goals and strive to achieve them

Romans 12:2-5 (portions)

- **Do not be conformed to this world**
- **be transformed by the renewing of your minds**
 - **That which is good and acceptable and perfect**
- **Do not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment**

- **Point 3 - We are all different...**
- <slide-1 Corinthians 12:12-27> >> explain...
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1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (portions)

- **Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.**
- **If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.**
- **If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?**

- The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
- those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor,
- God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body,

Summary...

- If one member suffers,
all suffer together with it;
- if one member is honored,
all rejoice together with it.

- **Point 3 - cont...**

- >>>>1 Corinthians 12:12-27> explain...

- This passage points out what we all know...
- Each of us thinks differently...
- Husband - wife...
- Brother - sister...
- Parents - children...
- >> Democrats and Republicans
- No different than people have been over the ages!
- We are never going all agree on everything!

- **Point 4: Work Together...**
- <slide-Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 > >> explain...
- Ecclesiastes reads a little differently...
- Goes way back, well before Jesus...
- Wisdom literature - Solomon...
- Pithy little statements of wisdom...
- Think of it as a series of punchlines!
- ... confirmation in my mind >
consistent with my own experiences!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (portions)

- **Two are better than one ...
if they fall, one will lift up the other;**
- **woe to one who is alone and falls and
does not have another to help.**
- **if two lie together, they keep warm;
but how can one keep warm alone?**
- **one might prevail against another,
two will withstand one. A threefold
cord is not quickly broken.**

- **Point 4: cont...**
- <slide-Philippians 2:3-8> >> explain...
- We are reminded again to strive to be humble and consider the interests and thoughts of others...
- To work with others for the good of all...
- We have the example of Jesus, who came to us to be a model of the kind of life that God intends for each of us to strive for...

Philippians 2:3-8 (portions)

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit
- in humility, regard others as better than yourselves.
- Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
- Consider Jesus, who humbled himself ... even to death on the cross.

- **Suggestion - N Y Goals...**
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- For my #1 N Y Goal - I want to work towards a theme of unity and working together...
- > My suggestion for you to consider:
- >> also focus on unity/working together
- >> consider others' points of view...
listen to their perspective
- Be considerate of others... talk in a civil tone...
- Don't be silent >> exchange ideas and perspectives...

New Year's Challenge!

Week 4



Spend 5 minutes each day:

- **Pray for wisdom and strength to build up those around you... share thoughts and perspectives...**
- **Not a pray-er? Reflect/meditate**

DONT
FORGET
THE
KIDS @
SCHOOL!

DONT
FORGET
TO TAKE
THE
TRASH OUT!

THANK
YOU

DONT
FORGET
TO
FEED THE
DOG

AND
PICK UP
the
DRY
CLEANING!

• Closing Question



How are you going to choose your #1 New Year's Goal?

- God intends for us to be careful - wise and work to build up others and our world around us...
- How are you going to choose your #1 N Y Goal?
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- I've shared some thoughts...
- What do you think?
- I'd like to hear your thoughts...
chat - text - email...
- <>
- Would you like to know more about how Jesus helps and guides us?

Not sure how to proceed?

Want some help going forward?

→ the Chat Box!!

→ Or text: 517-588-8415!!

→ Or jerry.bukoski@gmail.com

- We can explore how Jesus guides us to work towards improving ourselves... those around us...
- And our country and community!
- promises to us - gives us power and peace!
- <>
- One of our pillars at Kalamo Church is to care for and help our neighbors..
- Together we can work for the betterment of our community and country!
- <>

- I pray that the awesome love and care of God the Father, Jesus our Lord and Savior, and the power of the Holy Spirit give you peace in 2021!
- <>
- may the peace of Christ strengthen and preserve you in relationship with Him...
- And warm your hearts... Now and forever!
- Amen!

- **God is great! >> Amen!**
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- **Let us pray >> Amen!**
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- **Next Sunday > Continue on our New Year's Goals and finding the strength to achieve them!!!**
 - How does God give us powerful help on achieving meaningful goals for the new year...?
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- Friends, Feel the awesome Power and Presence of the **Holy Spirit** this morning as we are forgiven and adopted as God's Holy Children
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- God gives us that everlasting "Boost" that we sometimes need to get back on track!
- Open your heart and feel the warmth and blessings of His love!
- Amen...
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