

### I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2

Over the past couple of weeks, we looked at the <u>disciples</u>, who they were in the first century, what it means to be a modern day disciple, finally we looked at what it means to <u>follow</u> and who we are following as disciples of Jesus.

We have been brought into the kingdom of God through the work of <u>Jesus</u>. It's a new year. Even in this newness, the same God that is in control of everything. We may have set <u>goals</u> that we want to achieve over the course of the year. This week we will look at more of the practical side of things. We will take a look at various reading plans, apps, and ways in which we can achieve some goals. Maybe you want to read the Bible in a year? We will talk about that. We will look at ways to set <u>prayer time</u>, and even plans for verse <u>memorization</u> if you want to take it that far. Finally, we will take some time at the end of class to write out our own <u>vision statement</u> of who we want to be as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

#### In the Word:

Let us turn to *Psalm 1* and go through this as we are seeking to set goals for this new year.

The beginning of this Psalm focuses on the progression of movement to a halt. The movement goes from <u>walking</u>, to <u>standing</u>, to <u>sitting</u>. The movement show that walking down the path of sin almost comes to a place where you are living and residing in it.

Psalm 1 points out how a person is blessed if they do NOT do these things. Rather, they <u>delight</u> in the law of the Lord and they <u>meditate</u> on his law day and night.

That person who delights in and meditates on the law is like a tree planted and rooted by streams of water, <u>yielding</u> fruit in season.

Now as you probably are aware of, this way of living is no easy task. Dwelling in the word, living and residing in it does not come easily. But as the Psalm states in its final verse, "*For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*" We are reminded that the Lord is watching over us and he is in control of our lives.

### How do I put this into practice?

This section will lay out ways in which we can put into practice what we have discussed today.

### **Reading plans:**

There are many reading plans that we can go through and put into practice. There are many

websites you can use as well. <u>www.biblegateway.com</u> is an excellent website to use. The website: <u>www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/</u> provides excellent plans to follow and work through. They vary in intensity, length, and type. Here are a few of the plans:

- "The Busy-Life Plan" the entire Bible in 720 days.
- Chronological Reading the Bible in the order that the events happened.
- "Ninety-Day Challenge" read the entire Bible in 90 days.

There are mobile apps out there as well that. I use the YouVersion Bible App it provides excellent plans like the I listed before. This app also provides a way to have the Bible read to you by a narrator.

## What Bible is a good translation?



## verse memorization:

It's always good to have verses memorized. I don't have a set plan that you can stick to. My recommendation is to pick out verses of your own choosing and set your own pace. Start small and easy, maybe doing only 2 or 3 verses a week. Choose verses from the Epistles, the Psalms, or the Proverbs. All of these are good places to start and they may require some discipline.

# Prayer time/devotion:

Prayer is a major part of the life of a disciple. We all have the opportunity to bring our requests, thanksgivings, and issues to God. Choosing a proper time that is fitting for you in your daily life and stick to it. This can be right when you wake up, while you are driving to work, or other times of the day

# **Vision Statement:**

Here you are invited to write your own vision statement of who you want to be as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come.  $2^{nd}$  Corinthians 5:17