

The Beginning of a New Year and a New Decade

Where is your life going?

3-Week Sermon Series Overview:

Week 1 – Hope: Finding meaning and developing your Life Mission

Week 2 – Love: God created you for love

Week 3 – Endurance: Overcoming the obstacles you will face pursuing your Life Mission

2020 – Finding a life path of HOPE in a New Year and a New Decade.

- **Romans 15:13**
 - “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- Do you want God’s offer of hope? Do you want God’s offer of empowering your life with His Holy Spirit?
- This is a great time of year to stop and reflect on where we are going in our lives.

Winning

- Are you winning IN life?
- Are you winning AT life?
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-25**
 - ²⁴“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”
- **Psalm 25:8-10**
 - “8The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. 9 He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way. 10 The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his commands.”
- **Jeremiah 6:16**
 - “Thus says the Lord, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”
- God’s offer is to teach us how to win AT life and how to win IN life.
 - Winning IN life is about what you do.
 - Winning AT life is about who you are.
- The world around us has scoreboards.
 - Keeping Score – Families, Neighbors, Co-workers and Co-owners, Friends, Enemies, Spouses, Ex’s, Frenemy’s, Siblings Parents, People from High School, You and I keep score.
- The world’s scoreboards generally fixate on three things:
 - Money (Financial/Possessions)
 - Sex (Appearance/Prowess)
 - Power (Control/Influence)
- **1 John 2:15-17**
 - “15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only (1) a craving for physical pleasure, (2) a craving for everything we see, (3) and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

Deconstructionism – a destructive disease spreading throughout the world

- We live in a world that has become cynical and destructive.
 - Our world constantly criticizes, mocks, makes fun of, and ridicules the Biblical teachings that bring meaning and purpose to life.

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- So much of what we are currently experiencing in our post-modern world today is the result of the philosophy called **Deconstructionism**.
 - Deconstructionism questions traditional assumptions about certainty, identity, and truth. i.e. there are no absolutes.
- Deconstructionism denigrates and attacks the validity of the Bible, seeks to abolish the relevance of following Jesus and seeks to undermine the validity or the role of the church of Jesus Christ in the world.
 - Deconstructionism seeks to deconstruct any influence the Bible has in morals, societal norms or ethics. The capstone of Deconstructionism is found in the attempt to make all things relative, rendering personal truth as the ultimate truth.
 - Deconstructionism, when played out through relativity, challenges the value, meaning and significance of male and female identity, denigrates male and female interpersonal relationships, seeks to invalidate Biblical family structures and values, challenges Institutional authority including but not limited to the police, the legislature, governance and the rule of law. If you're wondering what is happening in the world around us, and where it is coming from, look no further than Deconstructionism.
- Jacques Derrida – a 20th century French philosopher who was greatly influenced by the works of Friedrich Nietzsche is the person attributed with the penning many of the foundational tenets of deconstructionism.¹
 - Friedrich Nietzsche was of course best known for his work on Nihilism.
 - Most commonly, nihilism is presented in the form of existential nihilism, which argues that life is without objective meaning, purpose, or intrinsic value.²
- The question for deconstructionists – if you tear everything apart, what will you build in it's place?

Charting a course for life and eternal life success

Joshua 1:8-9

8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth,

(a) but you shall meditate on it day and night,

(b) so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it;

(c) for then you will make your way prosperous,

(d) and then you will have success.

9 Have I not commanded you?

(a) Be strong and courageous!

(b) Do not tremble, or be dismayed.

(c) for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Focused

Discipleship

Active obedience

Success **AT** life

Success **IN** life

Following Jesus comes with a command

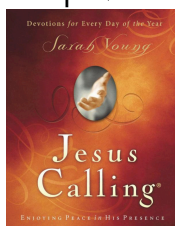
To have a backbone and be courageous

Tremble is fear, dismayed is dis-couraged

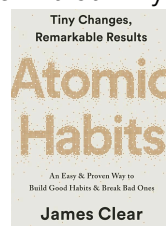
Confidence is derived from Who is with you

Where do I start?

- **Stop waffling on Jesus** – Figure out who Jesus is. Either follow Him or disown Him; being lukewarm is folly.
- **Settle Your Identity** – Decide where you get your identity; in yourself and your achievements or in Jesus.
- **Come back or watch online** – next week and January 19 to finish this series with Pastor Doug and I.
- **Develop 1% Habits** – Courageously make tiny changes ... that will yield remarkable results.



Jesus Calling by Sarah Young



Atomic Habits by James Clear

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deconstruction#Influence_of_Nietzsche

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihilism>