

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Do you make New Year's Resolutions?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. As you look back on 2018, what are some of your fondest memories this year?
 - a. How did God shape you this year?
3. As you look ahead to 2019, what are you looking forward to God doing in your heart?
4. Read Philippians 3:1-9. What does Paul mean when he warns us not to put confidence in our flesh?
5. Paul seems to think he has the most reasons to put confidence in the flesh, but then he turns it around in verse 7. What "gains" is he talking about in verse 7?
6. What are some examples of "gains" that people are seeking in our world today?
7. Are these "gains" inherently bad things? Why/why not?
8. At what point do "gains" become a bad thing?
9. In verse 8, Paul says "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Let's unpack this further... What does Paul mean here?

10. Read verses 10-11. Are you willing to say the same things as Paul is here?

- a. Do you want to know Christ on that level? Why/not?

11. Read verses 13-14. Do you think it is a bad thing for us to dwell on the past while we are trying to move on?

- a. What role do our past experiences play in our future ahead?

12. Close in prayer together

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Is your walk with Jesus your greatest gain in your life?
- Make Room for God to Write His Story In Your Heart
- With the new year comes all sorts of new opportunities, plans and optimism
- Your greatest responsibility is your relationship with yourself, and with God
- Your faith in Jesus should be your foundation on which everything else stands
- Mark 8:36(NIV) - What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?
- We should strive to be so intimate with God that everything else is worthless compared to knowing Him.