

# Declaring God's Goodness: Reflections on 2021

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Good morning! Can you believe that 2021 is almost over? What a year!

I was reading about the life habits of a pretty famous author, and he takes about two days at the end of the year and reviews every day of the previous year, even down to every appointment. He is not only remembering and reflecting on each day, but he is also determining the value of his interaction and if the time was well spent or not. That's pretty serious.

We aren't going to go into that much detail today, but I would like to look back at this year. And I would encourage you to take at least a few minutes before the year is over and consider your own life. What you have accomplished, what God has done in your life and maybe in some ways determine the value of how this year was spent.

(Graphic)

**Theme: Declaring God's Goodness**

**Psalm 89:1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

## **Be Preoccupied with Jesus**

Covid and political distraction – Jesus did what he did during the Roman Empire. The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead, raised Christ from the dead during the Roman Empire. You think we have corruption issues, evil leaders, ungodly laws and ungodly lawmakers; you should study Rome.

Part of Jesus coming when he did was to answer the question. You know what impact politics and the governments and kingdoms of this world can have on the kingdom of God? None. Jesus came to say there's another king and another kingdom. And he does what he pleases. You know what ungodly rulers and ungodly leaders were able to do to stop or even influence the purpose of God in the earth? Nothing. They actually helped make it happen. Every disciple but one willingly died for their belief and to their alliance to another king and another kingdom. Let not get distracted.

God has called us to sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

## **Be Preoccupied with the Mission**

Part of God's steadfast love and faithfulness to this church has been his sovereignty and continuous anointing over this church to accomplish the mission that was given to us many years ago as our founding Pastors, Pastor Lester and Erma Zimmerman and the elders discerned that we are,

## **Empowered by God to bring Jesus' love, healing, and hope to the world**

I am so grateful that the first point of my first sermon as Lead Pastor of this church was about the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will continue to pursue the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will continue to encourage people to pursue and walk in and grow in their spiritual gifts.

## **Empowered by God to bring Jesus' love, healing, and hope to the world**

But you, you people are chosen, you people may declare. The royal priesthood refers to the priesthood of all believers. As you experience the love, healing, and hope of Jesus in your life as you are empowered by the Holy Spirit, all of us are called to bring, to be a vessel. Yes you, you can make a difference. There is a calling on each person's life to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ, wherever you go He is with you.

## **Empowered by God to bring Jesus' love, healing, and hope to the world**

This church will continue to focus on the Love of God that was displayed for us through the life of Jesus.

The love of God that ran toward the prodigal son. The love that did not condemn but forgave the woman caught in adultery.

We refer to it as the Father heart of God. The Father heart of God is to be close, to know him. He's not mad at you.

The Father heart of God is that Jesus received the punishment for your sin, your failure, and your shame so you can stop punishing yourself. It also means we don't punish others for their sin, failures, and shame.

We believe that we will be judge and that sin is sin. We believe the Father heart of God is that you would make things right with him and spend eternity with him.

## **Empowered by God to bring Jesus' love, healing, and hope to the world**

Our winter study was focused on this very specific anointing that rests upon Petra for healing. We will highlight all our healing ministries. Our counseling department, recovery programs, and accountability groups.

- **Father Heart of God**
- **Identity in Christ**
- **Lie vs Truth**

- Bait of Satan
- Pure Desire
- The healed healer

### Stats from Matt K.

Empowered by God to bring Jesus' love, healing, and hope to the world

#### 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

We talked about value-based living in our fall study

1. Devotion to Jesus
2. Commitment to Scripture, Worship, and Prayer
3. Empowerment of the Holy Spirit
4. Living in Community
5. Healing and Freedom
6. Sharing Jesus and Serving Others

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In the past year (despite Covid restrictions), Petra sent 184 persons in short-term and long-term missions to serve in 17 countries around the world on 5 continents (N. America, S. America, Europe, Africa, and Asia).

Missions, local outreach, and evangelism. Being a blessing to our local community by meeting practical needs.

- Highest VBS attendance
- Attendance Sunday morning attendance
- Most baptisms on one Sunday

Prayer Ministers

Closing song – time of dedication.

Extra:

Who we lost

Gratitude

Video