

CHURCH

@ home 2023

In this year's Church@Home, Todd described the navigational process of dead reckoning. Dead reckoning is the process of calculating the current position of a moving object by using a previously determined fixed position. It helps determine, correct or limit the amount of drift an object makes from its intended course. At the end of this past year or the beginning of this new one, consider taking some time to conduct a personal dead reckoning.

A Glance Back

While our focus should always be forward, a glance DOES help that future come into a sharp and more purposeful focus. Consider a glance back at where you have come this past year: Describe some ways you have been successful in achieving your own personal goals this past year:

- What factors contributed to your success?
- Were there seasons of distraction or discouragement?
- How did you prevent drift?

Describe some ways you have drifted from your intended course over the past year:

- What caused the drift?
- Looking back, how could it have been prevented?

Want To vs. Willing To

Sometimes our "want to" is greater than our "willingness to" when it comes to setting and achieving goals. Arbitrary goal setting can actually be extremely counterproductive in our lives. It's healthy to allow sufficient thought and prayer in establishing what we want to achieve in the upcoming year. So, how willing are you to do what it takes to accomplish what you want to accomplish this coming year?

Jesus speaks of the importance of planning in advance of starting in Luke 14:28: "28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" - Luke 14:28 (ESV). Before you start out on this new year's goals and aspirations take a moment to consider the goals you are setting.

Start, Stop and Finish

When it comes to setting goals for this upcoming year consider ask these questions:

What do I/we need to STOP?

What do I/we need to START?

What do I/we need to FINISH?

It's the last question that we sometimes fail to ask in our lives. We are often good at starting the things that God has given us, but we are seldom good at finishing them. Philippians 1:6 says, "...I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:6 (ESV).

I believe that God has something for you and for me and for Hilton Head Island Community Church to complete in the years to come. God is not done with you and me yet! And I can't wait to see what God has for us in the days to come.

Prayer

God help me to be fully aware of the course you have set me on. Help me to see where I have drifted from your plan this past year. Help me to know what I need to stop, start and especially what I need to finish in the year that lies ahead. Give me the ability and persistence to join you in finishing the work you began in me. Amen.

