

## The Main Thing for 2021

Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is the time of year when we look ahead and make some resolutions or plans for the new year. What are some new year's resolutions people make?

*"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.'* **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

My challenge to you today is that, as we make our new year plans and set goals, we include the most important one.

### Main Idea: Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing in 2021

#### I. What the Main Thing is Not

*"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches...'"* **(v. 23)**

- **Wisdom:** Intelligence, education, learning new things

Good goals, worthy pursuits, but advancing in learning and wisdom is not the main thing! Our own imperfect wisdom and knowledge have limits and will ultimately fail us.

*"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."* **1 Corinthians 13:1-2**

*"...This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know."*

#### **1 Corinthians 8:1b-2**

- **Might:** Power, authority, accomplishments or strength.

It's fleeting. Strength fades.

*"...for while bodily training is of some value, **godliness** is of value in **every way**, as it holds promise for the **present life and also for the life to come**."*

#### **1 Timothy 4:8**

- **Riches:** Wealth, possessions

Wealth is a good gift and good stewardship honors God. But riches don't last, and **we** don't last... and we can't bring our riches with us!

Rich man stores up an abundance - set for life. Kicks back and relaxes His time comes and he leaves it all behind. **(paraphrase of Luke 12:16-21)**

*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. - **1 Timothy 6:17-19***

Each of these blessings, wisdom, might, riches, are good to steward well as God gives them to us. BUT if they're the priorities of our lives, we are missing out on the Main Thing.

#### II. What the Main Thing Is

*"...but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight," declares the Lord.* **(v. 24)**

- **Understand and Know Him:** an invitation into a genuine relationship with God.

*"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!"*

#### **Psalms 105:4**

*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."*

#### **Jeremiah 29:13**

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* **Matthew 6:33**

- **Know and Do:** the things that delight the one you are in a relationship with.
- **Communicate**

*"I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."* **Jeremiah 9:24**

*"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

#### **Micah 6:8**

### So how do we keep the main thing the main thing in 2021?

#### Practical Helps:

- Setting achievable goals (Write it down)
  - Personal time with God
  - Daily Prayer - "Work, work from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." - **Martin Luther**
  - Have a Plan - resources, like Bible apps, youversion, reading plans and studies.
  - Get Support Around You
    - Continuing to Connect in Worship
    - Small Groups - online or in person
    - D-Groups - intensive, dedicated time of Bible study, memorization and growth with a few others

**Conclusion:** As we look to the year ahead and make our plans and resolutions, will we make your relationship with God a priority?

*"...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* **Ephesians 3:17-19**