

Saturday & Sunday, January 13 & 14, 2018 - "Resolve Week 1 - Know Christ" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Ephesians Philippians 3:8-4:1

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- You've probably made some sort of new year's resolution
- There is probable something the Lord has for us that is worth our resolve
- Resolve = to find a solution, to decide with a firm steadfast commitment
- When Martin Sanders was here in December: ONE WORD for the year
- Philippians 3:8-4:1 - Paul's humility..."I'm not there yet"
- "If you aim for nothing, you will hit it every time"
 - We need to know what we're aiming for
 - Spiritual vitality takes intentionality
- ..COUNT everything (count here is talking about allowing to lead our minds, about what has priority)
 - Allowing knowing Christ to lead and inform everything else
 - Knowing Christ → leads our minds
 - We need to pay attention to what is leading our minds (what we obsess over or think about all the time)
- The surpassing worth of knowing Christ
 - Victorious knowledge of Jesus
 - A conscious willing desire to know Jesus
 - Everything else doesn't go away, it's about priority
- Context of Philippians
 - Paul's own experience
 - All of Paul's "Religion" counts for nothing to him
 - Religious activities are a gift from God...to help us **KNOW CHRIST** (they are tools to know Jesus)
 - The things that are ruling our minds can be good/bad/neutral
- We have to be willing to lay down our lives
 - We need to return to the Gospel
 - There are other things competing for our minds and our lives
 - Maybe some things that we need to let go of or drop down the priority list
- The "One Word Challenge"
 - This passage becomes the springboard for living out our "one word"
 - It can't be a work of our own. It has to be filtered through our desire and intention to know Christ
 - Otherwise it becomes a self help sort of thing
 - We can't do it in our own strength/flesh

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Has God given you a word for 2018? Talk about your word and what it means for you
2. How has it been going allowing knowing christ to lead your mind and life?
3. Being as honest as you can, where does knowing Christ land on your list of priorities?
4. How is God tangibly asking you to make knowing Him more of a priority in your life?
5. What are some things you need to lay down or let go of in order to make that happen?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Romans 11 Tues: Romans 12 Wed: Romans 13 Thurs: Romans 14 Fri: Romans 15