

Being Spiritually Minded in 2022

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[0 : 0 0] Please open your Bibles tonight to Romans chapter 8. I want to read a verse here in Romans 8 to initiate a thought that we'll cover in a few different ways. Romans chapter 8 tonight.

So last year, about this time, I went and looked back through my sermon notes and found that I preached a message at the close of 2020.

So a message kind of gearing and leading into the next year and gave some things from the book of Ecclesiastes that Solomon said. And I looked through those notes and just was pondering and thinking on the thoughts of it all.

And the outline, I'll just read the thoughts to you. I don't know that you remember it at all by now. But one thought, and all these came out of verses in Ecclesiastes. The one was that you enjoy the year rather than endure the year.

And this was coming off of 2020 and going into who knew what. This year didn't change all that much for us. And the thought was to not fuss about your health and your society and the problems and the inconveniences.

[1 : 1 4] And just complaining is easy. Sadly, it comes naturally to some of us. And it's not a good fit for the believer. And the thought was to try to find ways to enjoy the year rather than just endure the year.

It's a year of your life that you're talking about. It's days of your life. It's what you're made of. And then another thought was to, in the trials that inevitably come upon us, to grow better, not bitter.

To grow better, not bitter. And we took that out of a text in Ecclesiastes as well. One thing I remember this, this is going to stick with me forever, is I preached a point to you that was a little more sentimental than it was spiritual.

And it was out of a verse that talked about the dead and their memories being forgotten. And I said, take pictures in 2021. Take pictures and things, videos. Retain the memories as much as you can.

And I think it's good advice to do that. Just more of a sentimental, I get it, value. But for your family's sake, for your own sake. I look at pictures. We looked at some recently of my family when they were younger.

[2 : 1 8] The kids were younger. When Carla and I were younger. And just when we were back east and saw some things, just every single time it jerks right inside my heart to see the family being young and seeing us being younger and realizing those days are gone forever.

And I got to quit being so sentimental about it all. But it's just the way I am with that. I want grandkids already. So soon enough, I know.

But still, I can't wait. Yes. All right. One more thing is that when Solomon told you, whatsoever your hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

The thought was to do all to the glory of God. And so those are a few things that I challenged you with last year at this time. Tonight, I want to do something similar but different and try to give you some thoughts and exhortations for this upcoming year of 2022.

And notice this in Romans chapter 8 and verse number 6. The Bible says, for to be carnally minded is death. But to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

[3 : 25] Now, you can choose death or you can choose life and peace. And there's a choice you make every day if you want to walk in the spirit or walk in the flesh.

Be carnally minded or be spiritually minded. And so what I'm going to challenge you is just some spiritual thinking tonight for each one of us to consider. So I don't know what if I even titled this.

I think I did something about spirit. I didn't write it down. But spiritual or being spiritually minded in 2022. Before we go anywhere, let's pray and then we'll get elsewhere.

Father, we ask now that you'll draw our minds to the Bible and to your words. And may they be powerful and may they be plain. And may we open our hearts and our ears to the truth and receive it.

And God, may each one that's here tonight get something from this message and from this Bible that will help them and change them and grow them. And prepare them for this upcoming year. And Lord, may we be able to look back at it knowing that we've grown and seeing that you've done things in our life.

[4 : 29] And that we've made the right choices. That we've obeyed you and followed you. And that we're closer to you because of it. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen. All right. Take your Bibles and go to 1 Timothy chapter 4, please.

1 Timothy chapter 4. And let me read a verse here. 1 Timothy chapter 4.

And just some thoughts. Some spiritually minded thinking here tonight about the upcoming year. Look at verse number 13. Paul writes to Timothy and he says, Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

The first thing he tells Timothy there is to give attendance to reading. Now, in our day, if Paul was writing to anybody, if this applied to anybody, it just seems to fit and hit so much stronger today.

And I'm not even talking about the Bible initially. I will. But just reading, period. You know, they just want to watch a video.

[5 : 47] They just want to be entertained by a screen or a game. And reading, it's like, it takes too much work. Now, some people are readers. Just they are. They hate anything else. It's probably the way their brain is.

We're all different in that way. But let me challenge you this evening. And I think this is spiritually minded material. Is to commit to reading more in 2022.

Maybe you'll have to limit your screen time a little bit. I think most of us waste a lot of time on screens. And in front of screens. Andrew's doing it right now.

He's looking at that screen. No, I'm kidding. Oh, he's doing it that way too. Oh, man. I got to get a book. I better stop. I better stop. We're going to go somewhere.

Might have to. Commit to reading more. Give attendance to reading is what the scripture says. And we can all say, well, he's talking about the Bible. I don't know that he's only talking about the Bible there.

[6 : 45] But what you might have to do is set a limit on your screen time or discipline yourself. I think it's a good idea to start to pick up a good book. And begin reading a book that's going to help you.

That you can learn something from. And if I was to give you the advice. It would be especially learn something about spiritual matters. To be reading about missionaries of the past.

And how God's worked in their hearts. Increase your faith by seeing that he's the same God. And it was just a man or a woman that said yes and obeyed. And that can encourage you. You can read a lot about missions.

You can read about doctrine. About practical Christian living. About faith. There's a ton of good books on faith. And on the ministry. And on serving. And on humility. And attacking your pride.

And things like that. On finances. Tons of commentaries on books of the Bible. And instead we get to the next level.

[7 : 45] Get to the next level. Ooh I earned cash or coins or gems. Or whatever the games are anymore. What a waste of life. What a waste of a year. All the time you wasted sitting on playing a game.

Or watching a news article that means nothing. You couldn't even remember what it is. Or what it meant. Or any of it now. It's just gone. But commit to reading. Learning some things.

I think it's a good idea. There's plenty of books. I believe even back in a cabinet. Back there in a church. If you're interested. I know you all used to have some kind of library. Checkout system. That thing's still there. It's still alive.

You can still increase your learning by reading. And I don't think you need to just go get the whole thing. And go home with it. And throw the TV out the door. Or whatever. You shut your phone. But you could commit to reading more.

You could give attendance to reading. Now more specifically. And the best book ever written. And that you ever got your hands on. Is this King James Bible. And maybe you ought to commit to reading the King James Bible more.

[8 : 46] Now how about this? This year in 2022. Every single one of us seated here in this church. We ought to make it a goal of ours. To finish this Bible.

Now I didn't say starting January 1st. Read from cover to cover. I don't know where you are right now. You might be in the Proverbs. You might have a tassel somewhere in Numbers. Somewhere in 1 Peter.

Wherever you're at. Commit that I am going to finish this book this year. You might be stuck back in Numbers. You might really be back there and say I've tried.

And I got stuck. And then just pick it up right there. And start moving forward. Word. But decide right now. I'm going to finish. I've talked to you about this before.

Probably I think I have a while back. About reading your Bible. And about a calendar. And those things can help people. But they can also. Just some people don't function well. I don't think. And those.

[9 : 41] They get behind a day. And then they get behind two days. And it just never works. They give up. And I'm not a big fan of that. Unless it helps you. If you're very structured and organized. Go with it. Get a calendar.

Get a system. And figure it out. But if that's not you. Make a plan that every day. You're going to move your tassel forward. You're going to move your bookmark forward. In the word of God. A chapter. Or two.

Or ten. Or thirty. Whatever you can handle. But move forward. And make a decision. I'm going to finish that book this year. Now I don't have any problem saying that. Everybody in this room.

Can finish this book in one year. I don't have trouble saying that to anybody at all. That does not take a lot of commitment. Just so you know. You can finish it twice in this year. If you really committed.

Some you can finish it three and four times. If you really committed to it. And I would take some more major commitment. But commit to reading more. Make it a goal to finish your Bible.

[10 : 34] Man shall not live by bread alone. But by every word. That proceeds from the mouth of God. And that's the words of Jesus Christ. I think it's something you can take personal.

That every word of God is in this book. And it's my duty before God to read it. I think if you need help with that. Publish this goal in some place of plain sight. Where you see it.

And keep it in front of you. And I'll try to help throughout the year. To admonish you. And remind you to be reading your Bible. Somewhere along the line you're going to quit. Somewhere along the line you'll skip a day or two.

Sometimes a week. And that stinks. But it's true. It happens. It happens. Christians stop reading their Bibles. And then it becomes two and three and four weeks. And that's wrong.

And that's unnecessary. And so I want to challenge you before the year starts. To commit to reading more. And specifically reading this book. Now come to 1 Corinthians chapter number three.

[11 : 33] 1 Corinthians chapter three. That wasn't a hard one was it? To commit to reading more. To commit to reading more. To limit your screen time.

And to spend more time in a quiet book. That you can glean something from. Something deeper. Something that engages your mind and your memory a little bit better than just a video.

Commit to reading more. All right. Secondly then. Look at 1 Corinthians 3. And let's read verses 6 through 9. Paul says, I have planted.

I have planted. Apollos watered. But God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything. Neither is he that watereth. But God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one.

And every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God. Ye are God's husbandry. You're God's building. And we'll go on from there in a little bit.

[12 : 32] But for now. Think about this. These men are laborers together. With God. In verse 9. And we could add to this passage from other passages.

It's not just planting and watering. It's planting also called sowing in the Bible. But there's also plowing. There's breaking up fallow ground. There's sowing or planting.

There's watering. There's also reaping. God's sending forth labors into his harvest. And in John. I think it's chapter 4. It talks about reaping. And the fields.

And up on. Where other men labored. And so. Consider these. This thought here. Of what they're doing. And here's my challenge to you. In this coming year. Is set a goal.

A personal goal. To help to grow our church. You. You. I know all your names in here. I could say.

[13 : 27] And myself included. I could say everybody's name. Make it a personal goal. To grow your church. God gives the increase. But not until the laborers do their part.

Don't just put it all on God. And hide behind. Well. It says God gives the increase. It's up to God. God is your church. You grow your church. I mean. I'll pray that way too. But. I also see a responsibility. To be a laborer.

To be a laborer together. With God. Planting. Watering. Plowing. Reaping. It's all the collective work. Of the local church. Elsewhere in the Bible.

In 2 Corinthians 5. He tells us that we're ambassadors. For Christ. And I know you understand that thought. Of being an ambassador. And bringing others to Christ. Or taking the gospel to them.

But what God did. Was he ordained. For all believers. Members of the body of Christ. To be members of a local church. And if you're going to witness to somebody.

[14 : 26] And you're going to lead them to the Lord. Or you know that they're saved. They need to be in a local church. They need to be in a good local church. Where they're going to hear the word of God. Where they're going to be admonished. Where they're going to be able to worship Christ.

In spirit. And in truth. And not be misled. And deceived. And where their doctrine's right. And if they're not going to be. If. Why not here?

Why not Bible Baptist Church? Everybody. Everybody that's got God spirit in them. That's born again. Ought to. And needs to. Be. In a local church. That's not my design.

It's not for me to get these pews filled. And to get the money coming in. That's not even close to my thought process with that. It's they need to obey the scriptures. And if Jesus Christ is their savior.

They ought to be in a local church. And so I challenge you to be part of this. As a mission. To set a goal. To help grow our church. Commit. Commit to the first Sunday of each month.

[15 : 22] As we go out with door hangers and tracks. That's. Maybe not all 12 Sundays. But that's at the maximum 12 times. In the course of a year. Of going out for 30 to 45 minutes.

To an hour at the most probably. And just doing something. It's not even hard. Maybe. Maybe it's not even a full 12 times. But commit to being part of that ministry. How about committing.

To personally inviting somebody. Somebody that you know. To coming to church with you. What's the worst thing that could happen? I think that's the worst.

I mean technically there could be something worse. If you let your imagination go. But in reality. What are you so afraid of? You're afraid of rejection. And if you just took it once or twice.

You could handle it a little bit better. And then maybe be a little more bold. To speak up for Christ. And invite somebody. But I agree. The worst thing that's going to happen. Is they're just going to say no. And then you move on.

[16 : 21] I might. I don't know if I told you. I think I might have told you. When I was. When we had Brother Spurgeon here. And I was inviting our neighbors behind us. And then. The extended family. The neighbors. As they were coming by. I'd go out and give them a flyer.

And invite them. And the day of that meeting. That morning. I was in my office. Praying over that list that we had. From the Saturday night. With the men's prayer. And I was praying over that list.

And came down through their names. And got through. And got about finished. And my phone buzzed. And it was my neighbor saying. We won't be there. We don't feel comfortable coming to church. That environment's not for us.

We don't judge you. Or the path that you're on. And things like that. And I just. Just kind of bummed. That they weren't going to come. Because they're lost. And they need Christ. And I was hoping they'd come and get it.

But I'm not going to stop with them. I just kind of felt like. Okay. Reset. I got to find another way in. Another way to talk to them. When I can. And keep a relationship open. So that I can try to get something in there.

[17 : 21] And allow the Lord. If you will. To use me. To get them saved. To get them in church. But what's the worst that could happen? In his case. I got a text that said no. I made a point.

That the next time I see him. I'm going to talk to him. Just small talk. I'm not going to attack him. But I'm not going to like. Oh. He rejected my invitation to church. I'm afraid to talk. I thought. I'm not going to let any cold vibes get between us.

As long as I'm going to try to keep it warm. Keep it open. Let him know. I'm not a freak. You know. We can still talk. Still invite you out. When I get a chance. Because. Your worst fear is true.

I do want to get you. I do want to get you in church. You know that phrase. Each one. Reach one. That thought is. It's easy to say. I know that.

It's easy to say. But the thought is. It's. It's such a simple concept. That if every one of us. Would set a goal. Of inviting. And getting somebody in this church.

[18 : 16] We'd double. Just like that. And I don't want to. Blow it out of proportion. But the thought is just so easy. To think that. In order for us to grow.

I have a part. To do. And so do you. You say who. You. You. Set this as a goal. You mean Mrs. West. That goes to the park. And hands out track.

No you. You. This is your church. He's your God. You got something to do for him. This might be something. You could take personal. Set a goal.

Oh. You mean that group. That's going to go out on Sunday. And do some work. Or go around. So more. No you. You set a goal. You take it personal. Now we're in chapter 3.

And I want to show you. And think on another thought here. First Corinthians chapter 3. Something else to consider. For this upcoming new year. First of all. Commit to reading more. And to reading your Bible.

[19 : 12] Finishing your Bible. Secondly. To have a goal. To grow this church. And now look at verses 9 through 15. In the same chapter we were in. Verse 9 again. We are laborers together with God. Ye are God's husbandry.

Ye are God's building. According to the grace of God. Which is given unto me. As a wise master builder. I have laid the foundation. And another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed.

How he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation. Can no man lay. Than that is laid. Which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation. Gold. Silver. Precious stones.

Wood. Hay. Stubble. Every man's work. Shall be made manifest. For the day shall declare it. Because it shall be revealed by fire. And the fire shall try. Every man's work.

Of what sort it is. If any man's work abide. Which he hath built thereon. Upon. He shall receive. A reward. If any man's work. Shall be burned.

[20 : 08] He shall suffer loss. But he himself shall be saved. Yet so as. By fire. Now turn another place here in Corinthians. The next book of Corinthians. Chapter 6.

Look at 2 Corinthians 6. I want to put these two scriptures together. 2 Corinthians chapter 6.

We read back in this previous passage. That we are laborers together with God. And it goes into our labor. Our work. And it goes into it being tried. And tested at the judgment seat of Christ.

Now chapter 6. 2 Corinthians 6 verse 1. We then. As workers together with him. Beseech you also. That ye receive not the grace of God.

In vain. For he saith. I have heard thee in the next time accepted. And in the time of salvation. Have I secured thee. Behold. Now is the accepted time. Behold. Now is the day of salvation. Verse 3. Giving no offense in anything.

[21 : 05] That the ministry be not blamed. It's about your testimony. But in all things. Approving ourselves. As the ministers of God. In much patience.

In afflictions. In necessities. In distresses. In stripes. In imprisonments. I don't know if you have to worry about that one too much here. Stripes and imprisonments.

But. Boy that be one way to get something. That will abide the fire. In tumults. In labors. In watchings.

In fastings. By pureness. By knowledge. By longsuffering. By kindness. By the Holy Ghost. By love unfeigned. By the word of truth. By the power of God.

By the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. By honor and dishonor. By evil report and good report. As deceivers and yet true. As unknown and yet well known.

[22 : 00] As dying and behold we live. As chastened and not killed. As sorrowful yet always rejoicing. As poor yet making many rich. As having nothing.

And yet possessing all things. Now there's so much in this passage. I'm not going to go through it. And try to draw things out of it. But to connect it to the thought of being workers together with him.

And not giving offense in the ministry. Not to live a life that the ministry would be blamed. But approving ourselves in verse 4. As the ministers of God. And when we do that.

And we. This list is tremendous here. Ways by which you can be approved. As the ministers of God. But connected back to chapter 3. That passage was on ministers.

Who then is Paul. And who's Apollos. But ministers by whom he believed. And it describes one planting. The other watering and so forth. And in the end. All of what you do.

[22 : 57] Whether your labor is righteous or unrighteous. It's going to be tried and revealed by the fire. Of what sort it is. Now my challenge to you. Is considering the scriptures.

About what we have waiting for us in the future. Determine. That in 2022. That there will. That this year will consist of something.

That will last. The fire. That will abide the fire. But when you stand before Jesus Christ. And you give account. According to Romans 14. So then every one of us.

Are going to give account of himself to God. When you stand there. And give account of himself. Or yourself. And what you've done for Christ. And he says. Hold on. When did you do that? You can say.

Well that had to be. I was. You know what? That was 2022. That's when I did that. That's when I did something. That's going to last. That's going to get through the fire.

[23 : 53] This past year. 2021. It's over. All but. It's in the books. Literally. And is there anything. Over the course of this past year.

That's not going to burn. Is there anything about you. And him. And your relationship with him. And not your labor. As the passage is describing. Workers together. Is there anything you've done.

That's going to get through that fire. Fire. Now you don't have to write it down. It might help you to think about that. For a minute. But my challenge then. Is how about making something happen this year.

That's going to get through that fire. Because we must all stand. Before that judgment seat. And I want to have something. That's worthy of a reward. When it's all said and done.

Some people have a goal. In this next year. Of getting raises. And getting more money. Or losing weight. Or exercising more. And eating right. And there's a list of all of that.

[24 : 49] And I could kind of. That's earthly minded. If that's the top goal. And I could kind of really look at all those thoughts. And spiritualize them.

And think that yeah. You should lose the weight. Set aside some weights. And the sin which doth so easily beset you. So that you can run your race. For Jesus Christ.

Christ. And yes you should exercise yourself. Unto godliness. And eat right. As in the word of God. But people have goals.

That are just out of balance. And their goals of. Accomplishing things. That are not going to get through. The judgment seat of Christ. My challenge is to set yourself a goal. A goal that I'm going to.

I'm going to have something. That's going to get through that fire. That I'm going to do this year. Add it to your daily prayer list. Set yourself a reminder on your phone. Let it go off every day.

[25 : 43] For you to pray. God give me an opportunity. Where I can do something for you. And I'll tell you this much. If you start praying. God I want to be influential. In seeing somebody come to Christ.

Whether I get to lead them to the Lord Jesus Christ. Or their salvation is a direct result of me. Being part of it. Leading them. Or just the reason they came to Christ. You start praying.

God I want to see that happen. God's not going to say. Well I don't. He'll be with you on that one. And what's going to happen. I can prophesy for you. If you start praying that way.

Every day. You're going to start. Your eyes are going to be open. To the opportunities. That exist already. In your life. To do these things. It's just that you're preoccupied.

With other things. That you're not thinking. On the souls of men. And the work of Christ. But when you start praying that way. And you determine in your spirit and heart. That I'm going to do something in this year.

[26 : 41] That's going to account for Christ. I'm going to do something. That's going to go down under my name. And it's not going to burn. Because he's worth it. And I don't want to stand there.

Naked and ashamed. Empty handed. So it might be some good advice. Along those lines. To set that goal. And to add it to your personal prayer list.

And pray that God gives you opportunities. And as you pray that way. Your mind thinks that way. And when an opportunity arises. You don't just be like. Oh no I can't do that. You think.

I've been praying for this. I've been asking God for this. Here it is. And you'll have a little more power. And courage to step forward. And do it. So my advice. My thoughts.

My as far as spiritually minded. Exhortation for this year. Is to determine that 2022. Will consist of something. That will abide the fire. 2022 is going to come.

[27 : 36] It's going to go. And my advice. My prayer with you all. Is that it just doesn't all burn up. Don't watch it all burn. Determine that there'll be something.

That'll abide the fire. We read at the beginning. To be spiritually minded. Is life and peace. And these are just three short things here. That I think and I believe.

That can kind of get our minds. Spiritually minded. Get away from the screen so much. And get in a book. And get in something. That can help you grow. Get in the Bible.

Finish your Bible. And start over again. Make it a goal. That you'll help to grow this church. That you'll take it as a personal. Duty and responsibility. To get somebody in this church.

Seated beside you. In the future. And determine that you'll. I think that one will last the fire. We can put them two together. But determine that you'll.

[28 : 30] Have something that'll abide the fire. It's a. You've heard folks say it. Preachers say it. Perhaps you've even thought it. And said it yourself. That if there's one day. I'm not looking forward to.

It's the judgment seat of Christ. Christ. Part of me agrees with that. Because. I know me. But on the other side. I've kind of. Surrendered my life to Christ.

I want it to count for something. I want to see something there. I anticipate something. And so I don't want to just say. I'm so afraid of that day. Because I know part of me is a little bit. Like.

Yeah. Could have done more. Should have done more. But on the other hand. I'm told to lay out my treasures up there. And I've done that. And I can't wait to get up there.

And be part of that. So. Be with me on this. And let's. Let's work. In this next year. To build something more. Up there. That's got your name on it.

[29 : 26] Let's pray. And we'll be dismissed. A few minutes early tonight. Father. We are thankful. That you challenge us. In his book. To be spiritually minded. And God forgive us.

For how carnally minded. We really are. We're. We're very attached. To this world. And this life. And to the things of it. But Lord. I pray you'd help us. To transcend that. In our thinking.

And that our mind. Would be set. And our affections. On things above. Lord. Draw us to quiet time. In the word of God. And in other resources. That can grow our faith.

And our knowledge of you. I pray also. You'd put in our desire. And a courage. And a longing. To reach out. To others. And to. To get them in church. To see them.

Trust Christ. To get a gospel track. In their hands. Lord. Give us a zeal. To be faithful. In that matter. Lord. Let us not let the opportunities. Pass by. So easily.

[30 : 19] And quickly. Allowing souls. To just drift. And just slip off. Into hell. Lord. You've been faithful to us. You've saved our souls. I pray you'd give us.

The courage. And the mind. To reciprocate. That faithfulness to you. And to love you more. Each day. I pray you'll bless. Bible Baptist Church. In this upcoming year. I pray.

Lord God. That we'll grow. As members. Grow together. And grow in strength. And in number. And Lord. This is your church. We. We put it in your hands. We trust you. In all manners.

And God. We want you to be glorified. I want you to be pleased. Please Lord. Bless the direction we go. Help us to do right. I ask now. You'll keep folks safe. On these wet roads. And just bring them back Sunday.

And Lord. May we have a joy in our hearts. And a rejoicing. And a testimony to tell. Of the things you've done in our life. We pray this in Christ Jesus name. Amen. Amen. And.

[31 : 14] You're all dismissed.