

December 20, 2020

CHRISTMAS

— *It's Not Hallmark* —

"WHEN GOD MESSES UP YOUR PLANS"

John Greene, Senior Pastor

PROVERBS 19:21

CORE STATEMENT: 2020 is God's school lesson that when things go wrong, and your life plans get changed: Don't give up; look up.

I. WHEN GOD MESSES UP OUR PLANS, THE BIBLE SAYS: DON'T GIVE UP; LOOK UP.

TRUTH: Your outlook on life changes when your focus is on God's promises, not your problems.

QUESTION: How have you consistently looked at this year of challenge and change? With despair and fear, or confidence and assurance of God's watch-care? (Isaiah 40:9-11, 12-15, 22, 26-31)

INSIGHT: No matter what we face as a church family, God tells us to look up and don't give up.

TRUTH: Not everything that happens in this world is God's will, but He permitted it, even if He didn't cause it.

INSIGHT: We live on a broken planet and among broken people; we all sin, and that means we all hurt each other.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN GOD CHANGES YOUR PLANS?

II. WHEN GOD CHANGES YOUR LIFE PLANS, HE'S TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.

INSIGHT: God whispers to us in our pleasure, but He shouts to us in our pain.

TRUTH: We are all poor listeners. Our life walk with God is learning to listen better (Psalm 81:13; Proverbs 16:25).

TRUTH: Our biggest mistakes happen when God says "no" and we say "go."

"If we don't listen to Scriptures in 2021, there's a lot of pain and grief ahead."

III. WHEN GOD CHANGES YOUR PLANS, IT ALSO MEANS GOD HAS A BETTER PLAN (Jeremiah 29:11).

TRUTH: When you seek to obey God's will as you understand it, in every circumstance, there will be times when you're overwhelmed, and peace won't come till you determine to trust God (John 13:7).

IV. GOD IS SAYING, I WANT YOU TO LEARN TO TRUST ME.

God wants us to learn:

1. To trust Him day-by-day.

TRUTH: Many times, when we walk with God all we'll be able to do to make it is trust Him, even when it doesn't make sense and it hurts so bad.

2. We trust God by seeking Him above all (Jeremiah 29:13; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Realize these days are "a test."

INVITATION: There are three warning signs in life we're not trusting God with Covid-19:

1. Fatigue
2. Frustration
3. Fear