

## What are your goals for 2008?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- **pic:** happy new year
- **this lesson:** looking forward, 2008, personal goals and objectives
- **next lesson:** looking back at who we were without Christ, motivation

### ➤ It's good to set goals

- Paul set goals
  - **1 Cor. 4:19** set goal to visit Corinth, preach, correct them

### ➤ - Paul prayed about his goals, others prayed for him

- **Eph. 6:19-20** prayed, asked for prayers, evangelistic goals and abilities

### ➤ - **Ph'm. 1:22** Paul was confident in the efficacy of Philemon's prayers, visit with him

### ➤ - setting goals: common sense

#### - **illus.: upcoming presidential election**

- Would you vote for a person who said they had no goals? Why?

#### - **illus.: budget (congregation, business, family)**

- Do you think there is a Fortune 500 company that doesn't have a budget?

- What would you think if the elders didn't have a budget, overspent by \$100k, and wanted everyone to make it up in one week?

#### - **illus.: sales goals with business**

- Do you think you could work in sales for any successful company, and not have sales goals?

#### - **benefits:** more productive, stay in priorities, better use of time – **all things we want to do for God**

### - **application: it's helpful to set goal, Biblical, common sense**

- Have you set goals? Are you praying about them?

- **God had blessed us to meet and exceed many of our goals and aspirations – press forward**
  - **summary: last couple of years**
    - **had some trouble few years ago**, as do all congregations (Corinth, Rome, Asian churches in Rev., etc.)
      - successfully worked through
    - **2 years ago attendance** running 50-60, now 80-90 - 50% increase
      - now digesting gains
  - **great Bible classes all ages**
    - **review Q1, 2008: Sunday relationships, Wed. ladies' class**
  - **done well reaching out to others: evangelism**
    - will continue to improve
    - 14 baptized, 3 restored, 17 place membership (+ children)
      - not all converted faithful, parable of sower
  - **elders and deacons excelling**
    - other men growing to fill these offices
  - **young men involved teaching youth**, growing and maturing
  - **ladies excelling**: visiting, personal work, helping elderly and shut in, teaching great classes
  - **young people growing and maturing**, spiritual, doing personal work, encouraging everyone
    - Bible Drill, monthly Sunday evening class
  - **preacher training program**: Heath and Renee (married, soon in Norway), Paul and Alice (doing great, growing, improving, asset)
  - **supporting preachers in other places**, involved in benevolence with poor brethren
- - **application: ready for new challenges**
  - **Phil. 3:12-14 need to challenge ourselves again and again** – yesterday is past, reach forward and excel
- - **Rev. 3:15-17a not be a lukewarm church** satisfied with a little success and content to be stagnant
- **Proper perspective in setting goals:**
  - **Matt. 6:24, 33 put God first**
- - **Mk. 12:30 love God with all heart, soul, mind, strength**
- - **Ja. 4:6 humble heart**, consider the things we can accomplish 2008
- - **Ja. 4:13-16 if the Lord wills**, not know what will happen, life like a vapor
  - **illus.: Paul 1 Cor. 4:19 (above)** “if the Lord wills”

- **What are some goals Christians may want to set?** – use these to stimulate thought, think about yourself
  - elders talk about goals for congregation as a whole very soon when address congregation
  - be a good example every day
    - **1 Tim. 4:12** we should be examples, show way to heaven by way we live
    - **illus. young Christians:** may be big goal, older Christians should have this down
    - **illus.: Allan,** serious about serving God, this was best I could do
- - be at every assembly possible – **re-challenge ourselves**
  - **Heb. 10:24-25** not forsake – **illus.: sports team, marching band drum line**
  - **elderly: push self** every time, not allow yourself to make excuses
  - **young, in school and working:** no “real” financial responsibility: not work during assembly time
    - **some young people, 2 days off per week, take Sunday and Wednesday** - not off Sat., Fri. night, etc.
  - **adults: many people changed jobs and professions** to be at church twice on Sunday and mid-week Bible study
  - **summary: put God first, He won’t let you down**
- - be healthier, more physically fit (Allan, started end of 2007)
  - worship and serving God are physical activities in many respects
    - **application: must be healthy and physically fit** to do many things in service to God
    - **illus.: assemble with saints, visiting sick, evangelism**
  - **1 Cor. 6:19-20** glorify God, body, bought with price, not your own
    - **???: Does it glorify God if we don’t take care of our bodies and can’t physically work in His kingdom?**
- - become more spiritual / stronger
  - Bible:
    - Scriptures:
      - **Jn. 12:48** judged by Jesus’ word – **2 Cor. 5:10**
        - **Do you know Bible? Are you trusting that someone told you right?** – parent, preacher, friend
      - **Gal. 1:8-9** people who teach false doctrine, accursed
        - **What if someone taught you a false doctrine, you believed it, and you’re teaching others?**
      - **Gal. 5:2-4** practicing false doctrine, severed from Christ, fallen from grace
        - **What if someone taught you a false doctrine, you believed it, you are practicing it?**
    - possible goals:
      - read the whole Bible
      - thoroughly know the Bible teaching on salvation, work and worship of the church
      - study the Bible once per day, week, etc.
      - study a particular topic in detail
      - be prepared for every Bible class at church
  - prayer:
    - Scriptures:
      - **1 Th. 5:17-18** pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks
      - **Col. 4:2** devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving
      - **Ja. 5:16** pray for one another so that you may be healed, effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much

- possible goals:
  - pray every day, twice a day, etc.
  - have a “prayer meeting” at house
  - pray for sick and shut-in more, etc.
  - pray for lost more, etc.

- - do more personal work – recent series
  - **Ja. 1:27** pure and undefiled religion, visit – visit sick or shut / make phone calls
  - make and work your personal evangelism plan (lessons on Internet, get copies from Alan)
    - bring #? people to church
    - talk to more people about God

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- God had blessed us as a congregation to meet and exceed our goals
- time to re-challenge selves, reach to accomplish new goals, not become lukewarm (Phil. 3:12-14; Rev. 3:15-17)
- Will you push yourself to become a better Christians in 2008? What are your goals?
- inv.: if not a Christian, best way to begin the year. . . .