

Sermon Study Guide



Survival Guide for a New Year

January 3, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Reflect

What is one tangible thing that you would want to change about your life this coming year?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Deuteronomy 31:9-13; 32:44-47

Discussion Questions

In Deuteronomy 31:9-13, Under the leadership of Joshua, the people of Israel are about to enter the Promised Land of Canaan amidst uncertainties. Before Moses' death, he challenged Joshua and the Israelites to know God's Word (v. 9-11).

1. What important instruction did Moses give to Joshua as he was about to transition the leadership to Joshua? Why was public reading of the Scripture an important event in their time? Why is it important to make a definite commitment to read the Word of God? Why is reading the Bible so important?
2. Moses gave Joshua and the people four compelling reasons why it was important to know God's Word:
 - a. **To learn to fear God (v. 12).** What does it mean to "fear God?" How does knowing God's Word instill fear and respect of God in you? How does fear and respect for God transform and change lives? On the other hand, what happens if a person has no fear and respect for God?
 - b. **To live life as God desires (v. 12).** Why are Christians expected to know God's Word? What happens if you claim to be a child of God but you don't know His Word? Share some practical guidelines in living out a Christian life based on the Word of God. How much of His Word should you now?

- c. **To influence the next generation for the Lord (v. 13).** Whose primary responsibility is teaching the Word of God to children? What happens if you, as a parent, won't intentionally establish a culture of spiritual sensitivity and an environment of the love of biblical truth in a child's formative, early foundational years? How can the Word of God be taught at home? How would instilling the Bible truths in a young person's life help them in their adulthood?
- d. **To do something worthwhile and beneficial (v. 32:44-47).** Why did Moses tell Joshua that he and the people should take to heart God's Word and follow it (v. 47)? Why is knowing the Word of God worthwhile and beneficial? How would knowing the Word of God help you face a year of uncertainties, since you do not know yet what 2021 entails?

Respond

In Walk: Remember that a loving God gave His Word for your benefit. Knowing His Word will give you the assurance that you can live your life without regret because His Word is what will guide and remind you of how to live your life wisely, to live with a greater purpose, and to live for God's glory. What do you need to do so that you can commit yourself to reading the Word of God in a consistent manner? In this time of uncertainty, what promises of God can guide you as you enter 2021?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You that in spite of the pandemic, You remain on Your throne. Thank You that knowing You and Your Word better would help me in any situation I might find myself in. May You help me to truly learn to fear and respect You, to live my life as You desire, to influence the next generation for You, and to do something in my life that is truly worthwhile and beneficial. In Jesus' name. Amen.