

From the Pastor...

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require from you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

A recent study revealed that eighty percent of people making New Year resolutions last about two weeks before giving up, and only eight percent of those who make it out of January eventually achieve their goals.

Why? Unrealistic expectations. For instance, nutritionists suggest that instead of setting a goal of losing 50 pounds in a year, set your goal for 2-3 pounds a month - begin with small changes in diet and exercise, and build on them one at a time. Instead of setting to run a half marathon, begin with a goal of walking three miles a day, three days a week; transition to a combination walk/jog and slowly and steadily progress.

The same can be true in our walk with Christ. I have often set goals of reading through the scriptures in a year or setting aside twenty minutes every morning for intentional prayer and reflection...and before I knew it, I had missed two days, and then two weeks and eventually gave up.

But what if we were to seek to grow in obedience and love of Christ by beginning with small intentional changes? For instance, what if we set a goal to grow in justice by serving as a reading volunteer in our preschool, or assisting with our jail ministry? What if we were to set a goal to grow in mercy and kindness by preparing a meal for the residents of Salvation Army or participating in the quilting ministry? What if we were to seek to walk humbly with God in Christ, by setting a goal to pray with our family before evening meals, or have a family devotional once a week, or make weekly worship more of a priority by attending more frequently or serving as a communion assistant, or a lector, or usher, or singing in the choir?

There is one huge difference between resolutions and setting goals to grow in Christ. With resolutions we are often trying to change something about ourselves. By seeking to grow in Christ we are trying to conform our lives to who and whose we already are.

With this month's newsletter is a Time and Talent sheet for 2020. In it, you will find a number of opportunities to use your gifts to grow in love and trust of God and be about the work of Christ. You may wonder how one person's gifts can make a difference...but small changes, small commitments, small acts of mercy in the hands of a great God will accomplish far more than we can ever imagine in ourselves, our families, our community, and the world.

So prayerfully consider completing a form and returning it to the church office.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Tony

