

HEAVENBOUND

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

A Letter From The Preacher

BY ZACH COLLINS

The moment that many have anxiously awaited is finally here: The year 2020 has come to a close! This time last year, congregations were releasing their yearly sermon theme and, as you can imagine, the most popular themes of the year included the designation: 2020 Vision. A misnomer is a wrong or inaccurate name or designation. Amongst the greatest misnomer's of all time, I think we can all say, 2020 vision will be at the top. This year has

brought us anything but clearer vision. In fact, this has been a year without vision or direction, steeped in chaos, which has led to one of the most uncertain and difficult years in recent memories. In this year alone, we each have witnessed unrivaled cultural, spiritual, and personal change. We have seen racial movements, civil aversion, economic recessions, and one of the most closely contested presidential elections of all time in the midst of a devastating pandemic. Congregations and elderships across the globe are having to make difficult decisions, on behalf of the souls in their care, which

OPPORTUNITIES

SHARE our live-stream with others and invite them to worship, or study God's word, with us!

PRAY for the many brethren who are currently on our prayer list.

DELIVER food and supplies to those in need at this time.

PRAY for the coming year be mindful of that new opportunity we have!

few of God's people have dealt with before. Personally speaking, we have become cognizant of processes and fears that were unbeknownst before the year of 2020, such as social distancing, masks, and quarantining. Seriously, who knew that Pfizer and Moderna produced medications? Not me. Who thought statements such as: **"Keep your social distance from that person. Or, did you bring your mask? And, did you lysol the grocery bags?"** would be

common questions in our vocabulary. Not me. Here's a question that has been on my mind lately: ***A couple years down the road, when you look in the closet and find a jacket you haven't worn in a couple years, and find a mask folded up in the pocket, what will you remember about the year of 2020?*** Illness? A two week quarantine with your family? Social Distancing? Did you lose a loved one? What about virtual family holidays? What will come to your mind? I've been



Our 2021 Sermon Theme is "Healthy Church: Restoring Our Spiritual Health"

contemplating this question lately and have come to the conclusion that the term that will come to my mind is: **Health.** Everything about this year has centered around health. Yet, I believe it has also created unhealthy mindsets, as well. These mindsets, after the pandemic, will not translate to the Christian life. Perhaps most devastating, we have developed

unhealthy spiritual habits. The question becomes: ***When unhealthy habits are developed, how do we combat those habits?*** The answer is: ***We replace them with healthy habits!*** This is why the theme for the year 2021 is: ***Healthy Church - Restoring Our Spiritual Health.*** We must return to our moorings and begin developing healthy spiritual habits individually, so

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT I, AS A CHRISTIAN, CAN IMPROVE MY SPIRITUAL HEALTH IN THE YEAR 2021?

Take this question upon yourself and do some personal reflection!

YOUTH NEWS

Special Shout-Out:

We want to give a special shout-out and thank you to Craig Ratliff, and the entire youth group, as they played a part in delivering baskets to the elderly in our congregation. Awesome!

MONTHLY TOTALS:

This month, the need arose for food bags and beds during the season of need. Our congregation helped meet this need!

**FOOD BAGS: 34
BEDS: 7**

we can develop a healthy church collectively. In a year of unrivaled physical illness, we must make a commitment to improving our spiritual health, instead of allowing a spiritual health pandemic to grow in the future. Instead of neglecting our study habits, we must make a concerted efforts to improve study habits and deepen our knowledge of God's word. While some hands have become idle in their service of the Lord, we must ensure that Christians are serving

a community and world in need, now, more than ever! The point is: ***I do not want the church to return to normalcy, I want us to return more powerful and healthier than before!*** I want us to return ready to share God's will with the world. This year, I am making a commitment to practicing good spiritual habits, in order to improve my spiritual health, and it is my prayer that you will join me. In the year 2021, here are the ***twelve aspects*** of our spiritual health which we will



Being mindful of the needs of this holiday season, the congregation donated 20 boneless hams to baskets to underprivileged families at W.R. Castle Elementary School.

focus on improving: ***Healthier... Vision, Study, Communication, Faith, Families/Marriages, Evangelism, Leadership, Worship, Servitude, Culture, Prayer Life, and Giving.*** These twelve aspects of the Lord's church are the foundation to improving and fortifying our spiritual health in the year of 2021. I look forward to this journey that we are taking

together to renew and improve our dedication to God and the health of the relationship we share with Him, through Christ. As we close, I want to challenge you: ***Sit down and write FIVE things that you want to improve spiritually in the coming year!*** As we close, I want to remind each of you that I love you and I am honored to be your servant. ***Let's be healthier in the year 2021!***

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

If you wish to sign-up for the monthly newsletter, please see Zach Collins. You can text or call him: (606) 226-6476)



JANUARY THEME:

**HEALTHIER VISION:
IMPROVING AND
RESTORING OUR
SPIRITUAL VISION**

