

A New Year's Meditation

Two Main Verses

- Proverbs 21:5
 - Goal setting and planning go hand-in-hand. They're almost
 - Since the plans of the diligent lead to success, planning and goal setting is something you should do
- Proverbs 4:26
 - To ponder the path of your feet means to evaluate where you're going

Evaluating Your Direction

- There are multiple paths you are on, and they each need evaluation
- Some questions to ask to help you evaluate your direction
 - How are things going?
 - What direction are they going in?
 - Does that need to change?
 - How does it need to change?
 - What I am going to do about it?
- Areas of your life you should evaluate your direction in
 - Relationship with God
 - Character
 - Career
 - Marriage
 - Parenting
 - Finances
 - Ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - Health
- Evaluate with God
 - Pray about it as you think through it
 - Be committed to doing God's will in each area (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Setting Goals

- General advice for goal setting
 - Make them specific and verifiable/measurable
 - Make them realistic
 - Set deadlines
 - Break them down into steps
- Some areas I highly recommend having goals in
 - Bible reading
 - How much do you plan to read the Bible?
 - What do you plan to read?
 - Is there any part of the Bible you'd like to understand better?
 - Prayer
 - How much do you plan to pray?
 - What kinds of things are you going to pray for?
 - Do you have any plans for fasting?
 - Book reading
 - What areas do you need to learn more in?
 - What books are available in those areas?
 - How big of a difference could it make to read the best books in a given area and bring that knowledge together?
 - How many books do I plan to read this year?
 - Time management
 - Paul says in both Ephesians and in Colossians that we should try to make the best use of our time
 - Aiming to spend a certain amount of time being productive
 - Things you could do
 - Volunteering
 - Learning
 - Practicing a skill
 - Making extra money
 - Helping people
 - Building relationships
 - Sharing the gospel
 - Prayer
 - Limiting the amount of time you spend on social media
 - Limiting the amount of time you spend on TV or video games

Encouragement for the New Year

- God wants to empower you
 - Matthew 11:28-30
 - 2 Corinthians 1:8-9
 - Ephesians 3:20-21
- God wants to bless you
 - Psalm 81:10
- God is working
 - Romans 8:28; John 5:17; 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - John Piper has a famous quote "God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of three of them"