

## "The Past and Coming Year"

Greg Wendschlag December 30, 2018

**"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:**

**"At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."**

**How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.**

**When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God. Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the articles of the LORD's house. But you will not leave in haste or go in flight; for the LORD will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard." Is 52:11-12**

1. The Future: Look ahead with hope. The Lord will go before you.

**"No eye has seen nor ear heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Cor. 2:9-10**

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:2-3**

2. The Past: No looking back. The Lord will guard you from the rear.

**"I have love you with an everlasting love. I have drawn you with loving kindness. I will build you up again O Virgin Israel." Jer. 3:3-4**

**"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."**

**Ps. 103:12**

3. The Present: Look only to Jesus. The Lord commands obedience and purity.

*“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice” 1 Sam. 15:22*

*“In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Cor. 6:2*

### **Discussion Starters for Your Groups InCommon**

1. What are you most hopeful for in 2019?
2. What would you like to change from the year past going forward?
3. What did you learn in 2018 that you will carry with you going forward?