

January 2nd, New Thinking
Part 1 in the series 'New Beginnings'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Lamentations 3:22-24

22

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

23

they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

Why is it so significant that God's mercies are new every morning?

Does thinking about this passage affect how you view the year ahead?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

How does Jesus' resurrection tie in with the theme of new beginnings?

What do you think Paul means when he says, "yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."?

How can hardships and difficulties serve as catalysts for inner renewal in the life of a Christian? Think about what it means to fix our eyes on what is unseen.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Jim mentioned in his message that we are 99% non-physical. Yet, most of us let the 1% of us that is physical control the 99% that is non-physical. Do you think this has anything to do with why it's so easy to fall into the patterns of this world?

How can we be transformed by the renewing of our minds? Do you think it just happens?

Philippians 3:12-14

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

What did Paul put behind him so that he could focus on what was ahead?

Why is looking forward so important?

How might this verse encourage you this new year?