

## The Passing of Time/The Lessons in Life



It's a new year. Will it be memorable? Yes. They all are for various reasons. If you are like me, the passing of a calendar year causes reflection of it's events as well as those in the years before it. I'm always challenged by it. I used to tend to sort the memories out by good and bad: favorable experiences, events, and good decisions verses the opposite. Not so much any more. In a nutshell, I'm learning the meaning of Romans 8:28; "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

I saw a commercial recently where a person took a picture with a phone and then edited out everything they didn't want in the picture. They just made it disappear. What if I could do that with all my hurts, losses and failures I've experienced in my life? At first it sounds like a great deal, but I wouldn't do it. With all the pain, shame and grief I experienced, or caused, being eradicated, so would my intimate knowledge of God's mercy, forgiveness, comfort, and healing. Those character traits of God would be reduced to qualities I've read about in His book rather than experienced in His unconditional love. It's the heart knowledge gained from experiencing His complete forgiveness and abounding grace that motivates me to change what caused my need of it in the first place. It is experiencing His care in all life's tribulations that teach me how He wants to respond to others in their tribulation through me.

I've seen a lot of calendars in my life and I've lived all the days and months they now only record as history. The knowledge I have in living them is to be turned to wisdom by applying that knowledge in faith. Only then will all things work together for good.

Have a good new year., in all it holds!



**Reaching, restoring and equipping disciples of Jesus Christ through the truth of God's Word**

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### Ministry Update

We had a full year of ministry this year and were privileged to see many people apply God's word in their lives producing healing and change. We also got to witness God bring several into His family! It was a bountiful year.

Other highlights included filling the pulpit 10 Sundays, doing a marriage conference in Faith SD , performing 3 weddings and officiating 2 funerals. I also got to teach at a college ministry and work with some of their leadership. I still teach a weekly men's Bible study and Connie and I have a bi-weekly small group. Connie mentors a "collection" of young women, which she finds so rewarding and does a Bible study with 3 friends.

We want to thank you for partnering with us in this ministry! God makes it happen through your generosity. God bless you!

