



Sermon Outline
January 8, 2023
Pastor Bryan Myers

**A Time for
Celebration &
Challenge**

Today we're looking back with gratitude as we honor and celebrate what God and His people have done, while also leaning forward to a future we've not seen, but confident that God's already there.

*** It's important to look back because there are:**

1. Accomplishments to _____.

** We are where we are today because of the faithfulness of God and His people.*

2. People to _____.

Romans 13:7a & c - Give to everyone what you owe them: If honor, then honor.

** We are where we are today because of people committed to the mission who made sacrifices to help make it happen.*

3. _____ to be remembered.

Romans 15:4 - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

*** But there can be _____ in looking back.**

Some try to live by the crawfish philosophy:

Backing into the future looking forward to the past.

*** An idealistic nostalgia created by**

_____.

*** It's even more important to lean forward because:**

1. The _____ is where you will spend the rest of your life.

** When we long too much for the past, we may quit living in the present.*

2. The future is going to look _____ from the past.

Luke 5:39 - And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, "The old is better."

** We tend to sanctify the way we do things in the church, sometimes confusing the means and the end.*

3. We must learn how to take a gospel that _____ changes to a world that never stays the same.

*** Change can be hard, but _____ is even harder.**

** We value relevance. We will be culturally relevant while remaining Biblically reverent.*

*** While many things will change, many things will _____.**

*Methods are many, principles are few.
Methods always change, principles never do.*

*** Biblical truth to help us lean forward:**

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 28:20b – And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.