

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What was your most recent New Year's resolution and how would you rate its success?

1. Pastor Tom declared that in 2023 Christmas matters more than everything we will see, think, or feel. Does that resonate with you? Why or why not?
2. Read **Isaiah 53:3-5** and **1 Peter 2:24**. How have you experienced Jesus identifying with your hurts, pains, problems, and needs?
3. Pastor Tom encouraged us to live with an eternal perspective. How can an eternal perspective change the way we think and feel about the circumstances taking place in our lives and in the world around us?
4. Pastor Tom noted that Christmas is what ultimately matters in our world, to the point that even history itself is defined by before Christ and after His coming. Has the history of your life also been divided between before you said 'YES!' to Jesus and after? What has that change looked like?
5. Read **1 John 1:4-5**. How does this reality change your perception of the hard or difficult things which may seem to control the world?

Day One: [Psalm 37](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 6](#)

Day Three: [Judges 13](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 37](#)

Day Five: [Acts 9](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Christmas at RIVERSIDE



“What Matters More?”

JAN 1, 2023 PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MYRC.CHURCH



"What Matters More?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Do any of us really think that _____ will be a *Happy New Year*? Studies show over and over again that if we make New Year's resolutions (just 41% of American do), only ____% of that 41% feel they were successful 12 months later; and ____% of the 41% abandon their New Year's resolutions by February.

What matter more than what we can see and what we _____ and what we feel?

1. _____ Matters More (note [John 1:14](#))

Note [Isaiah 53:2b](#)

What Jesus did was to _____ Himself with our hurts, pain, problems, need and even our sin.

Note [1 Peter 2:24](#)

2. _____ Perspective (note [John 1:1-5](#))

213 years later, which Napoleonic battles in 1809 were more important than the _____ of 1809?

Note [Galatians 4:4](#)

2,000 years ago, the world was focused on _____ and the Roman Empire.

But in God's eternal plan and incredible purpose, it wasn't Rome that was the _____ of attention.

It was a baby in a manger in _____ that matter most.

That baby:

- Divided history into _____ and _____.
- _____ great educational systems and institutions and organizations that care for people's physical health, social needs, emotional well-being, and relationship strengthening.
- His teachings and personal _____ in our world through His Spirit changes individuals, marriages, and families, and transforms their lives and their futures.

So this Christmas and New Year season:

- No matter what _____ with our economy, with politics, with the culture, and in our personal lives, because of a baby born in a manger in Bethlehem, my life can have meaning, purpose, and genuine hope.
- Note [John 1:4-5](#)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card in the chair pockets (or from an usher or digital* if watching online) and turn them in at the end of today's service.

*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**

Happy New Year!



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"What Matters More?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Do any of us really think that 2023 will be a *Happy New Year*? Studies show over and over again that if we make New Year's resolutions (just 41% of American do), only 9% of that 41% feel they were successful 12 months later; and 80% of the 41% abandon their New Year's resolutions by February.

What matter more than what we can see and what we think and what we feel?

1. Christmas Matters More (note John 1:14)

Note Isaiah 53:2b

What Jesus did was to identify Himself with our hurts, pain, problems, need and even our sin.

Note 1 Peter 2:24

2. Eternal Perspective (note John 1:1-5)

213 years later, which Napoleonic battles in 1809 were more important than the babies of 1809?

Note Galatians 4:4

2,000 years ago, the world was focused on Caesar and the Roman Empire.

But in God's eternal plan and incredible purpose, it wasn't Rome that was the center of attention.

It was a baby in a manger in Bethlehem that matter most.

That baby:

- Divided history into BC and AD.
- Inspired great educational systems and institutions and organizations that care for people's physical health, social needs, emotional well-being, and relationship strengthening.
- His teachings and personal engagement in our world through His Spirit changes individuals, marriages, and families, and transforms their lives and their futures.

So this Christmas and New Year season:

- No matter what transpires with our economy, with politics, with the culture, and in our personal lives, because of a baby born in a manger in Bethlehem, my life can have meaning, purpose, and genuine hope.
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