

Let's Go!

Message 1 of 5 in the series: "Let's Go!"

A. God has many good things for me/Centerpoint to accomplish this year.

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so **we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**" Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!" Psalm 139:16-17 (NLT)

"...Christ, who is the head of his body, the church... makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow,** so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:15b-16 (NLT)

B. When we become aware of an opportunity God has placed in front of us, our response should be, "Let's go!"

"After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. This was their report to Moses: 'We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak!' ...But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. '**Let's go** at once to take the land,' he said. 'We can certainly conquer it!'" Numbers 13:25-30 (NLT)

"When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, '**Let's go** to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" Luke 2:15 (NLT)

Life Application: We need to creatively push each other to embrace the good things God has planned for us to accomplish this year so we don't miss out.

"...let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward love and good deeds..." Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

"...let us consider how to **stir up one another** to love and good works..." Hebrews 10:24 (RSV)

Life Application: We need to pray "Let's go!" prayers for each other and our church every day.

"So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do." 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

C. Paul told us how to prepare emotionally/spiritually/mentally so we can say, "Let's go!" whenever God presents an opportunity this year.

"**Forgetting the past** and **looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on** to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." Philippians 3:13b-14 (NLT)

1. We can embrace our new identity in Christ and refuse to let our past define us.

"...**anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.** The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
Luke 9:62 (NIV)

2. We can keep looking forward to Christ's imminent return, eternal life in heaven, new bodies that will never die, and meeting Jesus face-to-face.

"But **we are citizens of heaven,** where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control."
Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT)

3. We can keep going through difficult times and refuse to become complacent when things are going well.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And **let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us**, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2a (NIV)

“Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. **So I run with purpose in every step**. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 01-02-22 • john@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions

1. Share one New Year’s resolution you are making for 2022.
2. Share one thing that excites you about Centerpoint’s new facility in Prattville.
3. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What good works might God have planned for you to accomplish in 2022? What good works might God have planned for Centerpoint this year?
4. Why do you think the Bible encourages Christians to meet together and say, “Let’s go!”? (Hebrews 10:24-25)
5. In Philippians 3:13-14, The Apostle Paul said, “Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”
 - How do things which are behind us hinder our progress in spiritual growth? (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:17-24)
 - What good things lie ahead for believers in Christ Jesus? (Philippians 3:20-21, John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:3-4)
 - What does it look like for a Christian to “press on”? (Matthew 24: 36-51, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Hebrews 12:1-2)
6. Spend some time praying “Let’s go!” prayers for each other and for our church. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Quotations to consider:

“Sin arises because we desire something more than God. Overcoming sin begins by reversing this process, desiring God more than other things.” Tim Chester

"When you live in the light of eternity, your values change." Rick Warren

"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile."

Max Lucado

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."

Francis Chan

"If God is your partner, make your plans BIG!" D.L. Moody