

SERMON NOTES

Message: New Year's Message

Conrad Esh

December 31, 2017

Think of New Year's Day as the following:

1. God is gracing us with a *Speed Bump*



- *Key Point:* Slow down, reflect, and remember what the Lord has done.
- *Scripture:* Psalms 103:1-5

2. God is warning us of *Construction Ahead*



- *Key Point:* God will continue His work of healing in your life. He is the Potter; we are the clay!
- *Scripture:* Philippians 1:6; Jeremiah 18:5-6; Isaiah 64:8

3. God is providing us with *Spiritual On-Ramps*



- *Key Point:* God is welcoming you into the joy of His kingdom. Recommit your life to Jesus Christ. Let's begin again!
- *Scripture:* Matthew 3:1-2; Mark 1:14

Exercise: A Time of Slowing & Reflection

Think back over the past year, and all the things that happened that you didn't expect.

- **Reflect on the Treasures:** Odds are, some of the things that took place this past year were like treasures. They were gifts from God that cause us to pause and offer Him thanks. What were the treasures of 2017?

- **Reflect on the Challenges:** Some surprises were not so welcome in the past year. You may have felt the sting of suffering, and suffering can leave us feeling isolated, lonely, and sure that those who love us are, at the very least, unavailable. What were the challenges of 2017?

- **Reflect on the New Year:** The Lord Jesus is already planning to *invade* the new year, bringing His goodness into your life. There is hope for 2018. What do you think the year ahead will hold for you?