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Preparation Pastor Derwin Gray and Vicki Gray 1.1.2023

## Sermon Recap

The celebration of a new year is traditionally accompanied by a list of resolutions and goals. Some of us may decide that we'd like to start working out on a regular basis while others may commit to pursuing promotions in their careers. These aspirations are good things, but Christ offers a deeper gift in Himself. Instead of seeking to be more or do better in 2023, we're invited to rest in God's grace and commit to following Him, whatever the cost. We don't have to hold it all together because "by Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). This is good news because the pressure is off us; all we're called to do is abide. As you prepare for this new year, spend less time worrying about what's to come and more time worshipping Him for who He is.

## **Discussion Questions**

Upward

- Read Psalm 105:1-4. How does this psalm invite us to view God? What does it look like to seek His face?
- What did you learn about God in 2022?

## Inward

- Read Colossians 1:16-17. What do you need to surrender to God in the new year, trusting that He really does hold all things together?
- What is something practical you'd like to commit to doing in 2023 to prioritize abiding in Christ? Examples include following a YouVersion Bible reading plan, pausing to pray at a certain time every day, or being intentional about memorizing Scripture.

## Outward

- As we enter 2023, how can you help your neighbors know and love God?
- This year, how can you serve others with your time, talents, and treasures?