



— *Week 2: The Gift of The New Way* —

Date: December 6th, 2020

Scripture: Deuteronomy 12:28, Hebrews 7:18, Romans 7:4-6, Luke 2:8-20, Philippians 3:7-14

Memory verse: Luke 2:20 *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...*

— *Reflection and Discussion Notes* —

† Reality! In Christ, God has opened the door into a NEW WAY. In the midst of the many pressures of life, a New Way of living where we begin to let go of our desire to control the OUTCOME, and instead engage life fully while trusting GOD with the outcome.

† God's Gift for right now

† The old way

† A better hope! In the old way, the goal of the law was God's provision. In the New Way, the better hope is not what God does for us, it is GOD HIMSELF.

† This is a paradigm shift in how we think about life and about God! Instead of seeing God's gift as his PRESENTS, the New Way invites us to continually receive the Gift of God's PRESENCE.

† Reality! The miracle of the Shepherds isn't that they received any change to challenging situation of life. They were still shepherds, but shepherds who had experienced the GLORY of GOD.

† Our tendency is to seek first what is EFFECTIVE. Christ's call is for us to seek first GOD.

† Reality! Only in the New Way, as *we seek God first*, will we begin to truly experience freedom from the sin, brokenness, and pressure that all the laws, expectations, and circumstances of this world pile upon us.

≈ *Remaining messages in this series* ≈

December 13: The Gift of *Simplicity*

December 20: The gift of *Influence*

December 27: The gift of a *Greater Desire*

Note: Pastor Ethan's source material for this series is the highly recommended book "The Pressure's off" by Larry Crabb